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Taxonomic notes on some Cantharidae of Sicily and North Africa

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This article examines a variety of species of Cantharidae that are present, or mentioned in scientific literature, in Sicily and North Africa that are known to be problematic, both in terms of determination and taxonomy. This paper attempts to resolve these issues, including declaring valid three species names that have been more or less neglected. Therefore, the taxonomic variations proposed here are: *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918) comb. nov. and stat. nov., *Cantharis sicula* Pic, 1906 = *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918) syn. nov., *Cantharis lucens* Moscardini, 1967 = *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918) syn. nov., *Cantharis lucens* f. *fumosothorax* Moscardini, 1967 [name not available under Code rules, because it is a variety described after 1961] = *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918) syn. nov., *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857) comb. nov., *Telephorus picciolii* Ragusa, 1870 = *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857) syn. rest., *Metacantharis haemorrhoidalis* var. *picticollis* Ragusa, 1893 = *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857) syn. nov., *Cantharis* (*Metacantharis*) *haemorrhoidalis* a. *fraudulenta* Fiori, 1914 = *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857) syn. nov., *Cantharis paulonotata* Pic, 1903 stat. nov., *Cantharis puncticollis* v. *notatipes* Pic, 1903 = *Cantharis paulonotata* Pic, 1903 syn. nov., *Cantharis puncticollis* var. *obscuripennis* Pic, 1907 = *Cantharis paulonotata* Pic, 1903 syn. nov. Furthermore, the correct declination is *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (decl. nov.), while *Cantharis puncticollis* var. *notaticeps* Kazantsev, 2007, *Cantharis puncticollis* var. *notaticeps* Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007 and *Cantharis* (*Metacantharis*) *haemorrhoidalis* a. *fraudolenta* Porta, 1929 are incorrect spellings. Finally, the Neotypus of *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857) is established, a species that is mentioned here for the first time in scientific literature from Marche and Emilia-Romagna (Italy). Also, *Ancistronycha neapolitana* is recorded from Emilia-Romagna (Italy) for the first time.

Key words: Levrat, Pic, taxonomical acts, *Cantharis*, *Metacantharis*, *Ancistronycha*, Sicily, North Africa.

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INTRODUCTION

In Sicily and North Africa there are a variety of species of Cantharidae that have a rather similar habitus and coloring. Over the years this has caused confusion, with beetles being misidentified, and has led to several incorrect reports about species in Sicily. In this article I focus on three species listed below:

Cantharis sicula Pic (1906: 197-198), which, from the study of the *holotypus* preserved at the Na-

tional Museum of Natural History of Paris, was found to be an *Ancistronycha* Märkel, and which, from the study of the literature, is to be considered homonym of *Cantharis livida* var. *sicula* Bourgeois, 1893. Therefore, the name that should be used is *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918).

Telephorus puncticollis Levrat, 1857, which also has taxonomic problems and of which the *holotypus* has been sold and likely been destroyed. In fact, the Levrat collection is totally unavailable (H. Labrique pers. comm.): After Jean Nicolas Barthélémy Gustave Levrat's untimely death, his collection was auctioned and dispersed in various collections of entomologists from Lyon in France (except for the specimens of the family Cerambycidae, which are now preserved in the Maurice Pic collection at the Museum of Paris). Levrat (1857: 418, 1859: 26-27) described from Sicily *Telephorus* (= *Cantharis*) *puncticollis*, a taxon that is considered also to be present in Tunisia and Algeria (Bourgeois 1886: 130 notes; Hicker 1925: 504; Moscardini 1967: 28-29, 1968: 92; Kazantsev & Brancucci 2007: 245; Fanti 2014: 69-70). Personally, however, I believe that this was originally due to a similarity in coloring and, for several subsequent authors, could be the result of a succession of quotations. The two Sicilian and Algerian-Tunisian populations are, in fact, well differentiated at the aedeagic level.

Cantharis paulonotata Pic, 1903 has been described as a variety of *C. puncticollis* (Levrat). But in light of findings in this paper, the name *C. paulonotata* should be applied to the North African population. It is, in fact, a very different species from *C. puncticollis* of Sicily, although very similar in color.

