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New species, combinations, synonymies, and records of Clytini (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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Abstract: Megacyllene (Megacyllene) cryptofrasciata n. sp. from Argentina is described and illustrated. M. quinquefasciata (Melzer, 1931), and Megacyllene rotundicollis Zajciw, 1963 are transferred from the subgenus Megacyllene Casey 1912 to Sierracyllelae Tippmann, 1960. Megacyllene (Sierracylle) tafivallensis n. sp. is described from northwestern Argentina. Dexithea spixii (Laporte & Gory, 1836), and Plagionotus latreillei (Laporte & Gory, 1836) are transferred to Megacyllene (sensu stricto), excluding Dexithea, and Plagionotus from the South American fauna of Clytini. Neoclytus farr~elicus (Burmeister, 1865) is synonymized with N. ypsilon Chevrolat, 1861. Additional new records of Clytini from Argentina, Paraguay, and Ecuador are also presented here. A key for subgenera and species of Megacyllene is included, with distribution maps for Argentina and nearby countries.

Key Words: Clytini, Dexithea, Megacyllene, Neoclytus, Plagionotus, Sierracyllelae, distributions, systematics.

Introduction

Of the Argentine fauna of Clytini (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), 2 genera have been revised: Megacyllene Casey 1912 (Di Iorio, 1995a), and Neoclytus Thomson, 1864 (Di Iorio, 1995b). In the first paper, the species treated were included in the nominotypical subgenus, but doubt was expressed about the position of Megacyllene quinquefasciata Melzer, 1931. Tippmann (1960) described 2 species of Megacyllene from the Bolivian Andes in the subgenus Sierracyllelae Tippmann, 1960. Now, 3 species from Argentina are added to Megacyllene (Sierracylle); quinquefasciata Melzer, rotundicollis Zajciw, and tafivallensis New Species. Dexithea spixii (Laporte & Gory, 1836), and Plagionotus latreillei (Laporte & Gory, 1836) are transferred to Megacyllene (Megacyllene); excluding the genera Dexithea, and Plagionotus from the South American clytine fauna. Megacyllene (M.) cryptofrasciata new species from Argentina is described. A new synonym in Neoclytus is proposed. New localities for known species of Clytini are given.


Megacyllene (Megacyllene) castanea,
(Laporte & Gory, 1836)
(Fig. 4)


Megacyllene (Megacyllene) cryptofrasciata,
new species
(Fig. 1, 4)

Holotype (female) measurements (mm): pronotal length: 3.33; maximal width of pronotum: 4.41; humeral width: 5.08; elytral length: 11.66; total length: 17.08.

Whole body, dorsally and ventrally, covered with tufts of short, decumbent pale yellow hairs, except on clypeus, labrum, palp, and apical 2/3 of mandibles; hairs of same color, sparser on legs, and antennae. Sparse, very long, pale yellow hairs, extending out from ground pubescence on head, pronotum, legs, and ventral surface of body (except elytra). Integument light reddish brown. No banded pattern on pronotum; on elytra 4 darker bands appear in tangential view. On these bands pubescence slightly sparser than on rest of surface, exposing color of integument; they appear limited by 5 bands of general pubescence of pale yellow color.

Prothorax slightly excavate posteriorly, with posterior angles acute; lateral margins irregularly round.
Fig. 1. Megacyllene (Megacyllene) cryptofrasciara, new species (holotype).

ed, with maximum width about middle of length. Scutellum triangular, slightly acute posteriorly. Elytra little wider than pronotum at humeral region, gradually narrowing posteriorly; weak longitudinal carina on posterior half, not reaching apex, produced into short but distinct spine.

Antennae 11-segmented; antennomeres III to V with small inner apical tooth; antennomeres VI and VII with hardly noticeable tooth; antennomeres VIII, and IX without inner tooth, but outer angle produced; antennomere X not produced apically; antennomere XI nearly as long as X, distal third triangular, apex rounded, reaching middle of elytral length.

