

**Systematic position and rediscovery of the mysterious
species *Globicornis alpina* Pic, 1912
(Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Megatominae)**

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Abstract. An additional record of the species *Globicornis alpina* Pic, 1912 is reported, redescribed and newly combined as *Megatoma (Pseudohadrotoma) alpina* (Pic, 1912) comb. nov. Additional morphological details, photos of the specimen as well as a comparison with the similar looking *Megatoma (Pseudohadrotoma) graeseri* (Reitter, 1887) are provided.

INTRODUCTION

Almost 40 valid species of the genus *Globicornis* Latreille in Cuvier, 1829 have been described up to now, and roughly the half of them belong to the subgenus *Globicornis* (s. str.); so far six species of that subgenus have been recorded from France. Only two specimens of *Globicornis alpina* were collected and described by Maurice Pic in 1912, and till today no additional examples were recorded, at least not published. Both type specimens probably got lost, they also couldn't been detected in his private collection deposited in the MNHM (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris).

During the examination of some dermestids belonging to the collection of the French coleopterist Nicolas Gompel a third specimen has been revealed between the material. In the present paper we transfer species to the genus *Megatoma* Herbst, 1791 and compare it with the similar looking *Megatoma (Pseudohadrotoma) graeseri* (Reitter, 1887) with providing photos of the habitus as well as of the antenna.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following body measurements (in mm) were made:
total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.
pronotal length (PL) - maximum length measured from anterior margin to posterior margin.
pronotal width (PW) - maximum linear transverse distance.
elytral length (EL) - linear distance from shoulder to apex of elytron.
elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

RESULTS

Megatoma (Pseudohadrotoma) alpina (Pic, 1912) comb. nov.

Globicornis alpina Pic, 1912: 75.

Globicornis alpina: Pic, 1939: 3; Mroczkowski, 1968: 113; Alonso, 2014: 450; Háva, 2015: 196.

Material examined: France, Hautes-Alpes, Ristolas, 44°46' N, 06°57' E, 20.VII.1987, leg. C. Cocquempot. 1 ♀, (Deposited in the private collection of Nicolas Gompel, France).

Description of the specimen. Body measurements in mm: TL 3.8, EL 2.9, PL 1.9, EW 2.0, PW 1.6. Elongate, cuticle black in head and pronotum, dark brown in the elytra with some brighter parts which form an indistinct broad transverse fascia in the anterior third, and a blurred spot on each side of the suture near the apical end (Fig. 1). Head black, broader than long, dull by dense punctuation. Eyes large with hardly visible microsetae. Ocellus present on frons. Pronotum widest at the hind edges, narrowed anteriorly, lateral margins visible from above. Antenna with 11 antennomeres; the last antennomere of the 3 antennomered antennal club big, slightly longer than the first two antennal segments combined, entirely reddish-brown (Fig. 2). Surface of the body sparsely covered with short dark setae, some white setae intermixed. On the pronotum, most of the white setae build two spots at the hind edges, and a single one at the middle of the hind margin near the scutellum. On the elytra, they are concentrated mainly on the brighter parts of the elytra.

Diagnosis. The species is compared with females of *Megatoma (Pseudohadrotoma) graeseri* (Reitter, 1887). See the following table.

Character	<i>Megatoma (P.) graeseri</i> (Reitter, 1887)	<i>Megatoma (P.) alpina</i> (Pic, 1912) comb. nov.
Antenna	Terminal club segment roughly as long as the other two combined	Terminal club segment distinctly longer than the other two combined
Pronotum	Punctuation of the disk very dense and coarse	Punctuation of the disk less dense and coarse
Elytra	Body narrower, spot and fascia of the elytra sharp and distinct, particularly the apical spot	Body broader, the fascia and apical spot blurred, the bright hairs are not concentrated only to the reddish parts of the cuticle but spread all over the elytra

Discussion. Pic's original description (Pic 1912) meets the morphological characters of the recently collected specimen exactly:

„Satis elongatus, subnitidus, griseo pubescens, ruguloso punctatus aut granulatus, niger, antennis pedibusque rufescentibus, elytris nigris, rufo notatis /ad basin fascia arcuata et post medium macula discoidalis), postice rufo limatis. Long. 4.5 mm.“

Furthermore the collecting place of the types is only 10 km away from Ristolas, so it is more than likely that the recently collected female belongs to that lost species indeed. Surprisingly Maurice Pic provided some years later additional respectively more detailed information concerning the circumstances of his catch (Pic 1938), a quite unusual behaviour of him:

„Je n'en connais que les deux types que j'ai capturés dans la forêt de Marassan près d'Aiguilles (Hautes-Alpes), l'un par terre, l'autre recueilli à la nappe montée, en battant un Méléze.“

Unfortunately the collector (C. Cocquempot) of the last specimen doesn't remember exactly the circumstances of his catch, he suggested that it was caught by sweeping near a deposit of coniferous logs or recently cut stumps, at the trail on the left bank of the Guil river under the Bois de Jassaygue (1600-1640 m).



Figs. 1-4: *Megatoma (Pseudohadrotoma) alpina* (♀): 1- habitus, dorsal; 2- antenna; *Megatoma (Pseudohadrotoma) graeseri* (♀): 3- habitus, dorsal; 4- antenna. (habitus photo of *M. alpina* taken by N. Gompel)

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