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Charidotis kudrnai, a new species from Paraguay
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Cassidini)

LUKÁŠ SEKERKA

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, Branišovská 31, České Budějovice, CZ-370 05, Czech Republic, e-mail: sagrinae@seznam.cz

ABSTRACT. *Charidotis kudrnai* n. sp. is described and figured from Boquerón province, Paraguay.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Charidotis*, Paraguay.

INTRODUCTION

Charidotis BOHEMAN, 1854 includes 161 species distributed in Neotropics from Mexico to northern Argentina with the center of diversity in Brazil, where 108 species are found (BOROWIEC & ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2008). It is characterized by the third antennomere shorter than the second and simple and micropectinate tarsal claws. The genus was perfectly keyed and reviewed by SPAETH (1936). Since that time only six species were described (SPAETH 1939, ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA & BOROWIEC 2000, BUZZI 2002). Most of species are very rare in collections as they live mostly in the tropical forest on various Bignoniaceae vines (SEKERKA, unpublished data). Recently, I have received material collected in Paraguay which contained a new species. Its description is given below.

***Charidotis kudrnai* n. sp.**

ETYMOLOGY

Dedicated to my friend and specialist in Cicindelidae Arnošt KUDRNA jr.

DIAGNOSIS

Charidotis kudrnai belongs to the group of species with shortened field reaching at most to midlength of clypeus, normal and filiform antennae, fourth antennomere shorter than fifth, elytral disc regularly convex, and internal intervals narrower than stripes. The group comprises three species: *Ch. furunculus* (BOH.) from Brazil: Sao Paulo and Argentina: Misiones, *Ch. fugitiva* SP. from Paraguay: Asunción, and *Ch. valentula* SP. from Brazil: Pernambuco. *Charidotis kudrnai* differs from all above mentioned in dorsum mostly yellow with narrow red ring. *Charidotis furunculus* has elytral disc completely reddish-brown with black outer margin; *Ch. fugitiva* has elytral disc with broad reddish-brown ring with black outer margin and small yellow inside spot; *Ch. valentula* has elytral disc with large black ring with large yellow inside spot. *Charidotis consentanea* (BOH.) and *Ch. mansueta* (BOH.), both occurring also in Paraguay, has quite similar dorsal pattern as *Ch. kudrnai*. They could be distinguished by fourth antennomere much longer than fifth and red ring with sharp, usually dark outer and inner margins while *Ch. kudrnai* has margins of ring diffuse and of the same colour as the ring. Extremely similar dorsally is *Ch. connexa* (BOH.) from Bolivia and Brazil but differs in clypeal lines normally converging close to antennal insertions in obtuse arch.

DESCRIPTION

Measurements (n = 1): length of body: 4.86 mm, width of body: 3.99 mm, length of pronotum: 1.26 mm, width of pronotum: 2.99 mm, length/width of body ratio: 1.22, width/length of pronotum ratio: 2.37. Body sub-circular (Fig. 1).

Dorsum mostly yellow with diffuse red ring which covers base of pronotum, humeral calli, 7th to 8th stripe and ends in 4/5 length of elytra on apical slope. Scutellum yellow. Ventral surface including legs and antennae uniformly amber yellow, only tip of last antennomere pitchy brown.

