

On the three species of Cantharidae described by Grimmer

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With this work I discuss on the three species described by Grimmer in 1841, which were then almost forgotten over the decades. The nomenclatural acts proposed here, are: *Telephorus nigripes* Grimmer, 1841 = *Cantharis quadripunctata* (O. F. Müller, 1776) *n. syn.* and *Malthinus gracilis* Grimmer, 1841 *nomen dubium*. Also *Malthinus obscurus* Grimmer, 1841 is confirmed to be *nomen dubium* as already proposed by Burakowski et al. (1985).

Key words: Cantharidae, taxonomy, new synonymy, *nomen dubium*, Grimmer.

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INTRODUCTION

Karl [Carl] Heinrich Benjamin Grimmer coat of arms archivist and entomologist in Graz, Austria (Gistel 1856; Bousquet 2016) describes three species of Cantharidae: *Telephorus nigripes*, *Malthinus gracilis* and *Malthinus obscurus* (Grimmer 1841). Of these, *Telephorus nigripes* and *Malthinus gracilis* have been almost forgotten during all these years and we find them quoted only by Sherborn (1922-32). While, *Malthinus obscurus* besides Sherborn (1922-32) is mentioned by Grimmer himself (1846) and from Kelch (1846), where however it is attributed to "Ullr." = Joseph Anton Ullrich: Piltsch in the Prussian Silesia, 24.5.1790 - Vienna, 15.11.1858 (in Vienna there is no *Malthinus obscurus* in the Ullrich collection; I. Plonski personal communication) and therefore it is not certain that it is of the same species. It is also redescribed by Bach (1852), on material determined by Grimmer

himself, and considered *species dubia* by Burakowski et al. (1985). The collection of Grimmer, as inform us, Göth (1861) and Bousquet (2016) is preserved at the Universalmuseum Joanneum of Graz, Austria, but for Meuth (1913) it is finished abroad. In reality, the Grimmer collection was really purchased by the Joanneum Museum in 1860, but the species were incorporated into the general collection of beetles, unfortunately without labels with wrote "Grimmer collection" and therefore absolutely unrecognizable (U. Hausl-Hofstätter personal communication).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The work has paid attention to the three species, almost forgotten, described by Grimmer in 1841, trying to find the types, which unfortunately have been irretrievably lost. For each of the three species, in addition to the

name, I carry: 1) the description page with the current status and the type locality; 2) subsequent citation(s) with pagination; 3) interesting comments and notes.

RESULTS

***Telephorus nigripes* Grimmer, 1841**

Telephorus nigripes Grimmer, 1841: 36 (15 as *nomen nudum*) = *Cantharis quadripunctata* (O. F. Müller, 1776) *n. syn.* Locus typicus: "Steiermark".

Sherborn 1922-32: 4352.

COMMENTS AND NOTE. Grimmer says it is similar to *nigricornis*, a name used by many authors of that period to indicate *Cantharis quadripunctata* (O. F. Müller). The small differences reported by Grimmer, concerning the black design on the pronotum and the length of the antennae, fit perfectly, into the variability of *Cantharis quadripunctata*, with which *Telephorus nigripes* is here synonymized.

***Malthinus gracilis* Grimmer, 1841**

Malthinus gracilis Grimmer, 1841: 36 (15 as *nomen nudum*). Locus typicus: "Steiermark". *Nomen dubium.*

Sherborn 1922-32: 2777.

COMMENTS AND NOTE. Grimmer says it is similar to *flavus* [= *Malthinus flaveolus* (Herbst)], but smaller in size and with a black line running along the pronotum. This diagnosis is inadequate and could be adapted to at least three species: *Malthinus seriepunctatus* Kiesenwetter, *Malthinus facialis* (C. G. Thomson) and *Malthinus fasciatus* (A. G. Olivier). Therefore, given the absence of the Holotype, *Malthinus gracilis* Grimmer is here considered a *nomen dubium*.

***Malthinus obscurus* Grimmer, 1841**

Malthinus obscurus Grimmer, 1841: 36 (15 as *nomen nudum*). Locus typicus: "Steiermark". *Nomen dubium.*

Grimmer 1846: 22, 88; Kelch 1846: 23 (attributed to Ullrich); Bach 1852: 74 (as *Malthinus obscurus* Grimmer *in litt.*); Sherborn 1922-32: 4490; Burakowski et al. 1985: 312 (as *species dubia*).

COMMENTS AND NOTE. Meuth (1913) informs us that Grimmer collected in a circle of 2 x 2 square miles around Graz in Austria. Then, the species was reported by Kelch (1846) for Upper Silesia - area of Racibórz, and again for Silesia by Bach (1852). The small size and coloration make one think of a *Malthodes*, and therefore indeterminable without seeing the type or having a diagnosis on male terminalia. Bach (1852) redescribes the species on material determined by Grimmer himself, but unfortunately also his collection, once conserved at the Zoological Museum Marburg / Philipps-University Marburg, is now completely untraceable (Horn et al. 1990; Bousquet 2016; Groll 2017; Lothar Beck personal communication). Therefore, the status of *nomen dubium* attributed by Burakowski et al. (1985), is here confirmed.

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