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The genus *Gnathusa* Fenyes (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Oxypodini)

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Jyrki, M.: The genus *Gnathusa* Fenyes (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Oxypodini). [**Släktet *Gnathusa* Fenyes (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Oxypodini).**] – Entomologisk Tidskrift 144 (1–2): 73–80. Björnlunda, Sweden 2023. ISSN 0013-886x.

Gnathusa Fenyes, 1909 is shown to be the oldest available name for the junior homonym *Eurylophus* J. Sahlberg, 1876 nec Schönherr, 1836. Originally described from the Nearctic, *Gnathusa* is in fact a Holarctic genus with species in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, China, USA and Canada. *Drepasiagonusa* Pace, 2012 is a junior subjective synonym of *Gnathusa* Fenyes, 1909. *Gnathusa feldmanni* (Assing, 2018) is regarded as a valid species, not a subjective junior synonym of *Gnathusa grandiceps* (J. Sahlberg, 1876). Six new combinations are presented: *Gnathusa angulata* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*); *Gnathusa grandiceps* (J. Sahlberg, 1876) (*Eurylophus*); *Gnathusa feldmanni* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*); *Gnathusa procera* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*); *Gnathusa smetanai* (Pace, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*) and *Gnathusa tibetica* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*). *Gnathusa seeversi* **nomen novum** is proposed for the secondary junior homonym *Gnathusa grandiceps* (Casey, 1911) [*Haploglossa*] not *Gnathusa grandiceps* (J. Sahlberg, 1876) [*Eurylophus*].

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The history of the genus *Ocyusa* Kraatz is confusing. In the Catalogus Coleopterorum checklists (Bernhauer & Scheerpeltz 1926; Scheerpeltz 1934), the Palaearctic *Ocyusa* species were placed in seven subgenera: *Ocyusa* s. str., *Cousya* Mulsant & Rey, *Zoosetha* Mulsant & Rey, *Poromniusa* Ganglbauer, *Leptusina* Bernhauer, *Mniusa* Mulsant & Rey and *Parocyusa* Bernhauer. Later, Scheerpeltz (1947) treated all these seven subgenera as genera. Lindroth (1960) did not apply Scheerpeltz solution and listed most North European species as belonging to *Ocyusa sensu* Bernhauer & Scheerpeltz (1926) keeping only the genera *Deubelia* Bernhauer and *Eurymniusa* Ganglbauer as separate taxa. Eleven years later, Palm (1972) followed the same system, but treated only *Eurymniusa* as a separate genus. Muona (1979) adopted the scheme suggested by Scheerpeltz (1947), Lohse (1974) and Seevers (1978), and placed the nine Fennoscandian species in eight genera: *Ocyusa*, *Deubelia*, *Eurymniusa*, *Cephalocousya* Lohse, *Chilomorpha* Mannerheim, *Cousya* Mulsant & Rey, *Mniusa* Mulsant & Rey and *Poromniusa* Ganglbauer. Silfverberg (1992) continued with this approach in the next two editions of his checklist (Silfverberg 2004, 2010), but only six genera remained in use. *Deubelia* had been synonymized with *Ocyusa*, *Eurymniusa* with *Poromniusa* (Assing 1998) and the misapplied name *Cousya* had been replaced with *Chanoma* Blackwelder. The latest version of the Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera (Shülke & Smetana 2015) used the same system as Silfverberg (2010) with one correction – the misapplied name *Chilomorpha* was replaced with the correct one, *Cousya*.