The purpose of the work is therefore an attempt to resolve the issues around these species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For this paper, I have studied types (where still available) and/or specimens in historical collections, plus several recent finds from private and museum collections. Specifically:

For ***Ancistronycha neapolitana*:**
coll. Maurice Pic (MNHN Paris) – Holotypus of *Cantharis sicula* (**Figs. 1-2**)**:**
- 1 female with labels "Sicile//(ex Ragusa)" "type." "Ca.[under, probably "Ch."] sicula, Pic" "peut etre vou de//puncticollis Lev.?". To which I added a more evident red card "TYPE".
coll. Andrea Fiori (Bologna University) – determined as *Cantharis puncticollis* (**Fig. 3**)**:**
- 1 male and 2 females of Sicily (Valle Annunziata and Pizzo di Fago), also already studied by Fiori and Moscardini.
coll. F. Fanti:
- Tuscany, San Godenzo (FI), Poggio Piano, 1 female, 21.vi-20.vii.2018, Massarone C. *leg.*
- Abruzzo, Baronessa (CH), 1 male, 5.vii.2019, Di Taddeo V. *leg.* (**Fig. 4**).
- Calabria, Taverna (CZ), Fosso del Ferro, 1 male and 2 females, 1230 m, 2.viii.2019, light trap, Di Marco C. & Scalercio S. *leg.* (**Fig. 5**).
coll. G. Liberti:
- Tuscany, Riserva Naturale Orrido di Botri (LU), 1 male, 22.vii.2011, Giziano *leg.*
coll. Civic Museum of Natural Sciences "E. Caffi" of Bergamo:
- Emilia-Romagna, Fanano (MO), sorgente presso Piano della Farnia, 1 male, 24.vi.2017, light trap, Perego S. *leg.*
- Tuscany, Minucciano (LU), loc. Verrucolette, affluente destro Lago di Gramolazzo, 1 male, 28.vi.2011, 44.159708°N 10.259339°E, light trap, Lodovici O., Pantini P. & Valle M. *leg.*
- Calabria, Saracena (CS), Piano del Minatore, 1 ex., 1430 m, 30.vi.2016, 39.790°N 16.064°E, light trap, Scalercio S. & Infusino M. *leg.*
- Calabria, Orsomarso (CS), Fiume Argentino, 1 female, 200 m, 21.vii.1995, light trap, Pantini P. & Valle M. *leg.*
- Calabria, Acquaformosa (CS), Piano del Faggio, 1 ex., 1300 m, 6.vi.2016, 39.758°N 16.073°E, light trap, Scalercio S. & Infusino M. *leg.*

For ***Metacantharis puncticollis*:**
coll. Walter Wittmer (Natural History Museum of Basel):

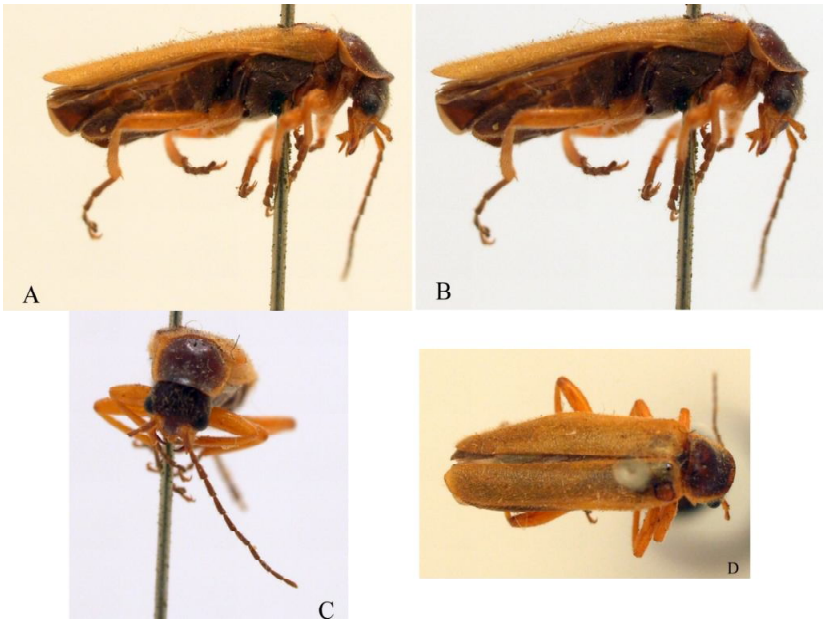

Fig. 1. *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918). Holotypus of *Cantharis sicula* Pic, 1906: A-B: lateral views; C: detail of the head and pronotum; D: dorsal view.

