



Revision of the endemic Hispaniolan genus *Asteriza* Chevrolat, 1836, with description of two new species (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Ischyrosomychini)

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Abstract

The cassidine genus *Asteriza* Chevrolat, 1836 is redescribed and two new species, *Asteriza blakeae* Shin, Chaboo & Clark and *Asteriza tainosa* Shin, Chaboo & Clark, are described from the Dominican Republic. A phylogenetic analysis and an illustrated key to the four *Asteriza* species are provided. *Asteriza blakeae* is diagnosed by the reddish lateral margin of the pronotum and more swollen brownish elytral margins. *Asteriza tainosa* is diagnosed by the relatively swollen maxillary and labial palpi and dominant yellow coloration of the elytra and pronotum.

Introduction

Chevrolat (1836) erected the genus name *Asteriza* for the Hispaniolan species, *Cassida flavicornis* Olivier, 1790. He listed two other names, *Asteriza punctatissima* Klug and *Asteriza flavicornis* var. *retigera* Mannerheim, whose origins are unclear since Klug (1829) and Mannerheim (1825) did not include any *Asteriza* species. Both these two names lack valid records (ICZN 1999, Article 12), and are therefore *nomina nuda*. Dugès (1901: 111) listed the name *Asteriza mexicana* Dugès from Mexico; we obtained photographs of Dugès's specimens and determined this to be *Physonota disjuncta* (Chevrolat, 1834), so the name *A. mexicana* is a junior synonym of *P. disjuncta*. The genus name is often cited as *Asteriza* Chevrolat, 1837 but Madge (1988) determined the date of publication to be 1836. A second species, *Asteriza darlingtoni* Blake, 1939 from the Dominican Republic, was diagnosed on the basis of elytral color, puncture pattern, and aedeagal form. Blake (1939) commented that specimens of *A. darlingtoni* recovered an opalescent color when they were soaked, consistent with Hincks's (1952) distinction that *Physonotini* Spaeth, 1942 are opalescent. Blackwelder (1946) included *Asteriza* in the tribe Cassidini Gyllenhal, 1813 and treated other genera of Ischyrosomychini Chapuis, 1875 (*Cistudinella* Champion, 1894; *Enagria* Spaeth, 1913; *Eurypedus* Gistel, 1834; *Eurypepla* Boheman, 1854; *Physonota* Boheman, 1854; and *Platycycla* Boheman, 1854) in the tribe Mesomphaliini Hope, 1840. Hincks (1952) erected the tribe Asterizini for *Asteriza* alone; he distinguished three tribes, Asterizini, Ischyrosomychini, and *Physonotini* on the basis of differences in the elytral margin, pronotal form, prosternal process form, color and opalescence. In couplet 29 (28), he mentioned another taxon, "Eurypedini. However, no morphological features or taxon names were associated and Eurypedini is not used in modern cassidine studies.

Seeno & Wilcox (1982) recognized three distinct tribes—Asterizini Hincks, 1952, Ischyrosomychini Hincks, 1952, and *Physonotini* Hincks, 1952. The author of Asterizini is indeed Hincks; however, the author of Ischyrosomychini and *Physonotini* is not Hincks because both tribes were validated previously by Chapuis (1875) and Spaeth (1942). Hincks (1952) only Latinized the family group names (ICZN [1999] article 11.7.2). Borowiec (1995) synonymised Asterizini with Ischyrosomychini and *Physonotini* under the oldest name Ischyrosomychini, because he considered the tribal boundaries ambiguous. However, Borowiec (1999) used the tribal name *Physonotini* because *Ischyrosomyx* Sturm, 1843 was already recognized as a junior synonym of *Eurypedus* by Barber (1946). In contrast,