

Aphodius smoliki Käufel, 1914 : a systematic redefinition and a new combination (Coleoptera, Aphodiidae)

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***Aphodius smoliki* Käufel, 1914: A systematic redefinition and a new combination (Coleoptera, Aphodiidae)**

by Marco Dellacasa & Giovanni Dellacasa

Abstract. The systematics of *Aphodius smoliki* Käufel, 1914 are updated on the basis of a study of the type and a new combination into the genus *Grandinaphodius* Ziani, 2002 is formulated.

Key words. *Aphodius smoliki* – *Grandinaphodius* – new combination – systematics – type – Syria

Introduction

Searching for the type material of *Aphodius plasoni* Käufel, 1914 in the Frey collection at the Natural History Museum, Basel, we also traced the type of the poorly known species *Aphodius smoliki* Käufel, 1914. We herein update its systematics and propose its new combination into the genus *Grandinaphodius* Ziani, 2002.

The terminology used in this work to describe the morphological features follows that of DELLACASA et al. (2001).

***Grandinaphodius smoliki* (Käufel, 1914) comb.nov.**

(Figs 1–5)

Aphodius (*Chilothorax*) *smoliki* Käufel, 1914: 143; DELLACASA M. (1988): 200.

Aphodius (*Volinus*) *smoliki*: BALTHASAR (1963): 237.

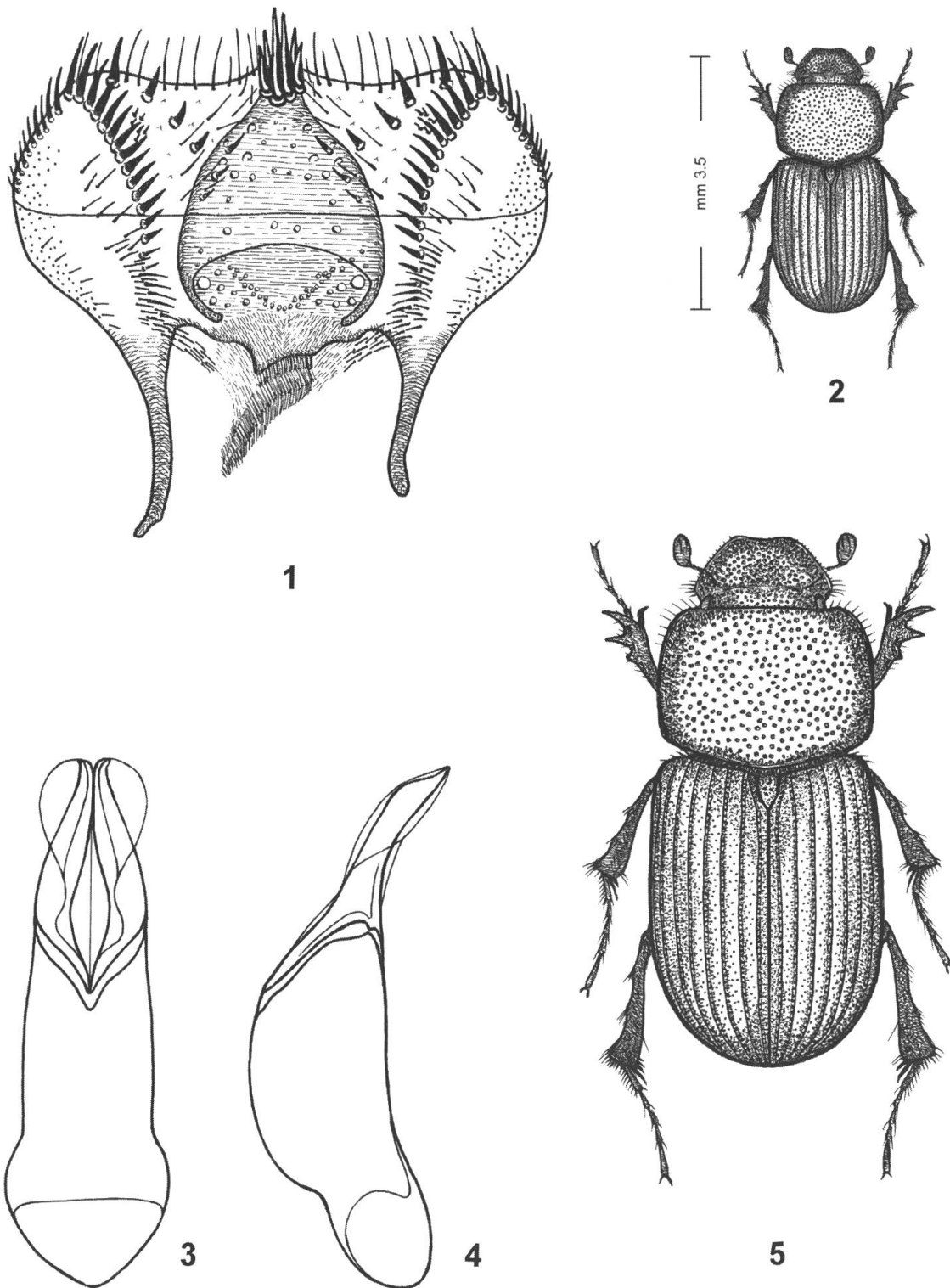
Type locality: Aleppo [Syria].