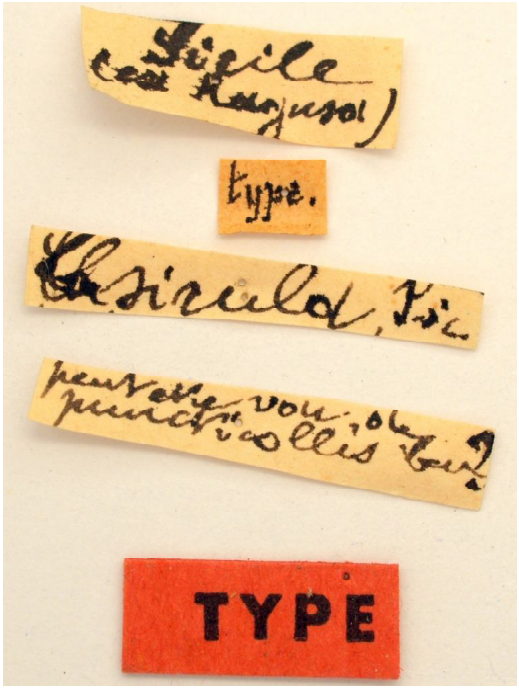

Fig. 2. *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918). Holotypus of *Cantharis sicula* Pic, 1906: original label.

Fig. 3. *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918). Specimens of the A. Fiori collection (Bologna), redescribed by the same author as *Cantharis puncticollis* Levrat.

Fig. 4. *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918). Living specimen of Abruzzo (Photograph: Vincenzo Di Taddeo)

- Neotypus (**Fig. 6**): male, Messina, Holdhaus [*leg.*], Naturhistorisches//Museum Basel//Coll. W. Wittmer (**Fig. 7**).
- 42 exx. (1 specimen has only the aedeagus) from various localities: for example, Sicily, Calabria, Abruzzo (**Fig. 8**) and labeled as *Metacantharis picciolii*.

coll. F. Fanti:
- Tuscany, Monte Cetona (SI), 9 exx., 2011-2016, Fanti F. *leg.*
- Abruzzo, Baronessa (CH), 2 exx., 25.iv.2016 and 27.iv.2017, Di Taddeo V. *leg.*
- Abruzzo, Pescocostanzo (AQ), 1 male and 2 females, 30.v.2015, Morelli A. & Giovagnoli G. *leg.*
- Basilicata, Castelsaraceno - Monte Alpi (PZ), 1 male and 1 female, 21.v.2018, Degiovanni A. *leg.*
- Sicily, Madonie - Piano Zucchi and Pizzo Carbonara (PA), 22 exx. (some of the var. *fraudulenta*), 22.v-7.vi.2015, Muscarella C. *leg.*

coll. G. Liberti:
- Emilia-Romagna, Corno alle Scale (BO), 1 male and 4 females, 24-25.vi.2014, Liberti G. *leg.*
- Abruzzo, Chiarano Sparvera (AQ), 1 male, 23.v-8.vi.2012, Colecchia *leg.*

coll. A. Strocchi:
- Marche, Fiumata - Prati Piani (MC), 1 female, 2.vi.1996, Strocchi A. *leg.* and coll., Fanti *det.*

coll. Museum of Natural History "La Specola" of Florence:
- Tuscany, Monte Cetona (SI), 7 exx., undated [probably collected around the 1920s], Marchi *leg.*
- Abruzzo, Val Rapino (CH), 1 male, 25.v.1994, Simonetta J. *leg.*
- Abruzzo, Majella - Vigna, 2 exx., Simonetta J. *leg.*

For ***Cantharis paulonotata*:**
coll. Maurice Pic - MNHN Paris:
- 10 exx. of North Africa as *C. puncticollis*.
coll. Walter Wittmer (Natural History Museum of Basel):
- 3 exx. from Algeria identified as *C. puncticollis* (others from Portugal that refer to a different species) but their attribution to the species is doubtful.