Allotype (male): slightly smaller than female. Antennae reaching slightly beyond middle of elytral length; antennomeres III to V with small, darkened inner apical tooth; antennomeres VI to VIII produced at outer angles; antennomere XI slightly longer than X, gradually narrowed apically, apex rounded. Prothorax with regularly rounded lateral margins; posterior angles rounded, not produced.


Geographic distribution (Fig. 4): the localities in Catamarca and Río Negro belong to the Monte phytogeographical province (Morello, 1958); the locality in Tucumán is situated in the “Tipa-Pacará forest” or “Cebil forest”, a transitional community between the Subandean Piedmont Forest (Yungas Province), and the Occidental or Dry Chaco (Chaco Province) (Prado, 1993).

Megacyllene (Megacyllene) latreillei (Laporte & Gory, 1836) new combination

(Clytus latreillei Laporte & Gory, 1836
Plagionotus latreillei: Aurivillius, 1912
Cyllene unicoloricollis Fuchs, 1961: Monné & Giesbert, 1992; Monné, 1993 (cat.).
Diagnosis: integument black; very narrow, yellow pubescent band on base of pronotum, another on middle portion reduced to pair of small lateral spots; 4 golden yellow bands on elytra (see taxonomic discussion).

Literature records: Brazil: Rio de Janeiro (Laporte & Gory, 1836); Rio Grande do Sul (Monné, 1993); Uruguay (Zajciw & Ruffinelli, 1962; Monné, 1993).


Taxonomic discussion: Clytus latreillei was described by Laporte & Gory (1836), and transferred to Plagionotus Mulsant, 1842 (type-species: P. detritus (L.)) by Aurivillius (1912). The species of Plagionotus have a Holartic distribution (Villiers, 1978; Monné, 1993). Villiers (1978) had already expressed doubts about the South American distribution. The principal characters defining the genus are: frons longitudinally carinate, prothorax strongly transverse, excavated at base, and at anterior margin, elytra distinctly wider than the base of prothorax, and
Megacyllene (Megacyllene) neblinosa
Di Iorio, 1995
(Fig. 4)


Remarks: Very similar to Megacyllene (M.) megasipilota Martins, 1974, described from Bolivia, Cochabamba (2600 m), but this last species has black integument color, 5 elytral bands, and yellowish white pubescence in pronotal, and elytral bands (from original description).

Megacyllene (Sierracyllene) quinquefasciata
(Melzer, 1931)
(Fig. 3)

New records: Argentina: Jujuy: El Aguilar (4700 m), 23-II-1983, Viana leg., 1 ex. (MV); Río Cincel (3600 m), 3-XI-1968, Peña leg., 1 ex. (ODI), a dead adult found under a stone; Salta: Abra Pampa (3484 m), II-1987, Viana leg., 1 ex. (ODI).

Taxonomic discussion: Tippmann (1960) named and defined the subgenus Sierracyllene, including M. abnormis Aurivillius 1920, M. horioni Tippmann, 1960 (both species with sparse or dense coarse punctuation on the pronotal surface), and perhaps M. cleroides (Melzer, 1931). However, M. quinquefasciata remained in Megacyllene sensu stricto, together with M. cleroides (Monné, 1993). With respect to Tippmann’s collection, its location is unknown (H. Strümpel pers. com.).

The examination of the pronotum in several species of Megacyllene (Megacyllene) after removing the pubescence revealed a double punctuation, one type very fine, the other one coarser, both with a very regular distribution which, however, varies according to sex in the area it covers (the very fine punctuation is adjacent to the anterior margin). In Sierracyllene, the coarser punctuation is not restricted to a particular area, but spread on the pronotal surface, sparse or dense, sometimes mixed with the finer punctuation, which is restricted to an area against the pronotal base. After the original description of M. quinquefasciata, Melzer (1931) notes that “a placa en forma de triangulo alondada na base do pronoto, a qual e caracterizada por uma punteacao fina e densa, apresenta na parte basal um sulco longitudinal relativamente fundo, e se extende em um dos ejemplares até o melo, sendo u pouco menos comprida no segundo ejemplar. A placa referida não se encontra nas demais especies do genero até hoje descriptas.” The 2 type specimens were deposited in Hamburg (Melzer, 1931).
H. Strümpel (pers. com.) said that this species is not deposited in the collections of the Zoologisches Institut and Zoologisches Museum of Universität of Hamburg, and "probably was destroyed during the Second War. As the archives were burned, it is impossible to know whether this species was represented" (translated from German).