Finally, Assing (2021) revised *Parocyusa* and *Leptusina*, synonymizing the latter with *Tectusa* Bernhauer. *Parocyusa* (“*Chilopora”*) had never been associated with *Ocyusa* in Europe and *Tectusa* was a South-East European taxon. Today it is clear that most taxa once united under the

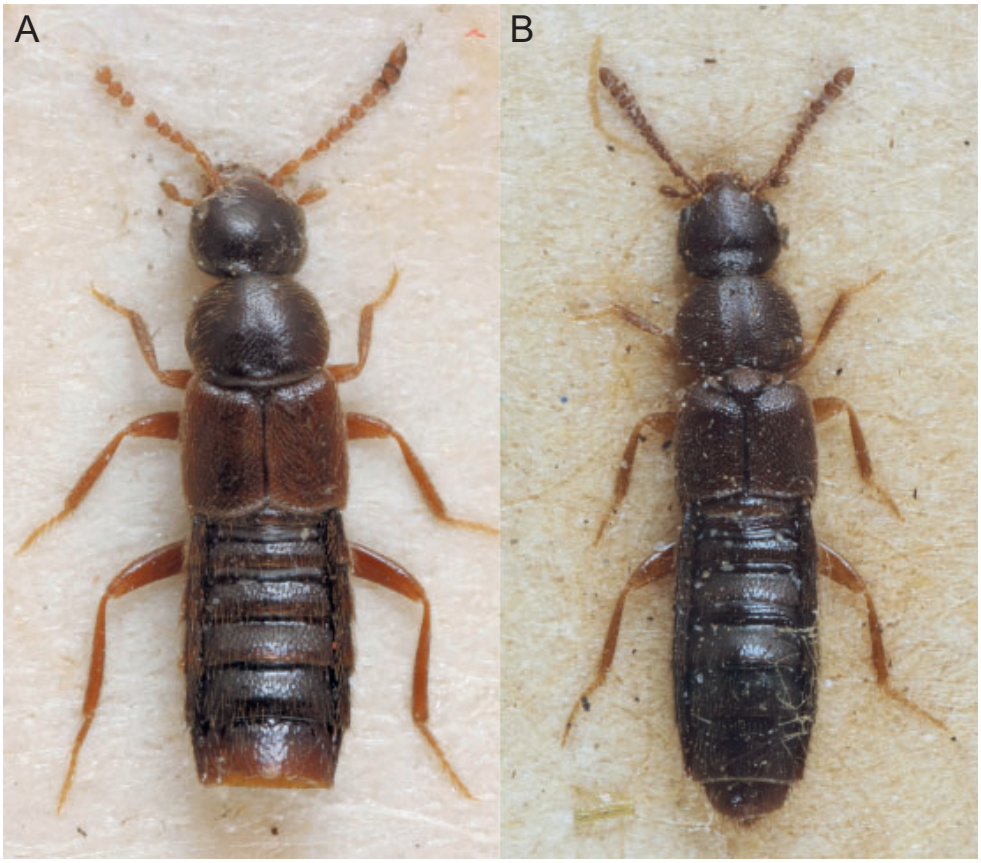

Figure 1. – A) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sweden, To., Abisko (JMC), length 2.8 mm; – B) *Mniusa incrassata* Mulsant & Rey, UK, Hampshire, Highclere (JMC), length 2.5 mm.

Figur 1. – A) G*nathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sverige, To., Abisko (JMC), längd 2,8 mm; – B) M*niusa incrassata* Mulsant & Rey, Storbrittanien, Hampshire, Highclere (JMC), längd 2,5 mm.