DISCUSSION

Ancistronycha neapolitana (Pic, 1918) *comb. nov. et stat. nov.*
Cantharis Erichsoni v. nov. *neapolitanus* Pic, 1918: 22. *Loc. typ.*: "Environs de Naples (Pic)"
[*Ancistronycha* is a feminine name therefore the correct declination proposed here is *neapolitana*, declinatio nov.]
= *Cantharis sicula* Pic, 1906: 197-198. *Loc. typ.*: "Sicile (communiqué par Mr. E. Ragusa et aussi dans ma collection)"
[*syn. nov.*] [junior homonym of *Cantharis livida* var. *sicula* Bourgeois, 1893: 17]
= *Cantharis lucens* Moscardini, 1967: 30 (aedeagus drawings - caption), 32-33 [*syn. nov.*]
= *Cantharis lucens* f. *fumosothorax* Moscardini, 1967: 33 "[*syn. nov.*]". [Name not available because it dates back to 1961 (ICZN 1999 Art. 45.6.3.)]

PORTA 1929: 56, 56 note [*C. sicula*]; MOSCARDINI 1967: 29, 30 Fig. 1 – *cd* [aedeagus, as *C. lucens*], 31 [distribution map], 1968: 55 [localities, as *C. lucens*]; KAZANTSEV 2005 (as *A. lucens*): 205 [aedeagus], 207 [key]; FANTI 2014: 64 (as *A. lucens*), 70 (as *C. sicula*).

Cantharis sicula Pic (1906) was found to be a junior homonym of *Cantharis livida* var. *sicula* Bourgeois, 1893 (see also Fiori 1914: 60) and therefore is a name that's not available (ICZN 1999 Art. 57.2.). While the name of Bourgeois was described before 1961 and, without any ambiguity, as a variety ("var."), it must be considered of subspecific rank and therefore available (ICZN 1999 Art. 45.6.4.). Furthermore, in addition to this validity, it should be noted that the Bourgeois species was sometimes considered a "subspecies" (*e.g.*, Portevin 1931: 407 [indicated as a va-

Fig. 5. *Ancistronycha neapolitana* (Pic, 1918). Specimens of Calabria ("var. *humeralis*" mihi).

Fig. 6. *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857). Neotypus preserved in the Walter Wittmer collection at the Natural History Museum of Basel.

Fig. 7. *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857). Original label of Neotypus.

Fig. 8. *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857). Overview of the specimens from the Wittmer collection in Basel.

riety but intuitively should be considered a subspecies]) before 1985 (ICZN 1999 Art. 45.6.4.1.), and sometimes even more recently (Liberti 1995). Therefore, it is unclear what name should be used for the species *C. sicula* Pic. The study of the *C. sicula* holotype allowed me to attribute it, as had already been suggested by Fanti (2014), to the genus *Ancistronycha* Märkel. The specimen is a female, and has an evident talon-shaped tooth on the claw in the front legs and a pronotum with slightly rounded sides. Comparing it with the specimens of *Ancistronycha lucens* f. *fumosothorax* from the Fiori collection in the Experimental Evolutionary Biology Department of the University of Bologna and also based on work by Moscardini (1967), it is possible to determine that it is the same species. This aspect was, in a very small part, also suggested by Fiori himself (1914: 57, 59-60); however, he still described them as *Cantharis puncticollis* Levrat.

When studying the literature of the *Ancistronycha* varieties ascribable to *C. sicula* and/or to the related *A. erichsonii* (Bach, 1852) present in Central-Southern Italy and Sicily and which may be the first available name, we first find a variety described as *inapicalis* (Pic 1902: 63 ***sub*** *Cantharis Erichsoni* variété *inapicalis*), which theoretically could take precedence. This variety is, however, described without indication of locality (holotype unobtainable and probably

