

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO NINE SPECIMENS IN THE COLEOPTERA COLLECTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE NEW SOUTH WALES.

**George Hangay**

29 Warili Road, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

Email: hangay@optusnet.com.au

## Summary

Additional information is given to 9 old Coleoptera specimens in the Coleoptera Collection of AQIS NSW.

**Keywords:** historical coleoptera specimens, AQIS NSW insect collection

## INTRODUCTION

In 2004 some comparative material was sourced by AQIS from the Hungarian Natural History Museum. Amongst the specimens there were nine beetles with some interesting history that could not be gleaned from the data labels alone. Extra information was obtained through personal communication with Hungarian colleagues and from written references. The aim of this paper is to share this knowledge with those interested in the history of entomology.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimens obtained from the Hungarian Natural History Museum are used as comparative material to aid the determination of either newly acquired, fresh specimens or previously collected, hitherto indetermined beetles that are already in the AQIS collection. Data labels originally attached to the specimens reveal only the most necessary information, usually restricted to collection locality, date, the name of the collector and occasionally the name of the determinator. Additional information remains hidden from those who are not familiar with the Hungarian history of entomology and/or with the Hungarian language, place names and the old style of writing data labels.

The original data labels were kept pinned underneath the specimens but where the information was somewhat obscure or lacking, new, more descriptive labels were added. The new labels do not contradict the original ones.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Cerambycidae

1. *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky, 1853)  
Original data label: China, Xanthus/Shanghai, Kiangsee Jangtzi/ det. Breuning 1954.

New label added: China, Kiangsi Province, Yangtze River, 1869 (probably October) leg. János Xántus/  
*Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky, 1853)  
Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 2004.

This specimen was collected by János Xántus (1825- 1894) founder and first Director of the Hungarian Zoological Garden (Hangay, 2008). Xántus participated in the 1868 Austro-Hungarian East-Asian Expedition until October 1869 and then collected zoological specimens for the Hungarian Natural History Museum, in China and many other Asian localities. Xántus returned to Hungary in 1870 (Hangay, 2008). Although there was no date on the specimen label, it is possible to date it approximately as Xántus was in China around October 1869 (according to his travelogue). Soon after October, Xántus departed to Singapore and then to Borneo where he carried out extensive and well documented zoological and ethnographical collecting. (Balázs, 1993a). The specimen was determined by Stephan von Breuning (1894- 1983), an Austrian born coleopterist, in 1954. Breuning was a specialist of Cerambycidae and described 7894 species (Wikipedia, 2012).

2. *Chlorophorus figuratus* (Scopoli, 1773)

Original data label: M- besnyő, 1910. V. 22. / figuratus Scop. Det. Dr. Kaszab.

New label added: Hungary, Máriabesnyő, 22. V. 1910. Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest 2004.

This specimen was collected in Máriabesnyő, a small village in Pest County, Hungary, now part of the town Gödöllő. The specimen was determined by Zoltán Kaszab (1915-1986), a highly respected coleopterist, Director of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest. (Hangay and Merkl, 2004a).

3. *Chlorophorus trifasciatus* (Fabricius, 1781)

Original data label: Péczel, Kuthy/ trifasciatus Fabr. Det. Dr. Kaszab.

New label added: Hungary, Pécel. Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 2004.

Dezső Kuthy (1844-1917) was an entomologist of the Hungarian National Museum between 1894-1914. (Merkl and Vigh, 2009). The specimen was collected at Péczel (modern spelling: Pécel) a small town in Pest County, Hungary. There is no date on the original label but it is reasonable to presume that the specimen was collected around the turn of the century.

4. *Clytus arietis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Original data label: Zagreb, Victor Stiller/ coll. Stiller/ arietis det. Dr. Kaszab.

New label added: Croatia, Zagreb, leg. V. Stiller. Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 2004.

Viktor Stiller (1860-1948) (Székessy, 1948) was a Hungarian amateur coleopterist who mainly researched Coleoptera of the southern regions of Hungary, especially around the town Szeged.

**Bostrichidae**

1. *Bostrichus capucinus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (2 specimens)

Original data label: Slovakia, Langhoffer/ coll. Langhoffer/ *Bostrichus capucinus* (L.) det. Merkl, 1998.