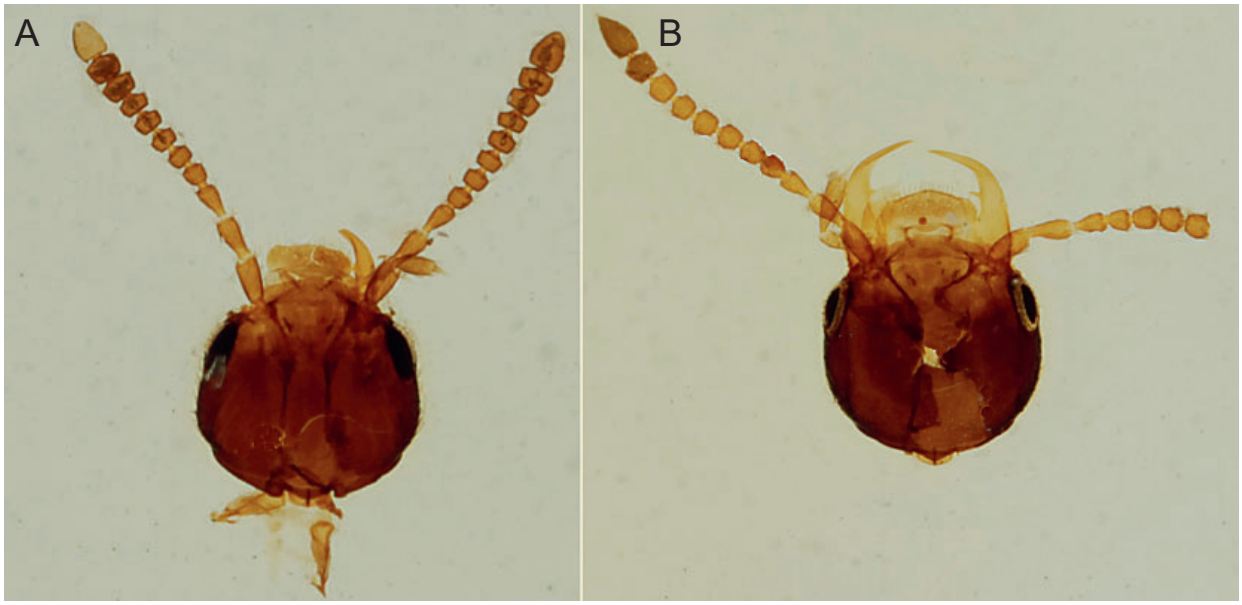

Figure 2. Head; – A) *Mniusa incrassata* Mulsant & Rey, Finland, Siuntio (JMC); – B) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Finland, Kuusamo (JMC).

Figur 2. Huvud; – A) *Mniusa incrassata* Mulsant & Rey, Finland, Siuntio (JMC); – B) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Finland, Kuusamo (JMC).

generic name *Ocyusa* are not closely related to each other.

The genus *Eurylophus* J. Sahlberg, 1876 nec Schönherr, 1836

The splitting of the old "Ocyusa" requires one more re-arrangement. The present combination *Mniusa grandiceps* (Sahlberg, 1876) is incorrect. John Sahlberg (1876) first discovered and described this species. Unfortunately, his new generic name, *Eurylophus* Sahlberg, 1876, proved to be a junior homonym of *Eurylophus* Schönherr, 1836, a Neotropical weevil genus. Bernhauer (1902) synonymized *Eurylophus* with *Mniusa* Mulsant & Rey, 1875 and the matter of homonymy was ignored. The problem surfaced again when Assing (2021) noticed that the East Asian genus *Drepasiagonusa* Pace, 2012 was synonymous with *Eurylophus* J. Sahlberg and went on to revalidate Sahlberg's name, failing to notice that it was a junior primary homonym and thus unavailable according to nomenclatural rules (ICZN 1999).

Three papers dealing with the same taxon in the Nearctic subregion exist, however, and they provide the oldest subjective synonym for *Eurylophus* J. Sahlberg nec Schönherr, viz. *Gnathusa* Fenyes, 1909. Seevers (1978) redescribed *Gnathusa* and Klimaszewski et al. (2014), in their revision of the Canadian species of *Mniusa*, *Gnathusa* and *Ocyusa,* treated *Gnathusa* and *Mniusa* as separate taxa (Figs 1 & 2). However, they failed to realize that *Gnathusa* is present in the Palaearctic as well. During the preparation of this paper, *Gnathusa* was reported from Finland (Klimaszewski et al. 2021), but again, ignoring *G. grandiceps*, it was called *G. caribou* Lohse, 1990 without any explanation.