no longer preserved), which remains unknown. In the absence of the type and other information, we can only vaguely hypothesize that it comes from Piedmont / North-West Italy (ICZN 1999 Recommendation 76A.), since the collector is Baudi and most of his collections are from those areas. Therefore, it must still be considered as a form of *A. erichsonii* (Kazantsev & Brancucci 2007). Later, we find described from the surroundings of Naples, the variety *neapolitanus* (Pic 1918: 22 ***sub*** *Cantharis Erichsoni* v. nov. *neapolitanus*), whose holotype has not been located at present (Taghavian-Azari personal communication) but which could still be present and mixed with other species of the Maurice Pic collection. This variety *neapolitanus* is, however, clearly related to *C. sicula* (no other species with this coloration are present in the type locality. Furthermore, *Cantharis livida* and *Rhagonycha fulva* are different) and therefore is the first name available and should be used instead. Finally, Moscardini described the species *Cantharis lucens*, which becomes a synonym (Moscardini 1967).

Note. *Ancistronycha neapolitana* is an Italian endemic species (though there is a citation of *A. erichsonii* from Dalmatia that Moscardini, 1968 refers to as this species), that is rather rare and is found in medium-high altitudes on Umbelliferae from Emilia-Romagna to Sicily (Moscardini 1967: 32-33; Fanti 2014: 64 and 70), and with only a specimen known from 200 meters above sea level (present work). The northern limit is not well known but it is currently considered the area of the Orrido di Botri, Minucciano, San Godenzo (present work) and Camaldoli in Tuscany, and Fanano in Emilia-Romagna (present work, and first citation for Emilia-Romagna). In the Ligurian Apennines: Torriglia, Monte Penna (Moscardini 1967), and in the Alps and Prealps, it is replaced by the related *A. erichsonii* (Bach), which is a species from Central Europe, Romania, Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey. In the Apennine, *A. neapolitana* has a head, pronotum and legs testaceous with black tarsi (sometimes first tarsomere of the front legs is two-colored: black and testaceous), and has an elytra with black apex that extends to the elytral half (two females from Calabria mentioned in this work, have black elytra with only the testaceous humeri, of which in one of these the testaceous part covers a very little portion of the humeri themselves. Fig. 5). In Sicily, where only four specimens are currently known (coll. Pic: 1 female and coll. Fiori: 1 male 2 females), it is characterized by a head behind the eyes that is brown-piceous and by a brown-piceous pronotum with more or less broadly yellowish sides, with yellowish testaceous legs and fully testaceous elytra or with the blackish apex up to about half of its length.

Metacantharis puncticollis (Levrat, 1857) *comb. nov.*

Telephorus puncticollis Levrat, 1857: 418 (reprinted in 1859: 26-27). *Loc. typ.*: "Sicile (ma collection)" [*Loc. typ.* of Neotypus: "Messina"]
= *Telephorus Picciolii* Ragusa, 1870: 316. *Loc. typ.*: "Bosco della Ficuzza (nel maggio scorso)" [synonymized by Ragusa (1873: pp. 235-236) and retracted by Ragusa (1893: p. 40)] **[***syn. rest.***]**
= *Metacantharis haemorrhoidalis* Fab. var. nov. *picticollis* Ragusa, 1893: 40 [*syn. nov.*]
= *Cantharis* (*Metacantharis*) *haemorrhoidalis* Fab. a. *fraudulenta* Fiori, 1914: 81 (80-82) [*syn. nov.***]**
= *Cantharis* (*Metacantharis*) *haemorrhoidalis* Fabr. a. *fraudolenta* Porta, 1929: 56 [incorrect spelling]

WITTMER 1969 (as *M. picciolii*): 72 [key], 74, 88 Fig. 2. [aedeagus]; DAHLGREN 1985 (as *M. picciolii*): 164 [aedeagus]; FANTI 2014: 74 (as *M. picciolii*).

Regarding *Telephorus puncticollis* described by Levrat (1857) from Sicily and never found here again (Moscardini 1967: 29, 1968: 92; Fanti 2014: 69-70): Because the type is nowhere to be found, we must rely exclusively on Levrat's description that is quite eloquent and clear. Levrat, in fact, states that his species *Telephorus puncticollis* is similar to *Telephorus clypeatus* (= *Metacantharis clypeata*) and the coloring of the pronotum (with bands and a little spot) falls per-

