

A new synonymy in the myrmecophilous beetle genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae)

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Abstract

The myrmecophilous species name *Thorictus sicilianus* John, 1965 is a junior synonym of *Thorictus grandicollis grandicollis* Germar, 1842 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae).

Key words: Taxonomy, new synonym, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictinae, *Thorictus*, Europe.

Resumen

Una nueva sinonimia en el género de escarabajos mirmecófilos *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae)

El nombre de la especie mirmecófila *Thorictus sicilianus* John, 1965 es un sinónimo más moderno de *Thorictus grandicollis grandicollis* Germar, 1842 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae).

Palabras clave: Taxonomía, nuevo sinónimo, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictinae, *Thorictus*, Europa.

Laburpena

Sinonimia berri bat *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 kakalardo mirmekofiloen generoan (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae)

Thorictus sicilianus John, 1965 espezie mirmekofiloaren izena *Thorictus grandicollis grandicollis* Germar, 1842 delakoaren geroagoko sinonimoa da (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae).

Gako-hitzak: Taxonomia, sinonimo berria, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictinae, *Thorictus*, Europa.

Introduction

The myrmecophilous dermestid genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 currently includes 165 species and subspecies known from the Palearctic, Oriental and Afrotropical Regions (Háva 2003, 2012; Löbl 2007). Host ants are known for 43 species and all these species are myrmecophiles and hosts of various ant genera (Háva 2003, 2012).

Material and methods

Male genitalia have not yet been studied. Differential diagnoses of aedeagi are often problematical and the interspecific variation is currently very poorly defined (John, 1963). Two species groups belonging to the genus *Thorictus* were defined by John (1963). John types are equipped with labels «Type» (= Holotype) or «Paratype».

The following abbreviations refer to the collections where the examined material is deposited:

FAPC	Fernando Angelini, private collection, Franca-villa Fontana, Italy.
JHAC	Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-west, Czech Republic.
OXUM	Hope Entomological Collections, University Museum, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Results

Thorictus grandicollis grandicollis Germar, 1842

MATERIAL STUDIED: Total of 380 specimens from Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Turkey.

REMARKS: Cammaerts and Cammaerts (1994) mentioned behavioural relationships between *T. grandicollis* and its host ants. The known host ants are as follows: *Cataglyphis* sp., *Tetramorium* sp., *Pheidole* sp., *Monomorium* sp., *Salamonis* sp., *Aphanogaster* sp., *Messor* sp., *Lasius* sp.

DISTRIBUTION: A species known from Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Crete, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, England (intr.), France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Mallorca, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Russia: European Part, Sardinia, Sicily, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

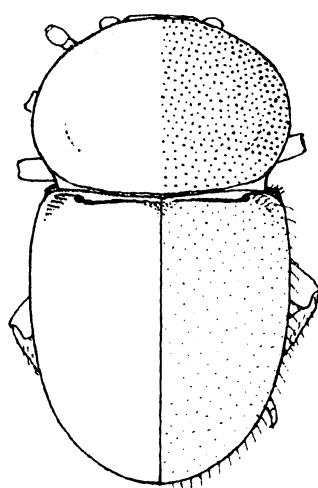


FIGURE 1. *Thorictus sicilianus* John, 1965: Habitus, dorsal aspect (according to John).

Thorictus sicilianus John, 1965 (Fig. 1)

Thorictus sicilianus John, 1965: 354.

Thorictus sicilianus John, 1966: 19 (homonym).

Thorictus sicilianus: Kocher, 1969: 5.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype labelled: «Sicilia» / «*Thorictus sicilianus* John» / «Type». Holotype deposited in OXUM.

OTHER MATERIAL STUDIED: SICILIA: Cattolica (AG), L. Gorgo, 16.vi.1996, F. Angelini leg., 1 ex., (JHAC); Castello di Baida (TP), 5.xii.1996, Sabella leg., 1 ex., (JHAC); Lago Arancio (AG), 17.v.1996, F. Angelini leg., 1 ex., (JHAC); Catuffo (TP), 5.xii.1996, Sabella leg., 1 ex., (JHAC); Bosco Ficuzza (PA), 30.vi.2000, F. Angelini leg., 2 exx., (JHAC); Pachino (SR), vaglio olivo, 10.iv.1997, F. Angelini leg., 3 exx., (FAPC).

REMARKS: The species was described by John (1965) based on three specimens: a specimen labelled «Holotype Sicilia», and other two specimens labelled «Morocco». In a description comprising the homonym (John, 1966) the type material is represented by the specimen labelled «Holotype Sicilia» only, in contrast to the preceding description mentioning the holotype and further two specimens. Kocher (1969) discussed the problem with the John's description and suggested that the two specimens are other species. Study of the holotype specimen and described and illustrated characters of *T. sicilianus* revealed that the species is identical with the species *T. grandicollis*. The characters of *T. sicilianus* are within the range of the variability and thus, the name is a junior synonym of *T. grandicollis*.

Synonymy of *Thorictus grandicollis grandicollis* Germar, 1842

The following synonyms are proposed:

Sphaerophorus castaneus Waltl, 1835

Xylonotrogus laticollis Motschulsky, 1839

Thorictus germari P.H. Lucas, 1846

Thorictus loricatedus Peyron, 1857

Thorictus gallicus Peyron, 1857

Thorictus bicolor Kraatz, 1858

Thorictus atticus Rey, 1889

Thorictus corsicus Rey, 1889

Thorictus rufithorax Rey, 1889

Thorictus grandicollis var. *loricatoides* Wasmann, 1896

Thorictus grandicollis var. *creticus* Obenberger, 1917

Thorictus pusillus John, 1965

Thorictus sicilianus John, 1965 **syn. nov.**

Thorictus hauseri John, 1971

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