The genera *Mniusa* and *Gnathusa*

Gnathusa and *Mniusa* are simple to keep apart. Both share apomorphic features within Oxypodini: the pronotal midline vestiture is directed craniad, frontal suture is not visible and the head is enlarged. *Gnathusa* differs from *Mniusa* by having very long, sickle-shaped mandibles (Fig. 2B), anterior margin of mesosternum with short V-shaped basal carina and apically deeply split ligula. *Mniusa* differs from *Gnathusa* in having the apex of the long basal section of the spermatheca sharply dilated in the apical section, as if forming a collar (Fig. 6C). Further support for the separation of these two genera as sister-groups was provided in a recent molecular study (Osswald et al. 2013). Both *Mniusa* and *Gnathusa* are Holarctic genera and the latter includes ten known species (Table 1). Only one of them occurs in Europe, viz. *Gnathusa grandiceps* (J. Sahlberg).

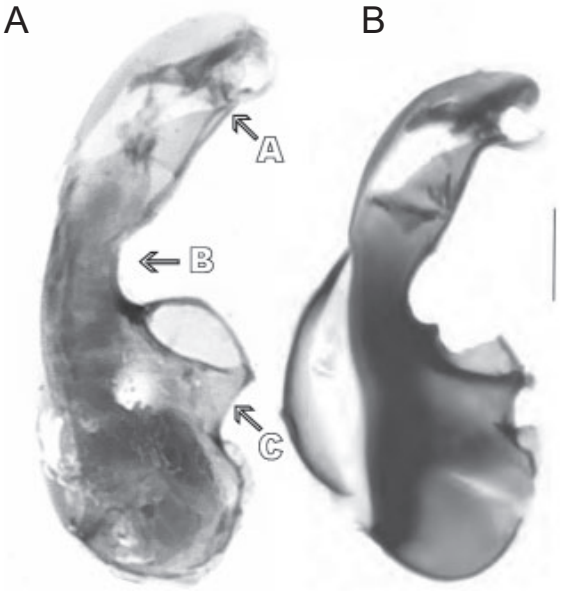

Figure 3. *Median lobe*, ventral view; – A) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sweden, To., Abisko (JMC); – B) *Gnathusa feldmanni* Assing, holotype, modified from Assing (2018). A, B, C indicate structures discussed in the text. Scale: 0.1 mm.

Figur 3. Mittenlob, underifrån; – A) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sverige, To., Abisko (JMC); – B) *Gnathusa feldmanni* Assing, holotyp, modifierad från Assing (2018). A, B, C indikerar strukturer som diskuteras i texten. Skalstreck: 0,1 mm.

Gnathusa grandiceps and *G. feldmanni*

Assing (2021) regarded *Drepasiagonusa feldmanni* Assing, 2018 as a subjective junior synonym of *Eurylophus grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, 1876. He did not study the holotype of *E. grandiceps* but used an unspecified male specimen from Siberia instead in his comparison of the two taxa. He observed slight differences in the size of the aedeagus as well as in the shape of the ventral process of the organ, but nevertheless considered them to belong to the same species. I have examined the male holotype and other specimens of both sexes of *Gnathusa grandiceps* from Finland, Sweden and Russia. Based on the aedeagus, metatarsi,

