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978-1-107-68547-5 - The Fabrician Types of Insects in the Hunterian Collection at Glasgow University: Coleoptera Part I

Robert A. Staig

Excerpt

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Order COLEOPTERA

Family CICINDELIDAE

The following are the species of Cicindelidae mentioned by Fabricius, in his published works, as having been described by him from specimens in Dr Hunter's Collection:

- Cicindela unipunctata* Syst. Ent. p. 225, No. 8 (1775).
biramosa Mant. Ins. I, p. 186, No. 20 (1787).
8-guttata Ibid. p. 187, No. 24.
*cincta*¹ Ent. Syst. I, I, p. 175, No. 27 (1792).

The above names are the original names as given by Fabricius, and the references are to the works in which these species were first described.

1. *Cicindela biramosa* Fab.

Coleopterorum Catalogus, pars 86 (W. Horn, 1926), Carabidae, Cicindelidae, p. 190. *Fauna of British India*, Coleoptera, Introduction and Cicindelidae (W. W. Fowler, 1912), p. 431.

Ceylon and Southern India, Bengal, etc., Burmah, China.

SYN. *Cicindela biramosa* Fab., *Sp. Ins.* I, p. 286, No. 16 (1781); *Mant. Ins.* I, p. 186, No. 20 (1787); *Ent. Syst.* I, I, p. 175, No. 28 (1792); *Syst. Eleuth.* I, p. 240, No. 42 (1801); Oliv. *Ent.* II, 33, p. 26, pl. 2, fig. 16 *a* and *b*, and pl. 3, fig. 29 (1790).

C. tridentata Thunb., *Nov. Ins. Sp.* p. 26, fig. 40 (1781).

There are two specimens of this species under label

‘*Cic. biramosa*

Fabr. pag. 286, No. 16.’

in Cabinet B, drawer 9, which answer the descriptions given by Fabricius and Olivier and (recently) by W. W. Fowler. I have compared them with modern examples of *biramosa* in the British Museum, and also with examples in the ‘Bishop’ Collection, and they closely agree.

¹ Previously described by Olivier, *Ent.* II, 33, p. 10, pl. 3, fig. 33 (1790).

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This species was first described by Fabricius (*Sp. Ins.* 1) from a specimen in the Hattorf Collection, and the habitat is there given as Germany, evidently an error. Later, however, Fabricius (*Mant. Ins.* 1) refers the type to Hunter's Collection and gives India as the habitat. The Hunterian specimens must therefore meanwhile be regarded as doubtfully the co-types.

In the descriptions of *biramosa* the elytral border is stated to be white; but in the Hunterian specimens it is distinctly yellow.

W. W. Fowler mentions that the Ceylon variety (for which he proposed the name *dilatata*) has the white markings much developed; and examination of a fine series of Ceylon specimens in the 'Bishop' Collection shows that the yellow border tends to become markedly thickened from the middle to the apex. One of the 'Bishop' examples, labelled 'South Ceylon', has the light yellow border less thickened and varies little from the Hunterian specimens.

Description of Co-type, *Cicindela biramosa* Fab. Moderately large. Form robust. Smooth (glabrous) and glossy greenish black above, the head and the prothorax a little coppery, the elytra with light yellow and irregular biramous or triramous outer borders; the underparts of the head and the prothorax, and also the legs, bright coppery with a thin pubescence of whitish hair; the abdomen brilliant deep violet-blue.

The *head* is narrower than the prothorax; the vertex is convex and rugulose, and has two depressions, one at the side of each eye; the frons is convex; the forehead is marked by concentric semicircular striae around the large and prominent green eyes; the clypeus, which extends laterally in front of the insertions of the antennae, is very narrow; the labrum and the bases of the mandibles are testaceous.

The *pronotum* is oblong and convex; in front it is almost straight, and the sides are rounded in at the base, which is sinuate, with a slight and broad median lobe in front of the

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PLATE I



Cicindela biramosa Fab. $\times 5\frac{1}{2}$
and apical portion of elytron

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IN THE HUNTERIAN COLLECTION

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scutellum. Across the front of the pronotum there is a deeply sunk transverse line, near the base there is a similar line, and between these the central longitudinal line is well marked. The surface of the pronotum is rugulose, rather rugose at the front and the base and about the central line.

The *scutellum* is small, broadly and sharply triangular, raised in the centre, and greenish.

The *elytra* are broader than the prothorax, plano-convex, and parallel-sided; the bases are rounded, the outer sides are a little deflexed, and the apices are obliquely rounded; the inner and outer borders are marginate, but the apical edges are finely serrate, and there is a very small sharp spine at each sutural (apical) angle; the shoulders are well marked, within each there is an elongate impression marked by nine large round punctures; there is also a regular longitudinal row of eight or nine large round punctures, at varying intervals apart, on each elytron near and parallel with the suture. The surface of the elytra is closely punctulate with crescentic punctules, which become smaller towards the apex; a light yellow border extends right round the outer side of each elytron from the shoulder to the sutural angle, the inner edge of this border is irregular and has at the middle a conspicuous transverse extension (knob-like in outline) reaching half-way across the elytron, and a lesser (double) offshoot at the apex.

The *prosternum* has punctate sides, and some of the punctures bear whitish setae; the *metathoracic episterna* are finely punctulate, and some of the punctules bear whitish hairs.

The *legs*, moderately long and slender, are coppery green, with dark metallic green coxae and trochanters; the posterior coxae are large and have strongly developed trochanters.