The absence of an elytral carina, and the truncate, and spineless elytral apex, are shared by North American species of the genus Megacyllene Casey 1912, as characterized by Linsley (1964). Instead, the carinate elytra with acuminate, spineous apices are characteristic of the type-species, M. antiennata (White), and of the rest of the Argentine species (Di Iorio, 1995a).

**Geographic distribution:** M. (S.) quinquefasciata appears in localities inside the Puna Province (Andean Dominion), between 3400 and 4600 m (Cabrer, 1957). At Abra Pampa an annual precipitation of 250 mm is recorded, occurring from December to March (Cabrer, 1957); all the captures of M. (S.) quinquefasciata were in February, during the rainy season. The species also appears in Chile (Fig. 3): the locality of Talabre (Di Iorio, 1995a) is located in this country (Barriga cuata, pers. com.). The locality of Campo Quijano, ± 1500 m (Bosq, 1943 in Di Iorio, 1995a) is situated at the entrance of the Quebrada del Toro, with Subandean Piedmont Forests (Yungas Province): the specimen may have been labelled with nearest locality known at the time or was found after an accidental dispersal.

**Megacyllene (Sierracyllene) rotundicollis**

Zajciw, 1963

(Fig. 3)

**Diagnosis (from the original description):** Black, single-colored, dorso-, and ventrally covered by very dense greyish hairs; lateral margins of the pronotum rounded, without angles, with the base excavate; surface of the pronotum finely punctate, with very sparse coarse punctuation; median line subglabrous, and subnitid; elytra subparallel, with rounded external apical angles, obliquely truncate, not spinose at the inner apical angles. Elytral carinae short, obsolete or vestigial.

**Taxonomic discussion:** The species is known from a single female specimen: **Argentina: Tucumán:** San Pedro de Colalao, II-1951, Arnau leg., ex coll. Bosq (Museo Nacional, Rio de Janeiro). The characters agree with those of the subgenus Sierracyllene: the coarse punctuation of the pronotum, and the elytral shape.

### Megacyllene (Megacyllene) spixii (Laporte & Gory, 1836), new combination

(Fig. 3)

*Clytus spixii* Laporte & Gory, 1836

*Cyllene spixii:* Gounelle, 1911; Bruch, 1912

**Dexithea spixii:** Auriuilius, 1912; Bruch, 1915; Llano, 1961; Zajciw & Ruffinelli, 1962; Viana, 1972; Monné & Zajciw, 1972; Monné, 1993.

**Diagnosis:** Pronotum with 2 pubescent yellow bands, 1 narrow against the base, the other, wider, a little anteriorly, interrupted at the middle, forming 2 lateral triangles; elytra reddish brown at humerus, bearing 3 transverse yellow bands.

**Literature records:** Brazil: without locality (Laporte & Gory, 1836); Goiás (Gounelle, 1911); Rio Grande do Sul (Monné, 1993). PARAGUAY: Itapuá: Hohenau (Viana, 1972); Uruguay: Paysandú: arroyo Guaviyú (Zajciw & Ruffinelli, 1962); Rivera: Cuşpirú, Cerro Miriñaque (Monné & Zajciw, 1972); Argentina: Catamarca, Córdoba (Bruch, 1912); Buenos Aires (Llano, 1961).