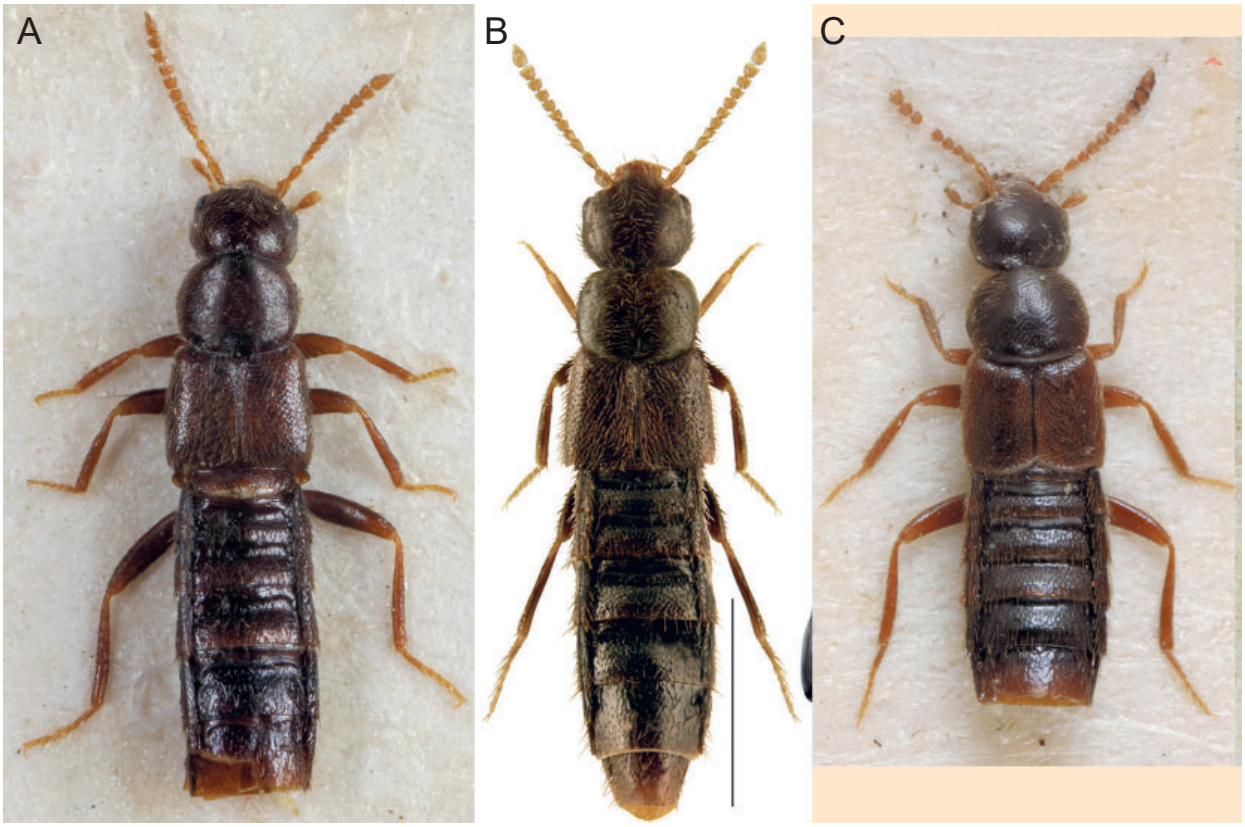

Figure 4. – A) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Russia, Yakutia, Zhigansk (MZH); – B) *Gnathusa caribou* Lohse, modified from Klimaszewski et al. (2014); – C) Gnathusa grandiceps J. Sahlberg, Sweden, To., Abisko (JMC). Scale: 1 mm.

Figur 4. – A) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Ryssland, Yakutia, Zhigansk (MZH); – B) *Gnathusa caribou* Lohse, modifierad från Klimaszewski m.fl. (2014); – C) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sverige, To., Abisko (JMC). Skalstreck: 1 mm.

antennae and body form, I regard *G. feldmanni* and *G. grandiceps* to be separate species. Wide body form, slightly widening head caudad, and wider and longer elytra characterize *G. grandiceps* (Figs. 1A & 4A, C). *Gnathusa feldmanni* is slender, has almost round head and short and narrow elytra (Assing 2018, Fig. 33). The aedeagus of *G. grandiceps* (Fig. 3A) differs from that of *G. feldmanni* in several points. It is larger, the apex is straight, not abruptly bent apically (Fig. 3, arrow A), the base of the apex is bent in a more even, wider curve (Fig. 3, arrow B) and the region below the *crista apicalis* is of different form (Fig. 3, arrow C). In *G. grandiceps*, metatarsomere 1 is as long as 2 and 3 combined (Fig. 7), whereas in *G. feldmanni* it is as long as 2 to 4 combined. The antennae differ as well. In *G. grandiceps*, the apical antennomeres are slightly transverse (Figs. 1A & 4A), whereas in *G. feldmanni* all antennomeres are at most as wide as long, mostly longer than wide (Assing 2018, fig. 33). There appears to be a body size difference as well. The holotype of *G. feldmanni* was stated to be 3.8 mm long - stretched for sure - and the twenty studied specimens of *G. grandiceps* from Sweden, Finland and Russia measure 2.6–3.3 mm. The structure of the aedeagus of these two species is very similar and separates them from the remaining Palaearctic *Gnathusa* species; see Assing (2018). Assing's discussion (Assing 2021) suggests that he may have studied a third species from East Siberia, not identical to *G. grandiceps*. However, the distribution of *G. grandiceps* extends from Fennoscandia at least to river Lena in Russia (ES). I have seen a male specimen from Zhigansk, in addition to others from northwestern Russia (NT).