New label added: Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 2004.

The original label shows no collecting date but as August Langhoffer (1861–1940), a Hungarian coleopterist, was most active around the turn of the century (Gordh, Gordh and Hedrick, 2003a); it is presumed that the beetles were collected between 1897 and 1915. The specimens were determined by Ottó Merkl, Head of the Hungarian Natural History Museum's Coleoptera Collection.

2. *Schistocerus bimaculatus* (Olivier, 1790)

Original data label: Corsica, Porto Vechio/ *Schistocerus bimaculatus* Ol. Coll. Reitt.

New label added: Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 2004.

This specimen belonged to the Edmund Reitter (1845- 1920) collection (Gordh, Gordh and Hedrick, 2003b). This historical collection (approximately. 200, 000 specimens including 30,000 identified species, of mostly Palaearctic beetles) was purchased by Ernő Csiki (Hangay, 2004b) on behalf of the Hungarian National Museum in 1916 and is housed now in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (Merkl and Vigh, 2009b).

**Dermestidae**

1. *Anthrenus picturatus* Solsky, 1876

Original data label: Ost- Buchara, Karatag 916 m., F. Hauser 1898/ coll. Dr. Fodor/ *scrophulariae* v. *granulus* (folded) *Anthrenus picturatus* Sol. Zhantiev det.91.

New label added: leg. F. Hauser. Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 2004.

Karatag is a settlement near the Karatag River in Tajikistan. The specimen was collected by Friedrich Hauser (1853- 1932) (Gordh, Gordh and Hedrick, 2003b) the noted German coleopterist. Hauser's now historical collection was eventually deposited in the Vienna Museum of Natural History. This specimen was later transferred (most probably through an exchange) to the Jenő Fodor private collection in Budapest. Dr. Fodor bequeathed his collection to the Hungarian Natural History Museum (Merkl and Vigh, 2009).

2. *Dermestes sibiricus* Erichson, 1846

Original data label: Rossia, Saratow/ Exp. Zich / Derm. Frischii v. *sibiricus* Er. Det. Kalik, 1949

New label added: Russia, Saratov, leg. E. Csiki, during the Zichy Expedition. Obtained: ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 2004.

This specimen was collected by Ernő Csiki, the eminent coleopterist of the Hungarian Natural History Museum while travelling with Count Jenő Zichy's second expedition in 1898. The route of the expedition carried Zichy and his small group through Tiflis on 11 April 1898 to Baku by rail, then on to Kazan, Perm, Tyumen, Tobolsk, Ufa, Omsk, Krasnoyarsk and Irkutsk. At this point, the expedition crossed Mongolia's Gobi Desert to arrive in Peking. The expedition returned to Budapest on 18 December 1898 (Balázs, 1993b).

On the original data label the letter "y" at the end of the word "Zich" was apparently accidentally cut off. The correct name is Zichy, the name of the leader of the expedition. The label does not show the date of collection, but it is assumed that the beetle was collected in April or May 1898. This assumption is based on the fact that the expedition travelled in the Saratov area during this time. All Coleoptera collected by Csiki during the expedition were deposited in the Hungarian Museum of Natural History (Merkl and Vigh, 2009c). The specimen was determined by the Czech Dermestidae specialist Vladimir Kalik (1918-2010) (Háva, 2002; Herrmann, 2010).

**Curculionidae**

*Ips acuminatus* (Gyllenhal, 1827).

Original data label: Pécs, 904/ ex coll. Ehmann/  
acuminatus Gyll. det. Endrődi.

New label added: Hungary, Pécs, 1904 Obtained:  
ex Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest,  
2004.

Ferenc Ehmann was a noted beetle collector in Hungary, who systematically collected in Somogy County and the southern parts of Hungary between 1896–1911 (near the town of Pécs) (Sár, Merkl and Szalóky, 2009). Ehmann's collection was given to the Hungarian Natural History Museum. The specimen was determined by Sebő Endrődi (1903-1984) (Scarab Workers World Directory), a scarabaeologist who also extensively studied Curculionidae of the Hungarian Carpathian and Pannon Region.

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