**Material examined:** **Argentina: Catamarca:** 1 ex. (MLP); **Córdoba:** El Sauce, XI-1951, Viana leg., 1 ex. (MV); Dique Los Molinos, I-1981, 2 exs. (ODI), II-1983, 1 ex. (ODI), 15-II-1987, 1 ex. (ODI); **Corrientes:** Ituzaingó, XII-1981, Viana leg., 1 ex. (MV); **Entre Ríos:** Salto Grande, 9-III-1977, Williner leg., 1 ex. (ODI); Paraná, 4-I-1983, 1 ex. (MV); Liebig, no date, Zelich leg., 3 exs. (MZ); **Buenos Aires:** Balcarce District: Sierra Bachicha, 27/28-I/1993, Abdala and Farina leg., 1 ex. (MMLS), on flowers of *Eryngium sp.* (Umbelliferae); Tandil, XII-1951, 1 ex. (MLP), II-1952, 1 ex. (MLP), XI-1952, 2 exs. (MLP).

**Taxonomic discussion:** The genus Dexithea was characterized by Thomson (1864), including *D. klugii* (Laporte & Gory, 1836) as the type species. This genus is near *Trichoxyx* Chevrolet, 1860 (Thomson, 1864), which is endemic to Mexico (Monné, 1993). *Clytus spixii* Laporte & Gory, 1836 was transferred to *Cyllene* by Gounelle (Laporte & Gory, 1836). Bruch (1912) followed Gounelle, but Auriuilius (1912) transferred *C. spixii* to *Dexithea*.

The examination of specimens of *D. klugii* (Mexico: Morelos: Xochitepec, X-1974, 3 exs. (ODI), coll. A. Martinez), showed several characters that differ from *D. spixii*. They are as follows (the condition in the latter species is noted between parenthesis): pronotum globular, raised on center of disk (flat), strongly excavate at base (weakly excavate); prosternal process narrow, rounded on posterior margin (wide, truncate behind); mesosternal process tuberculate (smooth); metathoracic episternum subparallel (semoval); scutellum lon-
Based on the above characters of pronotum, pro- and mesosternal processes, and metathoracic epister-
na, it is here proposed to return to the generic status
before Aurivillius (1912), in the sense of Gounelle
(1911), under Megacyllene (Megacyllene).

*Megacyllene (Sierracyllene) tafivallensis*
new species
(Figs. 2, 3)

**Holotype measurements (mm):** pronotal
length: 3.3; maximal pronotal length: 4.2; humeral
width: 4.8 mm; elytral length: 10.8; total length: 15.5.

**Male** (Fig. 2). Body more or less depressed,
robust. Entirely black, except clypeus, labrum, inner
face of antennal scapus reddish brown, and the femora
of all legs which are reddish orange.

Frons bulging between the insertion of antennae,
broad, approximately trapezoidal in shape, shining,
with sparse, fine punctation; on median line there is
a fine groove which begins at a smooth, shining
triangle against the clypeus, and which just reaches
the posterior margin of the dorsal ocular lobes; outer
angles of the antennal insertions acuminate. Anten-
nae shorter than total length; antennomere I1 pyri-
form; antennomeres I to IV, and basal portion of V,
shining, and finely punctate; the rest of V, and
antennomeres VI to XI dull, with surface very finely
rugose; antennomeres III, and IV with inner apical
tooth; antennomeres VI to X weakly produced at outer
apical angle; antennomere XI a little longer than X,
rounded at apex, which reaches the anterior margin
of the apical transverse band on the elytra. Prothorax
weakly excavate at base; lateral margins evenly
rounded. Pronotum coarsely punctured, with rugose
surface; at base with a more or less deep, medial
groove, which does not quite reach the middle of the
pronotal length; this groove surrounded by a very
fine, dense punctation covering a triangular area.
Coarse punctation of the pronotum extending to the
sides, and ventral faces, were it is sparser, with
smooth intervals, and some short transverse striae
anteriorly. Prosternal process narrow, spatulate pos-
teriorly, slightly raised with respect to posterior
margin of hind coxae; mesosternal process flat, widely
triangular in shape, truncated posteriorly. Scutellum
semicircular, finely and densely punctured, rather
acute at apex. Elytra without apparent longitudinal
carinae, except for a slight difference in level on the
elytral surface parallel to the suture. Lateral margins
of elytra parallel; outer, and inner apical angles
simple; between these the apex obliquely, and shortly
truncate. Fore, and middle femora flattened, some-
what broadened before apex, which is spine-less, and
a little darkened; base of femora also darkened. Hind
femora thin, somewhat curved; tibiae with 2 apical
spurs, the inner one longer than the outer one, both
reddish; claws simple, arched, reddish.