Gnathusa grandiceps is closely related to *G. caribou* Lohse, 1990. The latter species is known

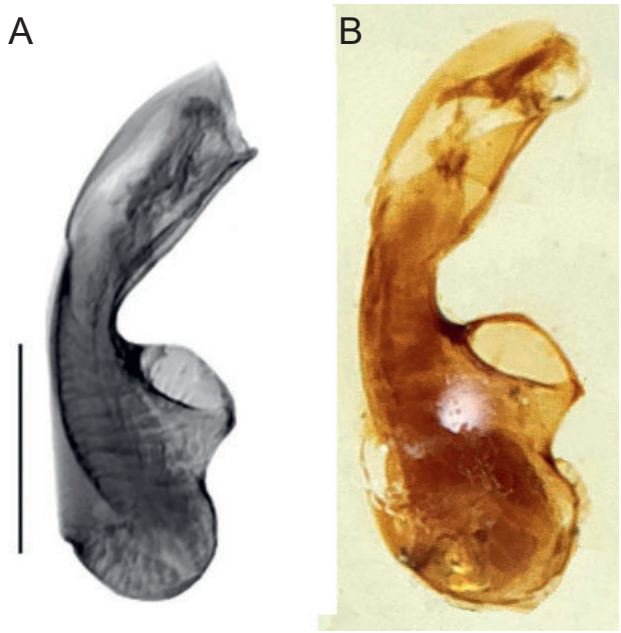

Figure 5. Median lobe, ventral view; – A) *Gnathusa caribou* Lohse, holotype, modified from Klimaszewski et al. (2014); – B) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sweden, To., Abisko (JMC). Scale: 0.2 mm.

Figur 5. Mittenlob, underifrån; – A) *Gnathusa caribou* Lohse, holotyp, modifierad från Klimaszewski m.fl. (2014); – B) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sverige, To., Abisko (JMC). Skalstreck: 0,2 mm.

from Alaska and eastern Canada (Klimaszewski et al. 2014). It is robustly built, has stouter antennae than *G. feldmanni* and a straight, not bent apex of the median lobe (Fig. 5A; Kilimaszewski et al. 2021: fig. 11:100, a, b, g). *Gnathusa grandiceps* differs from *G. caribou* in having a larger median lobe (Fig. 5B; length: 0.51-0.54 mm versus 0.45 mm), larger and slenderer spermatheca (Fig. 6B; length: 0.45-0.46 mm versus 0.41 mm) and – possibly – less transverse pronotum (1.20-1.22x width/length versus 1.33x [but listed as 1.10-1.25x in the original description of *G. caribou*]) with more rounded sides (Fig. 4). Somewhat puzzling is the fact that in the original description of *G. caribou* (Lohse et al. 1990), both the median lobe and the spermatheca were even smaller than the organs illustrated in Klimaszewski et al. (2014), clearly considerably less than 0.4 mm long. During the preparation of this paper, Klimaszewski et al. (2021: 181) reported *G. caribou* as occurring in Finland. This record was based on information from the BOLD database (LEFIJ5495-16 - Gnathusa caribou [COI-5P:658]

Table 1. Known species in the genus *Gnathusa* with taxonomic data and distributions.