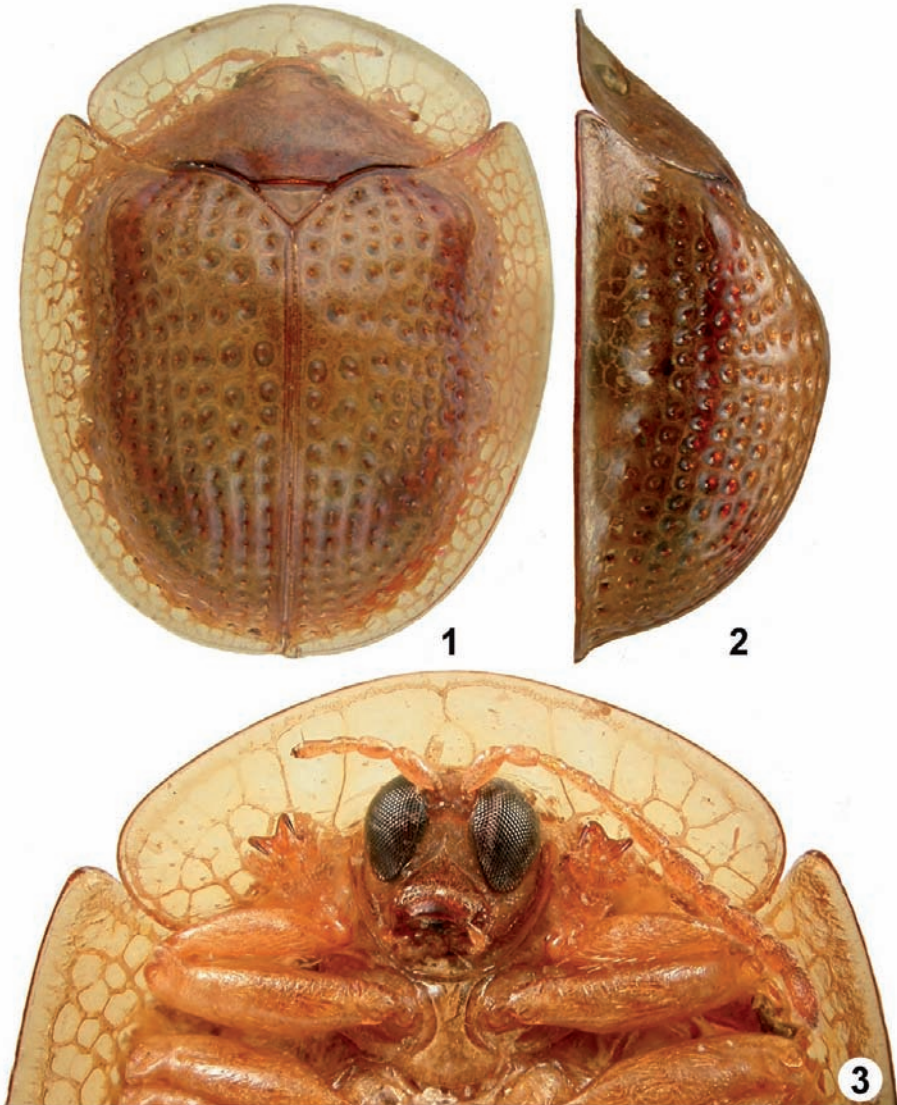
Pronotum semicircular without distinct corners, with maximum width slightly behind midlength, and lateral sides broadly rounded. Anterior margin regularly inflexed, moderately projecting forward. Disc moderately convex, smooth and shiny, finely and sparsely punctate, without any impression. Explanate margin indistinctly separated from the disc, gently declivous, broad, smooth and shiny, impunctate, and with honeycomb structure.

Scutellum triangular, smooth, and shiny.

Base of elytra distinctly wider than base of pronotum. Basal margin moderately sinuate, simple and smooth. Humeral angles moderately protruding anterad, obtuse. Disc almost regularly convex, smooth and shiny, without any impression and with slightly marked postscutellar point. Punctuation regular, punctures coarse and gradually decreased from the top of disc to lateral slopes. Punctures tightly and mostly regularly arranged in rows with several irregular interspaces in basal 1/3 of length of elytra forming smooth line running obliquely from postscutellar point. Intervals much narrower than stripes, punctures almost touching each other. Scutellar row present, short, running from apex of scutellum to postscutellar point. Submarginal row distinct, normal. Marginal row distinct in whole length, with distinct vacancy around midlength, its punctures as

coarse as punctures on the top of disc (Fig. 2). Explanate margin moderately broad, gently declivous, strongly narrowed apically, smooth and shiny, impunctate, and with honeycomb structure. Apex of elytral epipleura bare.

Eyes large, occupying almost whole sides of head, gena reduced, visible in basal 1/5 length. Clypeal lines running obliquely from the base to the center of clypeal plate and converging in triangle, forming shortened triangular field reaching to basal 1/3 length of clypeus, then continue as a low common carina to antennal insertions.



1-3. *Charidotis kudrnai* n. sp.: 1 – habitus dorsal, 2 – habitus lateral, 3 – head, antennae, fore legs

Triangular field shiny and smooth. Frontoclypeal area micro-rugose and smooth. Labrum transverse, moderately broad, lower margin regularly inflexed without any emargination (Fig. 3). Antennae normal, moderately long. Length ratio of antennomeres: 100:66:52:62:84:89:89:67:81:90:124. Third antennomere 0.78 as long as second and 0.83 as long as fourth (Fig. 3).

Prosternal collar normal, slightly impressed on sides. Prosternal process broad, slightly constricted in the middle and strongly expanded apically, its surface shiny and irregular. Apex finely punctate and with moderate sulcus in the middle (Fig. 3).

Legs normal, not modified. Claws divergent, simple and micropectinate. Micropecten moderate, well visible.

Bionomics unknown.

DISTRIBUTION.

Paraguay: Boquerón province.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype, glued, missing seven left terminal antennomeres: 'PARAGUAY. BOQUERON PR. / 85 KM NW MARISCAL / ESTIGARRIBIA (KM. 612) / 30.-31.01.2008. 200 M. / A. KUDRNA JR. LGT. [white, printed and cardboard label]' (in author's collection).

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