

**A forgotten name: *Cantharis subspinosa* [Kugelann] in Illiger, 1798
(Coleoptera: Cantharidae)**

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Taxonomy, synonymy, Coleoptera, Cantharidae, *Cantharis subspinosa*, *Autosilis nitidula*, Kugelann, Lentz, Prussia

Abstract. The species *Cantharis subspinosa* [Kugelann] in Illiger, 1798 has been almost completely forgotten. After its concise original description, the species was first redescribed by Lentz (1856) based on the Kugelann's collection, and after synonymized with *Autosilis nitidula* (Fabricius, 1792) again by Lentz (1857). Instead *Cantharis subspinosa*, erroneously attributed to Lentz, it appeared in the literature only two times as *nomen nudum*. The name is available and, even if the holotype has been lost, it is possible to confirm the synonymy based on the description.

INTRODUCTION

The pharmacist, botanist and entomologist Johann Gottlieb Kugelann (Königsberg, 2 January 1753 - Osterode / Ostróda, 8 September 1815) used the name *Cantharis subspinosa* (Kugelann 1798: page 302), for a variety of *Cantharis ruficollis* Rossi, 1790 with pronotum denticulate at sides, concisely described by Pietro Rossi (1790: 169, 347) as “*Variare videtur thorace lateribus denticulato*”. In reality Kugelann (1798) claims to be masterfully described by P. Rossi and the species *C. subspinosa* will be mentioned in the new Appendix to the “Fauna Etrusca”, but on this there is no comparison in the works of Rossi himself (Rossi 1790, 1792-1794) and in the German re-editions (Hellwig 1795; Illiger 1807). The species is validly described but subsequently completely forgotten by the works and catalogs of the world until today (Illiger 1801; Gemminger & Harold 1869; Stein & Weise 1877; Heyden et al. 1883, 1891, 1906; Sherborn 1902; Hicker 1925; Delkeskamp 1939, 1977; Kazantsev & Brancucci 2007). After that, it was also redescribed, for Prussia, by Friedrich Leonhard Lentz (Königsberg, 23 January 1813 - Königsberg, 10 September 1887) in one of his entomological works (Lentz 1856: 52, reprint 4), evidently based on the name by Kugelann (Kugelann 1798; Lentz 1856, 1857; Warda 1920). The year following the redescription, the same author, Lentz (1857: 101, reprint 172) synonymizes *Cantharis subspinosa* with *Silis spinicollis* Charp. (= *Autosilis nitidula* Fabricius, 1792), also saying related, own, to *C. fulvicollis* Fabricius, 1792 = *C. flavilabris* Fallén, 1807 / *C. thoracica* (A. G. Olivier, 1790) = *C. nigra* (De Geer, 1774), and *C. fusca* Linnaeus, 1758. *Cantharis subspinosa* has only been mentioned by Burakowski et al. (1985: 292) where it is erroneously considered as *nomen nudum* and, in the same state of *nomen nudum* we can also find it on the subsequent and derived website Coleoptera Poloniae “*Cantharis (Metacantharis) subspinosa* Lentz, 1856 *nomen nudum*”, where it is attributed to the subgenus *Metacantharis*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The holotype has been lost or destroyed during the decades since that the Lentz's collection is still considered to be preserved (e.g. Netolitzky & Vogel 1917: 56; Horn et al. 1990: 232; Bousquet 2016: 337) at the Zoologisches Museum in Königsberg (= Kaliningrad, Russia), where in reality there are no old German / Prussian collections and the old material is partly lost and partly divided between different Museums and Countries, and it was probably destroyed during the Second World War (Alekseev personal communication), in fact, it is no longer present in Warsaw (Wioletta Tomaszewska and Przemysław Dawid Szymroszczyk personal communications) and in Stuttgart (Wolfgang Schawaller personal communication). Furthermore, Lentz redescribes *Cantharis subspinosa* based on the name (see: Kugelann 1798: 302) and the collection of Kugelann, which came after the death of Kugelann himself in 1815, incorporated, especially Coleoptera (via Bruder Ludwig: see Groll 2017) into the J. F. Hoffmann's collection in Warsaw (Siebold 1847: 204-205; Horn et al. 1990: 218) and in 1920 the remaining beetles were still in the Library of Warsaw University, but without position and locality (Warda 1920: 49) while they were totally dispersed (see also: Lentz 1856: 51, 1879: ii) probably during the Second World War and therefore not traceable and in any case without labels (Przemysław Dawid Szymroszczyk personal communication). The description of *C. subspinosa* is here attributed to Kugelann, inserting his name in square brackets to respect the original anonymity (ICZN 1999 Recommendation 51D.), since the work where the taxon appears was a project of Kugelann himself but written by him probably only in part (Bousquet 2016: 271), but the new species present in the article are traditionally attributed to him and in particular, as regards *C. subspinosa*, we can find well indicated in Lentz (1856), from both the text and the title, that species had been identified and named (ICZN 1999 Recommendation 50A.) by Kugelann and not by Illiger.