Long, very sparse yellow pubescence on the whole
of the prosternum; all 3 pairs of femora with very
short, decumbent yellow pubescence (which may be
difficult to see), mixed with long, black, sub-erect
setae. A dense, short, very apparent yellow pubescence on base and sides of the frons, around the eyes (except on apex of the ocular lobes), and on dorsum of head on a narrow line, parallel to posterior margin, and interrupted on median line. Pronotum with a narrow transverse latero-medial band of short yellow pubescence as on frons. Elytra with three transverse bands of short yellow pubescence; first band begins at suture, and does not quite reach lateral margin; second, and third arched, and reaching lateral margins from suture. Basal urosternites with short yellow pubescence as follows: on 1st a wide band which narrows gradually from lateral margin towards the median line, where it is interrupted; on 2nd a narrow band on posterior margin, interrupted as the first; on 3rd a few rows of hairs on posterior margin, against the lateral angle.

Female: very slightly different from male. The antennae reach the posterior margin of the second elytral band; antennomeres I to IV shining, finely punctate, and V to XI dull, very finely rugose; antennomeres VI to X produced at outer apical angle; XI antennomere short, similar to X, rounded at apex. Pronotum finely punctate, with superimposed coarse punctation, regular in distribution, absent only on an ill-defined, triangular area near base.

Material examined: Argentina: Tucumán: Tafi del Valle (2000 m), 9-IV-1983, "s/Baccharis tucumanensis" (handwritten on white), 1 male Holotype (ODI), "Megacyllene (Sierracyllene) tafivallensis" sp. n. Di Iorio det. 95" (handwritten on reddish label); same locality, 18/20-IV-1980, 1 female Allotype (ODI); same data, 2 females, 1 male Paratypes (ODI); same locality, 1-V-1982, 2 males, 1 female Paratypes (ODI); Catamarca: Andalgalá, II-1987, Viana leg., 1 female Paratype (ODI); Jujuy: Santa Catalina (3802 m) [as "Sta. Catal."], II-1969, 1 female Paratype (ODI).

Variations: The pronotum may bear a pair of lateral elongate areas of fine, dense punctation, anteriorly reaching a point a little in front of the middle of the length, at base merging with the median triangular area; the basal groove may be absent, although the median line is depressed; the first yellow band on the elytra may be prolonged by a pale spot, placed a little in front of the band itself, which reaches the lateral margin of the elytron; the third elytral yellow band may be straight, descending from the suture towards the lateral margin; the apical spurs on the tibiae may be darkened, as well as the claws. The specimen from Catamarca has black femora.

Geographic distribution: M(S.) tafivallensis is distributed between 2000 meters (Prepuna), and 3800 meters (Puna) (Fig. 3) (Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1957).

Taxonomic discussion: By the elytral, and pronotal conformation, the new species belongs to the

Fig. 3. Geographic distribution of species of Megacyllene: M. (M.) spixi (squares), M. (S.) quinquefasciata (stars), M. (S.) tafivallensis (triangles), and M. (S.) rotundicollis (circle).
Fig. 4. Geographic distribution of Megacyllene (Megacyllene) spp.: M. castanea (triangles), M. laireillei (stars), M. multiguttata (squares), M. murina (arrow indicate same locality), M. neblinosa (empty square), and M. criptofasciata (asterisks). Horizontal wide stipple: Chaco province (according to Prado, 1993); horizontal narrow stipple: Austro-Brazilian Transitional Forests (a), Paranaense (b) and Gallery Forests (c) (several authors); oblique stipple: Monte province (according to Morello, 1958); vertical stipple: Espinal province (according to Lewis and Collantes, 1973).

