

INTRODUCTION

Several keys to all the family *Chrysomelidae* of Europe were published in the 20th century, but all of them were limited to particular areas. These were: for Italy PORTA (1934), for Hungary KASZAB (1962), for Central Europe MOHR (1966), for Poland WARCHAŁOWSKI (1971–1973), for Bulgaria GRUEV and TOMOV (1976–1977). Faunological works containing identification keys have been partly published: for Ukraine BROVDY (1973: *Galerucinae*, 1977: *Chrysomelinae*, 1983: *Cassidinae*) for Central and SE Europe WARCHAŁOWSKI (1985–2000: whole family), for France DOGUET (1994: *Halticinae*) and for Iberian Peninsula PETITPIERRE (2000: *Eupoda* and *Camptosomata*).

The character of evolution of some species groups or even genera (*Timarcha*, *Cyrtonus*) precludes effective use of dichotomy principles. In such cases, usually pertaining to a complex of forms or the so called geographic species, the taxonomic rank given in the key (species, subspecies, aberration) is only tentative.

There exists a number of insufficiently described taxa not examined by the author. This pertains especially to an array of species and varieties described by Maurice PIC. Names of such taxa of doubtful taxonomic status and position are provided with question marks, also in the index.

The key was constructed according to the state of knowledge of 2000. Descriptions and changes in the taxonomy of the family introduced later than that date were taken into account only partly. The key is simple. It includes diagnostic characters, and, at the level of particular species, usually supplementary characters, body length, synonyms, varieties and a general outline of distribution.

Synonymous and subspecific names cited in the text of keys consist only of a binomen, author's name and year (with no parentheses to avoid doubling them). In case of species for which more than a few varieties were described, only the most important varieties have been considered.

The discussed area includes: Canary Islands, Madeira, whole Europe eastwards to Ural Mts, N Africa southwards to Sahara, Sinai, Israel, Lebanon, W Syria, Asia Minor and Caucasian countries.

The 504 colour illustrations are the work of author, except two (phot. 185 and 192) borrowed from K. Dovgailo (Minsk), in litt.

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IDENTIFICATION KEYS

Key to subfamilies

1. Vertex projecting forward, mouth directed obliquely posteriorly and downward (opistognath), body laterally flattened or covered by spines 2.
- . Head normal, mouth directed obliquely forward and downward (prognath) or downward (hypognath), body without spines, usually convex 3.

2. Pronotum with expanded margins covering head, upper side without spines *Cassidinae* (p. 556).
- Pronotum without marginal expansions, head free, upper side in most W Palaearctic genera covered with spines at least along the margins of elytron *Hispinae* (p. 555).
3. Head narrowed posteriorly, pronotum considerably narrower than elytron, pronotal sides not margined 4.
- Head not narrowed posteriorly, pronotum broad, pronotal sides usually margined 9.
4. Antennal insertions approximate *Donaciinae* (p. 7).
- Antennal insertions separated by width of frons 5.
5. Hind femur strongly swollen, body covered with long, erect hairs. Antenna short, barely reaching beyond humerus, distal segments generally broader than long, more or less dentate *Megalopodinae* (p. 20).
- Hind femur not swollen, body not covered with long, erect hairs 6.
6. Tarsal claws generally bifid or toothed internally; pronotum often toothed laterally 7.
- Tarsal claws simple, sometimes coalescent, pronotum never toothed laterally *Criocerinae* (p. 20).
7. Side of pronotum with a prominent swelling or with 2–3 distinct teeth 8.
- Side of pronotum evenly rounded; body rather narrow, elongate *Orsodacninae* (p. 18).
8. Side of pronotum with a prominent swelling anterior to constricted base; body not flattened *Zeugophorinae* (p. 19).
- Side of pronotum with 2–3 sharp teeth; body flattened *Synetinae* (p. 188).
9. Form of body subcylindrical. Pygidium large, sloping; middle 3 abdominal sternites narrow, often constricted in central portion 10.
- Form of body more or less ovate or rounded, not subcylindrical. Pygidium generally flattened, middle 3 abdominal sternites never constricted 11.
10. Antenna serrate, shorter than half body length *Clythrinae* (p. 29).
- Antenna filiform, usually longer than half body length *Cryptocephalinae* (p. 86).
11. Antennae closely inserted on front of head 12.
- Antennae not closely inserted, separated by frons 13.
12. Hind femur swollen, adapting for jumping *Halticinae* (p. 362).
- Hind femur not swollen *Galerucinae* (p. 326).
13. Underside of prothorax grooved for reception of antenna, abdomen grooved for reception of hind legs. Body oviform, convex *Lamprosomatinae* (p. 188).
- Underside of prothorax and abdomen not grooved 14.
14. Third tarsal segment deeply bilobed. Prothorax generally narrower than elytra basally *Eumolpinae* (p. 189).
- Third tarsal segment not bilobed, entire or moderately emarginate. Prothorax generally as broad as elytra basally *Chrysomelinae* (p. 205).