RESULTS

In 1857 Lentz reported the description of *C. subspinosa* of the previous year under the species *Silis spinicollis* (= *Autosilis nitidula*) considering it synonymous with the latter (Lentz 1857: 101, reprint 172), while in the following article, he mentions only *Silis spinicollis* - *S. nitidula* (Lentz 1879: 38) and given the absence of the holotype and given the fact that the description of *C. subspinosa* completely corresponds to that of *Autosilis nitidula* (for the coloring and the toothed pronotum at the sides), the synonymy must be considered valid for all purposes:

***Autosilis nitidula* (Fabricius, 1792)**

= *Cantharis subspinosa* [Kugelann] in Illiger, 1798: 302
(Redescribed by Lentz 1856: 52, reprint 4, and synonymized by Lentz 1857: 101, reprint 172).

Species and nomenclatural act remained unknown.

Hr. Pr. *Roffi* giebt uns a. a. O. eine meisterhafte Beschreibung. Die von ihm angegebne Abart mit gezähnten Seiten des Halschilds ist eine befondre Art, die in dem neu herauszugebenden Appendix zur Fauna Etrusca unter dem Namen *C. subspinosa* aufgeführt werden wird.

Fig. 1. *Cantharis subspinosa* [Kugelann] in Illiger, 1798 reproduction of the original description.

4. *Cantharis subspinosa*: atra, thorace utrimque unidenticulato pedibusque rufis. Gestalt, Größe und Färbung wie bei *C. fulvicollis* (d. h. *thoracica* Oliv.). Das Brustschild hat an der Mitte jedes Seitenrandes ein Zähnchen. — steht im Manuscr. zwischen *C. thoracica* Oliv. und *fuscata* Linn.

Fig. 2. *Cantharis subspinosa* Lentz, 1856 reproduction of the original redescription.

Silis spinicollis Charp. KM. 42. 4? *Canth. subspinosa* atra, thorace utrimque unidenticulato pedibusque rufis. Gestalt, Größe und Färbung, wie bei *fulvicollis* (d. h. *thoracica*). Das Brustschild hat an der Mitte jedes Seitenrandes ein Zähnchen. — S. (Megerle).

Fig. 3. Reproduction of the synonymy of *Cantharis subspinosa* with *Silis spinicollis* (= *Autosilis nitidula*).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I am grateful to Vitalii I. Alekseev (Kaliningrad State Technical University, Department of Zootechny), Wioletta Tomaszewska (Polish Academy of Sciences - PAN - Museum and Institute of Zoology), Przemysław Dawid Szymroszczyk (Polish Academy of Sciences - PAN - Museum and Institute of Zoology) and Wolfgang Schawaller (State Museum of Natural History, Stuttgart - SMNS) for their precious information on the old collections discussed here. I must also mention and thank Harald Schillhammer (Natural History Museum, Vienna - NHMW) and the Entomological Library of the Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg (Germany), for some photocopies.

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Received: 28.5.2018

Accepted: 20.6.2018

Printed: 5.10.2018