Subgenus Sierracyllene. It shares with M. (S.) quinquefasciata the characters shown in the key, and differs from it by the shape of the pronotum, and the elytral bands. From M. (S.) horioni Tippmann 1960, of the Bolivian Andes, it can be distinguished by the pronotum dorsum, which in Tippmann’s species is smooth, “extremely finely shagreened and with very few coarse punctures, irregular in distribution” (translated from German), their smaller size, the shape slighter, and in the greyish pubescence covering the whole body.

Neoclytus curvatus (Germar, 1821)


Neoclytus jekeli (White, 1855)
new synonymy


Taxonomic discussion: The record of *N. ypsilon* in Argentina by Monné (1993 in Di Iorio, 1995b) is based on a former one by Zajciw (1967): Brasil, Paraguay, and Argentina: Capital Federal, Corrientes (Santo Tomé), and Tucumán (Mendes). In the original description, Chevrolat (1861) mentioned that the species is of a dark black color, without bands on the pronotum, “scutelum jaune pâle; elitres ornéés d’une bande droite appuyée sur l’ecusson, un peu courbée en suture, et raccourcie en dehors, d’une tache suturale allongée, cordiforme, d’un trait trifide ayant la forme d’un Y renversé et d’une bande oblique raccourcie en dehors, mais anguleuse sur le suture et qui est d’un jaune pâle, l’extremite est bordée de cendré. Metasternum offrant un petit trait transverse. Poitrine ayant une tache laterale oblongue également jaune. Abdomen d’un blanc soyeux”.

This elytral pattern corresponds with that of *N. famelicus* (Di Iorio, 1995b: fig. 4), whose distribution in Argentina (Di Iorio, 1995b) agrees with Zajciw’s notes (1967) for *N. ypsilon*.

Key to subgenera, and species of *Megacyllene* found in Argentina

1. Pronotum with the whole surface finely, and densely punctate, or with coarse punctuation on well-defined areas which differ in each sex. Elytra gradually narrowing posteriorly, the outer apical angle with a short spine which is a prolongation of the elytral carina, always more or less evident. Frons carinate in the shape of a V or a Y between the antennal insertions; prosternal process wide, truncate posteriorly. *Megacyllene (Megacyllene)* 4

2. Pronotum with a marked groove or cleft on the median line near the base (sometimes inconspicuous but in that case the base depressed); a triangular area of fine, dense punctuation in both sexes; the rest of the pronotal surface rugose by coarse, contiguous punctuation 3

3. Pronotum with anterior half covered by a yellow pubescence; lateral margins straight, diverging posteriorly, with anterior, and posterior angles acute. Elytra with five transverse bands of yellow pubescence. Bolivia, northern Chile, and northwestern Argentina 14

3'. Pronotum without anterior half covered by a yellow pubescence; lateral margins rounded, with anterior, and posterior angles not acute. Elytra with three transverse bands of yellow pubescence. Northwestern Argentina 13a

4. See the Argentine species, couplets 1 to 13, in Di Iorio, 1995a.

13'. Pronotum without glabrous spots on disk 14
14. Pronotum covered with short pubescence 

14’. Pronotum glabrous. Elytra bands reduced to 4 (sometimes 2) small spots near suture. Sides of thorax, and abdomen with a very dense, greenish-yellow pubescence

15. Pronotum, and scutellum covered of a short, pale orange pubescence. Elytra with 4 wide bands of greyish-brown pubescence (the same colour as the integument), separating 5 bands of pale yellow pubescence. 

15’. Pronotum and scutellum covered of a short pale yellow pubescence. Elytra with 5 bands of pale yellow pubescence, which are more apparent in a tangential view. 

References 