Length 12 mm.; breadth (across the elytra) 4 mm.

Hab. Germany and India (Fab.), East Indies (Oliv.).

See Plate 1.

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2. *Cicindela cincta* Oliv.

Coleopterorum Catalogus, pars 86 (W. Horn, 1926), Carabidae,
Cicindelidae, p. 154. Oliv. *Ent.* II, 33, p. 10, pl. 3, fig. 33
(1790).

Africa.

SYN. *Cicindela cincta* Fab., *Ent. Syst.* I, 1, p. 175, No. 27 (1792);
Syst. Eleuth. I, p. 240, No. 40 (1801).

The specimen in Cabinet B, drawer 9, under label

‘*C. cincta*, Oliv.’

(the handwriting presumably Olivier’s) corresponds with the descriptions of this species given by Olivier and Fabricius. Mr K. G. Blair has carefully compared it with the modern examples of *cincta* in the British Museum, and he considers it to be the type.

I have compared this type with a series of fifteen modern examples (fourteen from Sierra Leone and one from Ashanti) in the ‘Bishop’ Collection. The stripes and spots on these ‘Bishop’ examples are not white, as stated by Olivier and Fabricius, but are (like those on the type) distinctly yellow; only two of the examples have these markings cream-coloured. The spotting is very variable: the Ashanti specimen is without any trace of spots on the elytra. The specimens from Sierra Leone show considerable variation in the size and number of the spots, one having only the two hindmost spots and these greatly reduced, and others being without the middle spots; one specimen is light green above, and two have the head and pronotum light coppery green.

Description of Type, *Cicindela cincta* Oliv. Large. Form robust. Dull greenish black above, the head and the prothorax a little coppery, the elytra metallic violet along the sides and with a narrow dorso-lateral yellowish stripe and three small and unequal yellowish spots on each disc; the underside glossy violet-blue and with a scanty pubescence of short light yellowish hairs, the lower segments of the palps

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PLATE 2



Cicindela cincta Oliv. $\times 4$

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light red, the thoracic sterna with bright coppery touches, and the upper parts of the legs coppery.

The *head* is longer than broad, its breadth is about the same as that of the prothorax, and its surface is shagreened; the vertex is convex; the frons is flattened between the eyes and is convex and vertical in front, it has prominent angular and coppery supra-orbital ridges, and it is marked by irregularly semicircular striae about the large and prominent eyes; the clypeus, which extends laterally in front of the insertions of the antennae, is very narrow and is violet-coloured; the labrum is light red on the base, the front part is black with a few long setae and with seven teeth on its front edge; the sides of the head are coppery and rugulose, the genae are glossy violet and are closely striated; the base and the first segment of the antennae are coppery, the next three segments are glossy violet and the succeeding segments are light red; the bases of the mandibles and the basal segments of the maxillary and labial palps are light red.

The *pronotum* is a little longer than broad, it is almost straight in front, the sides are rounded and bear light yellowish setae, and the base is sinuate with a slight and broad median lobe in front of the scutellum. Across the front part of the pronotum there is a deeply sunk triangular line, and posteriorly there is a similar but bicrescentic transverse line. These two lines are continuous round the sides of the prothorax and thus form strongly marked constrictions; and the central longitudinal line between them is distinct but short. The front part of the pronotum is convex, two prominent and contiguous rounded elevations form the central area, and the basal part is flat; the pronotal surface is shagreened.

The *scutellum* is small, broadly and sharply triangular, and rugulose.

The *elytra* are broader than the pronotum, plano-convex, and almost parallel-sided; the bases are sinuate, the outer sides are deflexed, and the apices are obliquely rounded; the outer borders are marginate and there is a very small sharp

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spine at each sutural (apical) angle. The surface of the elytra is punctulate and dull greenish black, coppery violet along the sides, with a narrow and yellowish dorso-lateral stripe extending from each shoulder to the middle of the apical margin, and with three yellowish spots situated well apart and about the middle of each elytron (the foremost spot small and round, the middle one elongate-oval and near the suture, the hindmost and largest one roughly triangular); there are a few light yellowish setae about the shoulders.

The sides of the *prosternum* are rugulose; the *metathoracic episterna* are rugulose and coppery violet; each side of the *metasternum* is punctate and setose and has a brilliant coppery coloured triangular patch.

The *legs*, moderately long and slender, are coppery green; the posterior coxae are large and have strongly developed trochanters.

Length 18 mm.; breadth (across the elytra) 6 mm.

Hab. Central Africa (Oliv.), Africa (Fab.).

See Plate 2.

3. *Cicindela octoguttata* Fab.

Coleopterorum Catalogus, pars 86 (W. Horn, 1926), Carabidae, Cicindelidae, p. 139.

Senegal, etc.

SYN. *Cicindela* 8-guttata Fab., *Mant. Ins.* 1, p. 187, No. 24 (1787); *Ent. Syst.* 1, 1, p. 177, No. 32 (1792); *Syst. Eleuth.* 1, p. 242, No. 51 (1801); Oliv. *Ent.* 11, 33, p. 28, pl. 3, fig. 32 (1790).

In Cabinet B, drawer 9, under label

‘*Cic. 8-guttata*
Fabr. MSS’

there are four specimens which correspond more or less closely with the descriptions given by Fabricius and Olivier.

Mr Blair and I have compared two of the specimens with modern examples of this species in the British Museum. I