Tabell 1. Kända arter i släktet *Gnathusa* med taxonomisk information och utbredning.

Gnathusa *Fenyes, 1909,*
type species Gnathusa eva Fenyes, 1909.

Gnathusa Fenyes, 1909, type species *Gnathusa eva* Fenyes, 1909.

(***Eurylophus*** J. Sahlberg, 1876, nec Schönherr, 1836), type species *Eurylophus grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, 1876.

(***Drepasiagonusa*** Pace, 2012), type species *Drepasiagonusa smetanai* Pace, 2012.

alphacaribou Klimaszewski & Langor, 2011. Canada: Newfoundland.

angulata (Assing, 2018) new combination (*Drepasiagonusa*). China: Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan.

caribou Lohse, 1990. Canada: Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory; USA: Alaska.

eva Fenyes, 1909. Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon Territory; USA: California.

grandiceps (J. Sahlberg, 1876) new combination (*Eurylophus*). Finland: PH, Ks, KiL, SoL, Norway: O, TR, F, Russia: NT, SE; Sweden: Ån, Nb, Ås, Ly, Lu, To.

feldmanni (Assing, 2018) species propria; new combination (*Drepasiagonusa*). Russia: FE.

procera (Assing, 2018) new combination (*Drepasiagonusa*). China: Yunnan.

seeversi nomen novum, *Gnathusa grandiceps* (Casey, 1911) nec J. Sahlberg, (1876) [*Haploglossa*]. USA: California.

smetanai (Pace, 2012) new combination (Drepasiagonusa). China: Yunnan.

tenuicornis Fenyes, 1921. Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon Territory, New Brunswick; USA: Alaska, Oregon.

tibetica (Assing, 2018) new combination (*Drepasiagonusa*). China: Yunnan.

where this species is recorded from Russia as well as from Finland (https://www.boldsystems.org/index.php/Public_SearchTerms?query=BOLD:ACH8087).

However, Klimaszewski et al. (2021) failed to realize the presence of *G. grandiceps* in Fennoscandia, this being the proper name for the taxon if it had been Holarctic. Since the illustrated Nearctic specimens (Lohse et al. 1990; Klimaszewski et al. 2014 [reused in Klimaszewski

Figure 6. Spermatheca; – A) *Gnathusa caribou* Lohse, holotype, modified from Klimaszewski et al. (2014); – B) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sweden, To., Abisko (JMC); – C) *Mniusa incrassata* Mulsant & Rey, Germany, Bayern, photo: U. C. Schmidt. Scale: 0.2 mm.

Figur 6. Spermatheca; – A) *Gnathusa caribou* Lohse, holotyp, modifierad från Klimaszewski m.fl. (2014); – B) *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Sverige, To., Abisko (JMC); – C) *Mniusa incrassata* Mulsant & Rey, Tyskland, Bayern, foto: U. C. Schmidt. Skalstreck: 0,2 mm.

et al. 2021]) differ from the Palaearctic ones (both Fennoscandian and Central Siberian) in male and female genitalia, I consider them to belong to two different, closely related biological species. In addition, the illustrations of both the spermatheca and the median lobe given in the original description of *G. caribou* (Lohse et al. 1990) differ significantly from the digital images of these organs in Klimaszewski et al. (2014), both in shape and size, the latter ones being larger. Unfortunately, the collecting information of the specimens illustrated in Klimaszewski et al. (2014) was not reported. Instead of the COI barcode cluster ("BIN"), it would be of interest to study the actual sequences from different locations, their alignment, and the distance the algorithm required for species level separation to exist; see Meier et al. (2021).

Seevers (978) transferred *Haploglossa grandiceps* Casey, 1911 to *Gnathusa*, creating a secondary junior homonym *Gnathusa grandiceps* (Casey, 1911), nec (J. Shalberg, 1876). I here propose a new name, *Gnathusa seeversi* nomen novum for this junior homonym.