Material examined. 1 male, bearing the following labels: (1) white, printed: “Aleppo, Asia/ min. c. Plason”; (2) red, printed, “typus”; (3) white, handwritten: “Smoliki/ mihi typ./ det. Käufel”. Deposited in Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel.

Description. Length 3.5 mm; elongate, moderately convex, lustrous, almost glabrous. Head and pronotum piceous, latter with anterior angles shadowy-reddish; elytra brownish, widely shadowy-yellowish on disc; legs reddish-brown; antennal club dirty yellowish.

Head with epistoma almost flat, evenly and coarsely punctured, punctuation somewhat confused distally; clypeus faintly sinuate at middle, rounded at sides, thinly bordered, edge feebly upturned and very shortly bristled laterally; genae obtusely rounded, elongately ciliate, protruding farther than eyes; frontal suture subcariniform, not tuberculate; front coarsely, not closely, and almost evenly, punctured.

Pronotum transverse, moderately convex, almost evenly, coarsely, not very closely punctured; lateral margins feebly arcuate, very thinly bordered, edge with a few elongate, extremely fine setae toward front angles; hind angles obtusely rounded; base regularly arcuate, thinly bordered. Scutellum amygdaliform, flat, finely alutaceous, with a few coarse punctures, widely scattered.



Figs 1–5. *Grandinaphodius smoliki* (Käufel, 1914) [Aleppo, Syria]: 1 – epipharynx; 2 – habitus of male; 3, 4 – aedeagus (dorsal and ventral view); 5 – morphological details of male habitus.

Elytra elongate, subparallel-sided, not denticulate at shoulder, broadly but not deeply striate; striae faintly crenulate; intervals almost flat, sparsely, finely but distinctly punctured, almost imperceptibly pubescent toward apex.

Hind tibiae superior apical spur shorter than first tarsal segment; latter shorter than following two combined.

Male: fore-tibiae apical spur stout, inwardly hooked at tip, bent downwards; aedeagus Figs 3–4.

Female: unknown.

Distribution. known from the type locality only.

Remarks. We deem this taxon belongs to *Grandinaphodius* because it shares a complex of the following generic characters beyond epipharyngeal and aedeagal features:

- head with clypeus sinuate at middle, rounded at sides and with lateral margins shortly bristled; frontal suture not tuberculate
- pronotum with base bordered
- scutellum small, amygdaliform
- elytra not denticulate at shoulder; broadly striate
- fore-tibiae proximally not crenulate at outer margin and dorsally impunctate
- hind tibiae apically fimbriate with elongate spinules irregularly unequal
- first segment of hind tarsi shorter than following two combined

A key to species of *Grandinaphodius*

1. Pronotum almost evenly and subregularly punctured; elytral striae faintly crenulate, intervals almost flat. Head and pronotum piceous, latter with anterior angles shadowy-reddish; elytra brownish, widely shadowy-yellowish on disc. Length 3.5 mm. Syria. ***G. smoliki* (Käufel, 1914)**
- Pronotum dually, somewhat irregularly punctured; elytral striae deep and distinctly crenulate, intervals feebly convex. Shiny black. Length 4.0 mm. Lebanon. ***G. inferorum* Ziani, 2002**

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