fectly with the colors present in the genus *Metacantharis* (synonym with *M. clypeata* already proposed by various authors including, for example, Letzner, 1889). It appears very different from "*Cantharis puncticollis*," as we know it today from Tunisia and Algeria. Over the years the Sicilian species described by Levrat was considered present in North Africa only because in the latter locality there are specimens with similar coloring, but *C. puncticollis* is actually absent there. Therefore, the two populations (Sicilian and Tunisian-Algerian) do not belong to the same species and genus. Over the years even more confusion has arisen due to the presence, albeit rare, in Sicily of an *Ancistronycha* with the coloring of elytra and head similar to the North African population. In reality, however, it is a little different from the original description of *T. puncticollis* in Levrat. So, basically, in Sicily we find a *Metacantharis* and an *Ancistronycha* but not the *C. puncticollis* as understood before this work and now to be called *C. paulonotata* Pic. Moscardini, having noticed the presence in Sicily of an *Ancistronycha* (still *Cantharis* for him), morphologically and with different aedeagus from the Algerian-Tunisian population "*C. puncticollis*," he described (Moscardini 1967) the taxon *C. lucens*. He also compares the three specimens that Fiori (1914: 56-61) redescribed as *C. puncticollis* from Valle Annunziata and Pizzo di Fago in Sicily (Fiori 1914; Moscardini 1968). Therefore, he continued in part to perpetuate the error. In fact, Moscardini did not know about *Cantharis sicula* Pic or *Telephorus puncticollis* Levrat and had not even seen and taken into consideration the types of the varieties of *Ancistronycha erichsonii* (before *Cantharis erichsonii*): *inapicalis* Pic and *neapolitanus* Pic, which could be related with his *C. lucens*.

Telephorus puncticollis Levrat, 1857 (= *Metacantharis puncticollis*) clearly takes precedence over other similar species or varieties present in Sicily, such as *Telephorus picciolii* Ragusa, 1870, placed by the same author (Ragusa 1873, 1893) and by other entomologists (Bertolini 1872-1878; Stein & Weise 1877; Heyden et al. 1883) in synonymy with *Cantharis haemorrhoidalis* (= *Metacantharis clypeata*) and/or with *Cantharis puncticollis* Levrat, but subsequently listed as a valid species close to *M. clypeata* by Wittmer (1969). *Telephorus puncticollis* clearly takes precedence over *Metacantharis haemorrhoidalis* var. *picticollis* Ragusa, 1893 and *Cantharis* (*Metacantharis*) *haemorrhoidalis* a. *fraudulenta* Fiori, 1914. It should be noted that before Levrat's paper, Kirby (1837) had used the same name *Telephorus* (*Malthacus*) *puncticollis* for a species from North America, now *Malthacus puncticollis* (Takahashi 2007). However, because the two species are no longer thought to be congeners after 1899, and in accordance with article 23.9.5. of the Code (ICZN 1999), the species of Levrat (a junior homonym) must not be automatically replaced with the first available name without intervention by the Commission.

The Levrat's holotype has been irreparably dispersed or destroyed. Because the binomial *Telephorus picciolii* Ragusa (now synonymous of *M. puncticollis*) has been considered valid and separated again and recently by *Metacantharis clypeata* for some differences in the dorsal shield of the aedeagus (Wittmer 1969; Dahlgren 1985, 1987), the name to be attributed to this species is precisely *Metacantharis puncticollis* (Levrat, 1857).

In the absence of a type and in the presence of the taxonomic problems highlighted above (also for the differences between *M. picciolii* and *M. clypeata* see: Wittmer 1969), it is absolutely necessary to designate the neotypus (ICZN 1999 Art. 75.). The types of the first synonym in the literature (*Telephorus picciolii* Ragusa), it was not possible for me to trace them (probably still preserved), and the collection of Enrico Ragusa itself is, unfortunately, not very usable (the collection has also been left to its own destiny for a long time). As a result, I chose and designate here as the neotypus one of the male specimens of the Wittmer collection: the specimen that Wittmer had taken to rehabilitate the species *M. picciolii* and also from the same type locality of *M. puncticollis* di Levrat (*i.e.*, Sicily) and morphologically coherent (same color and habitus)

with this description. In the Walter Wittmer collection, preserved at the Natural History Museum of Basel (Naturhistorisches Museum Basel) in Switzerland, there are over 40 specimens, and the *neotypus* designated here is labeled "Messina// Holdhaus" "Naturhistorisches//Museum Basel/ /Coll. W. Wittmer," to which a red card with the word "Neotypus" has been added. Furthermore, this designation of the neotype should not raise objections from the specialists of the group in question (ICZN 1999 Art. 75.4. Recommendation 75B.).

