

Notes on the Oriental Species of the Coleopterous Family Buprestidae (III)

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Chrysochroa rajah GORY, 1840

Chrysochroa rajah GORY, 1840, Monogr. Bupr., Suppl., 4, p. 53, pl. 10, fig. 53.

Chrysochroa chinensis CASTELNAU et GORY, 1835, Monogr. Bupr., 1, p. 7, pl. 2, fig. 5 (*nec* VOET, 1808).

Chrysochroa chinensis var. *nonfriedi* OBENBERGER, 1924, Sbornik Ent. Odd. Nar. Mus. Praze, 2, p. 101.

As the name *C. chinensis* CASTELNAU et GORY, 1835, which has long been used for this species, is preoccupied by *C. chinensis* VOET, 1808, which is regarded now as a synonym of *C. vittata* FABRICIUS, 1774, GORY's name *C. rajah* (1840), will be applied to this beautiful species. *C. chinensis* var. *nonfriedi* OBENBERGER, 1924, described from Burma, is a blackish aberrant form of the same species.

Though the original locality of typical *chinensis* CASTELNAU et GORY is supposed to be southwestern China, perhaps Yunnan or the districts bordering Burma, the range of this species extends southwards to the northern mountains of Thailand and Laos, and westwards to the Naga Hills and Khasi Hills of Assam, but the range in China has not been determined. MIWA's record of *C. chinensis* CASTELNAU et GORY and *C. vittata* FABRICIUS from Formosa (1929, Trans. nat. Hist. Soc. Formosa, 19) should be regarded as an error.

Referring to Lao specimens, Ch. KERREMANS stated that "une série d'individus du Laos ont un aspect un peu plus mat, plus terne et une coloration plus cuivreuse, mais il appartient incontestablement à la même forme spécifique." In spite of this account, the author prefers to include the Lao race, of which two males from Sayaboury, Central Laos, were examined for this study, in the typical race, *rajah* GORY. It is, however, evident that in southern populations, the size of body becomes smaller and the red elytral band becomes more faint. The nominate race is characterized by the following points: 1) red triangular marking on each side of the base of pronotum transverse, not reaching the middle of pronotum at the tip; 2) elytra rather mat, evenly and densely punctured.

Length: 35–38 mm; width: 11.0–11.5 mm (male).

Specimens examined. 2 ♀♀, Sayaboury, Laos, 20. iv. 1966, A. BAUDON lgt.

Range. Tonkin, Laos, China, Burma.

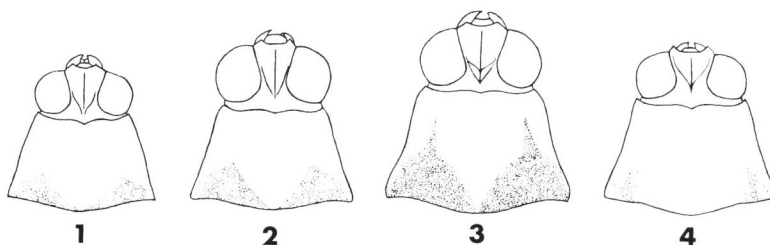
Subsp. *thailandica* subsp. nov.

Very similar to typical *rajah* GORY, but separable from it by the following points: 1) body smaller; 2) elytral red bands faint, sometimes almost faded or vanished; 3) elytral punctures larger, denser and coarser, with the intervals distinctly and strongly shagreened.

Length: 30–34 mm; width: 8.7–10.2 mm (male).

Holotype and paratypes: 8 ♂♂, North Thailand (detailed locality is not known), vii. 1958.

Range. North Thailand.



Figs. 1–4. Head and pronotum of the races of *Chrysochroa rajah* GORY. — 1. Subsp. *thailandica* Y. KUROSAWA, nov. — 2. Subsp. *rajah* GORY, s. str. — 3. Subsp. *assamensis* GUÉRIN. — 4. Subsp. *nilgiriensis* Y. KUROSAWA, nov.

Subsp. *assamensis* GUÉRIN, 1847

Chrysochroa assamensis GUÉRIN, 1847, Rev. Zool., 10, p. 6.

Ch. KERREMANS stated about this race that “quant à l'*assamensis* GUÉR., il est un peu bleu, surtout sur les bords antérieurs des côtés du pronotum qui sont aussi plus rugueux et à ridules transversales, mais je ne vois aucune raison de la séparer du *chinensis* C. et G.” However, the author prefers to regard this as a distinct subspecies localized in the mountain range between Burma and Assam, such as the Naga Hills and the Khasi Hills. It is characterized by the points mentioned below. 1) Body larger (35–49 mm) and brighter, sometimes tinged with blue; 2) triangular red marking on each side of the base of pronotum larger, more distinct, and extending to the middle of pronotum at the tip; 3) elytral red bands broader and more distinct; 4) elytral punctuation sparser, with two kinds of punctures, larger and smaller.

Length: 35–49 mm; width: 10.8–15.0 mm.

Specimens examined. 6 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, Khasi Hills, Assam; 1 ♀, Naga Hills, Assam.

Range. Assam.

Subsp. *nilgiriensis* subsp. nov.

Characterized by the following points: 1) body above brighter than in the other

racess, brilliant deep green with bluish tinge; 2) red marking on each side of the base of pronotum faint, smaller, obscure in size; 3) elytral red bands faint; 4) elytral punctuation even, sparser than in *assamensis*, with the punctures uniform-sized.

Length: 33–40 mm; width: 10–12 mm (male).

Holotype and paratopotypes: 3 ♂♂, Nilgiri Hills, South India, 20. ix. 1976, N. TAKIZAWA lgt.

Range. South India.

This can be regarded as an evidence of the Indochinese elements remaining in South India.

Chrysochroa gestroi nom. nov.

Catoxantha rajah GESTRO, 1877, Ann. Mus. Stor. nat. Genova, 9, p. 351 (*nec* GORY, 1840).

Chrysochroa (Catoxantha) rajah: KERREMANS, 1908, Monogr. Bupr., 3, p. 20, pl. 17, fig. 2.

The genus *Catoxantha* SOLIER, 1833, is distinctly separated from the genus *Chrysochroa* SOLIER, 1833, by the existence of the deep median groove of pronotum. In this point, *C. rajah* GESTRO, 1877, which has no median groove on the pronotum, belongs not to *Catoxantha* but to *Chrysochroa*, and the name *rajah* falls in a homonym of GORY's (1840). Therefore, the new name *C. gestroi* is proposed herewith.

Chrysochroa parryi unnoi subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical *parryi parryi* E. SAUNDERS, 1867, from Ceylon in the following points: 1) pronotum narrower, about 1.5 times as wide as long, with the sides sinuate just before the base, causing the posterior angles more acute and produced; 2) red marking on each side of the base of pronotum larger, narrowly produced to near the middle at the centre of the anterior margin like that of *C. rajah assamensis* GUÉRIN; 3) humeral truncature stronger, causing humeri more strongly angulate and produced; 4) elytral costae distinct and stronger but hardly elevated; 5) apical red portion of elytra broader.

Length: 36.5 mm; width: 11.0 mm.

Holotype: ♂, Dayang Bunting Island, Langkawi Islands, Malaya, 5. v. 1970, K. UNNO lgt.

Range. Malay Peninsula.