Acknowledgements

Adam Brunke kindly informed me about the details of the *Gnathusa caribou* record from Finland. Alfred Newton kindly told me that a *Gnathusa grandiceps* (Casey, 1911) existed. All images, unless otherwise stated, were taken with the equipment available at the Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility (FBIF) in the Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki.

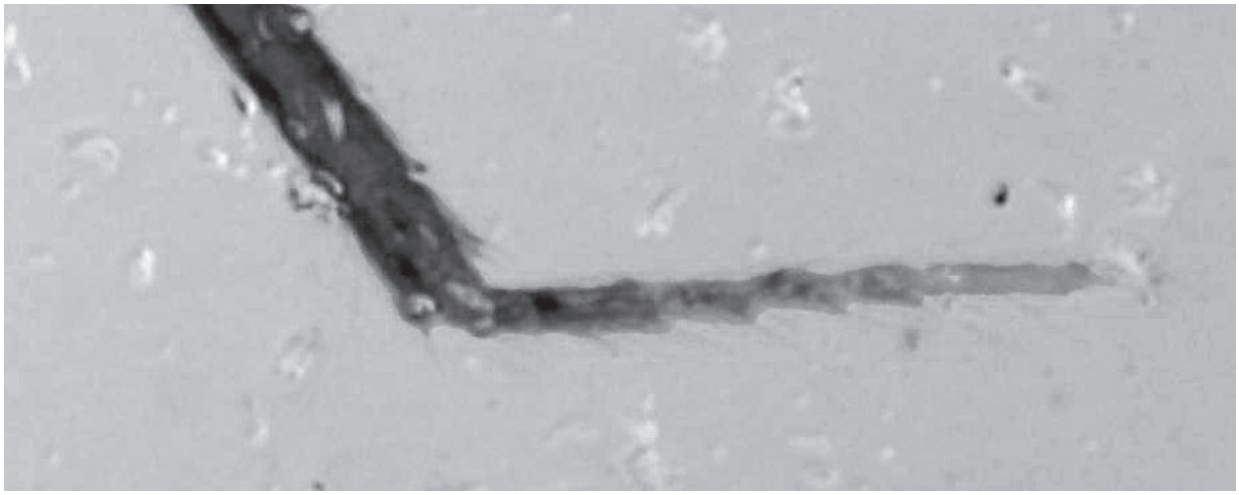

Figure 7. Metatarsus. *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Finland, Kuusamo (JMC).

Figur 7. Metatars. *Gnathusa grandiceps* J. Sahlberg, Finland, Kuusamo (JMC).

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Svensk sammanfattning

Gnathusa Fenyes, 1909 visar sig vara det äldsta kända namnet för det juniora homonymet *Eurylophus* J. Sahlberg, 1876 nec Schönherr, 1836. Ursprungligen beskrivet från Nearktis, är *Gnathusa* egentligen ett Holarctiskt släkte med arter i Norge, Sverige, Finland, Ryssland, Kina, USA och Kanada. *Drepasiagonusa* Pace, 2012 är juniort subjektivt synonymt med *Gnathusa* Fenyes, 1909. *Gnathusa feldmanni* (Assing, 2018) anses vara en giltig art, inte ett subjektivt juniort synonym av *Gnathusa grandiceps* (J. Sahlberg, 1876). Sex nya taxonomiska kombinationer presenteras: *Gnathusa angulata* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*); *Gnathusa grandiceps* (J. Sahlberg, 1876) (*Eurylophus*); *Gnathusa feldmanni* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*); *Gnathusa procera* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*); *Gnathusa smetanai* (Pace, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*) and *Gnathusa tibetica* (Assing, 2018) (*Drepasiagonusa*). *Gnathusa seeversi* nomen novum föreslås för det sekundära juniora homonymet *Gnathusa grandiceps* (Casey, 1911) [*Haploglossa*] ej *Gnathusa grandiceps* (J. Sahlberg, 1876) [*Eurylophus*].