Note. *Metacantharis puncticollis* is endemic to Italy and very abundant in Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio, Abruzzo, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily (Fanti 2014: 74), Marche (present work) and Emilia-Romagna (present work). The species is clearly present in the whole Italian Apennines from Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna and absent in the Alps and Prealps. It is very similar to *Metacantharis clypeata* that is found in Europe, European Russia, Armenia, Turkey, Iran and Northern Italy until Emilia-Romagna (I know: 1 male, Fanano - Lago Pratignano (MO), 11.v.2017, coll. Museum of Bergamo; 1 male and 2 females, Monte Bue - Lago Nero (PC), 24.vi.1967, Liberti leg.). *M. clypeata* is also reported from Algeria (Kazantsev & Brancucci 2007: 255), a citation that I consider dubious.

The distinction between the two species is possible only at the aedeagic level (Wittmer 1969; Dahlgren 1985, 1987). For *M. puncticollis* there exists the variety *fraudulenta*, with a very large pronotal black spot, which is reported from Sicily: Caltagirone (Fiori 1914; Luigioni 1929), Piazza Armerina, Castrogiovanni (Fiori 1914), Madonie (Luigioni 1929) and more generally as Italy (Delkeskamp 1939, 1977). The variety *picticollis*, characterized by two small black lines on the pronotum, which for Porta (1929) is usually a characteristic of the female, is reported from Sicily (Bertolini 1904; Fiori 1914; Porta 1929; Delkeskamp 1939, 1977): Madonie (Ragusa 1893; Luigioni 1929), Piazza Armerina (Ragusa 1893); Lazio (Porta 1929): Colle Obaco - Guarcino (Luigioni & Tirelli 1911); Tuscany, Roman Apennines, Puglia (Luigioni 1929) and Abruzzo National Park (Luigioni 1931).
In Sicily *Metacantharis puncticollis* can only be confused with *Cantharis decipiens* and *Cantharomorphus longipes* Fiori, 1914. *Cantharis decipiens* has both sexes with claws simple equipped with a basal tooth. *Cantharomorphus longipes* is an endemic, rare species from Sicily that has longer elytra, longer legs, a pronotum that's more rounded with a different black mark, and the male's claws are not bifid.

Cantharis paulonotata Pic, 1903 *stat. nov.*
Cantharis puncticollis Levr. var. *paulonotata* Pic, 1903: 146. *Loc. typ.*: "Kabylie: Jakouren (Pic)"
= *Cantharis puncticollis* Levr. v. *notatipes* Pic, 1903: 146 [*syn. nov.*]
= *Cantharis puncticollis* var. *notaticeps* Kazantsev, 2007: 50 [incorrect spelling]
= *Cantharis puncticollis* var. *notaticeps* Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007: 245 [incorrect spelling]
= *Cantharis* (*Telephorus*) *puncticollis* Levrat variété nouvelle *obscuripennis* Pic, 1907: 113 [*syn. nov.*]

MOSCARDINI 1967 (as *C. puncticollis*): 29, 30 Fig. 1 – *ef* [aedeagus]; FANTI 2014: 69-70 (as *C. puncticollis*).

As highlighted above, the Algerian-Tunisian population known to date as *Cantharis puncticollis* is rather well separated at the aedeagic level (Moscardini, 1967) from the Sicilian populations and therefore must be called by the first specific name available in the literature. It should be known as *C. paulonotata*.

Note. This species is endemic to Algeria and Tunisia, rarely collected and relatively unknown. In fact, for example, the Wittmer's collection probably has a different species from Algeria named *C. puncticollis* compared to the specimens in Pic's collection with the same name *C. puncticollis*. Before a more in-depth study, we can take as an example of the species the aedeagus drawings (not the text) present in Moscardini, which refers to the var.

obscuripennis, a specimen that had been determined by Pic himself (Moscardini 1967).

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