

Synonymical notes on the genus *Sybrinus* from Socotra Island (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Lamiinae)

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Abstract. Based on study of type material, the following new synonymies in the genus *Sybrinus* Gahan, 1900 are proposed: *Sybrinus simonyi* Gahan, 1903 = *S. sokotrensis* Jiroux, Sudre & Téocchi, 2004, syn. nov., and *S. x-ornatus* Téocchi, Jiroux & Sudre, 2007 = *S. kabateki* Téocchi, Jiroux & Sudre, 2007, syn. nov. A lectotype is designated for *S. commixtus* Gahan, 1900. All three currently known Socotran species of *Sybrinus* are illustrated and their host plants are mentioned. A checklist of the genus *Sybrinus* is provided.

Key words. Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, *Sybrinus*, new synonymy, host plants, Yemen, Socotra

Introduction

The cerambycid fauna of the Socotra Archipelago is relatively species-poor, only 13 species have been formally recorded from the Socotra Island so far (ADLBAUER 2004, 2005; JIROUX et al. 2004; NEUMANN et al. 2004; TÉOCCHI et al. 2007; HOLZSCHUH 2008; LO CASCIO & GRITA 2009). Twelve species are considered endemic to the island, one species also occur in the Arabian Peninsula (cf. HOLZSCHUH 2008).

The most speciose cerambycid genus in Socotra is *Sybrinus* Gahan, 1900 with five described species. The study of large *Sybrinus* material collected recently during various Czech entomological expeditions and its comparison with the type material of all respective species revealed two new synonymies which we propose below, reducing the number of *Sybrinus* species in Socotra Island to three.

Material and methods

The material studied was examined with an Olympus SZX12 stereoscopic microscope. Photographs of specimens were taken with a Canon EOS 550D digital camera with a Canon

MP-E 65 mm objective. Images of the same specimen at different focal planes were combined using the Helicon Focus 5.1.19 software. The genitalia were studied in dry condition. Exact label data are cited and given in quotation marks for all the material. Authors' additional remarks are given in square brackets.

The specimens included in this study are deposited in the following institutional and private collections:

- BMNH Natural History Museum [former British Museum (Natural History)], London, Great Britain (Maxwell V. L. Barclay);
 JBCP Jan Batelka collection, Prague, Czech Republic;
 MNHN Muséum Nationale d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (Thierry Deuve, Azadeh Taghavian);
 NMPC Národní muzeum, Prague, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek);
 PKCP Petr Kabátek collection, Prague, Czech Republic.

Systematics

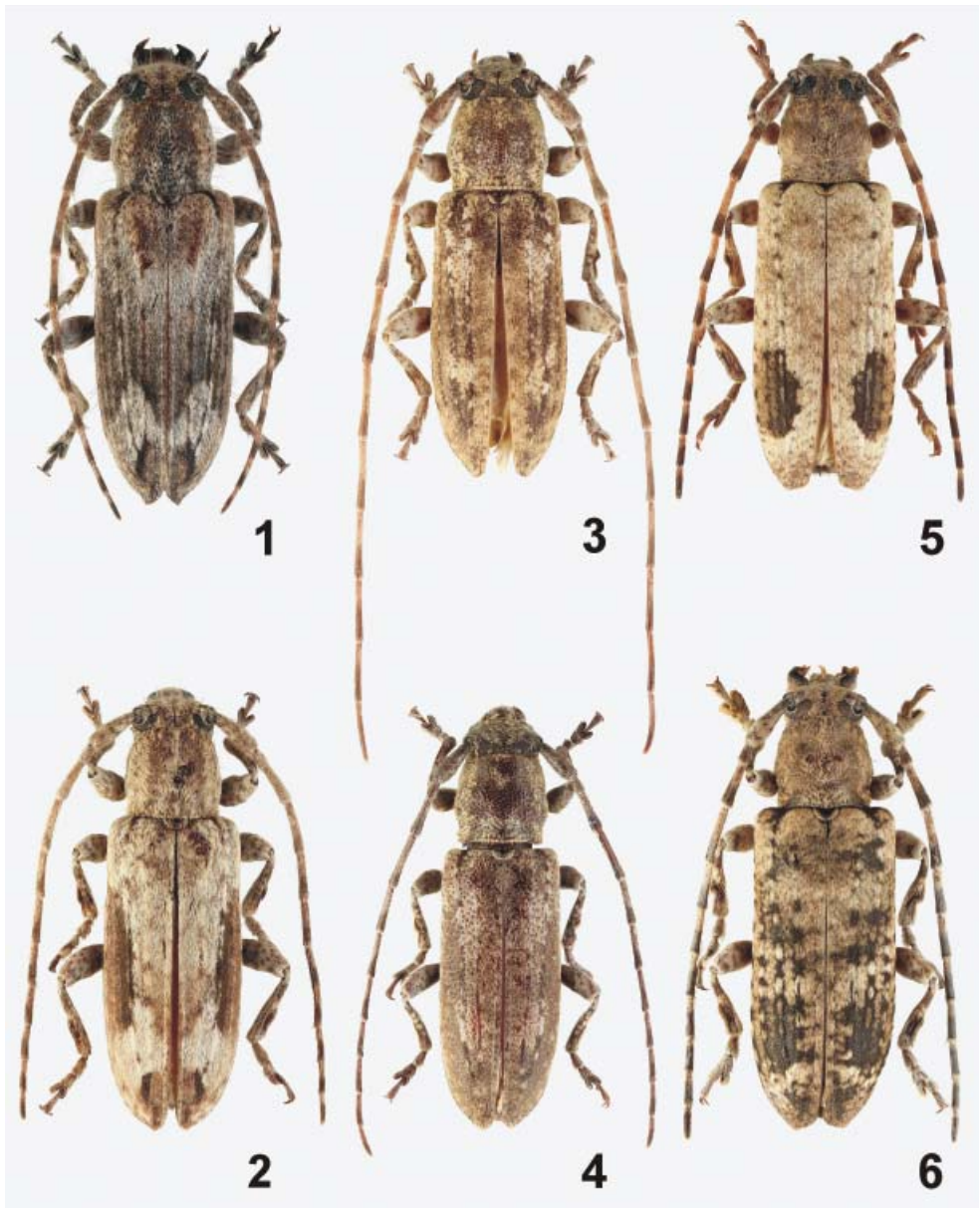
Sybrinus Gahan, 1900

Sybrinus Gahan, 1900: 12 (type species *S. commixtus* Gahan, 1900, by monotypy); AURIVILLIUS (1922): 299 (catalogue); ADLBAUER (2010): 227 (catalogue).

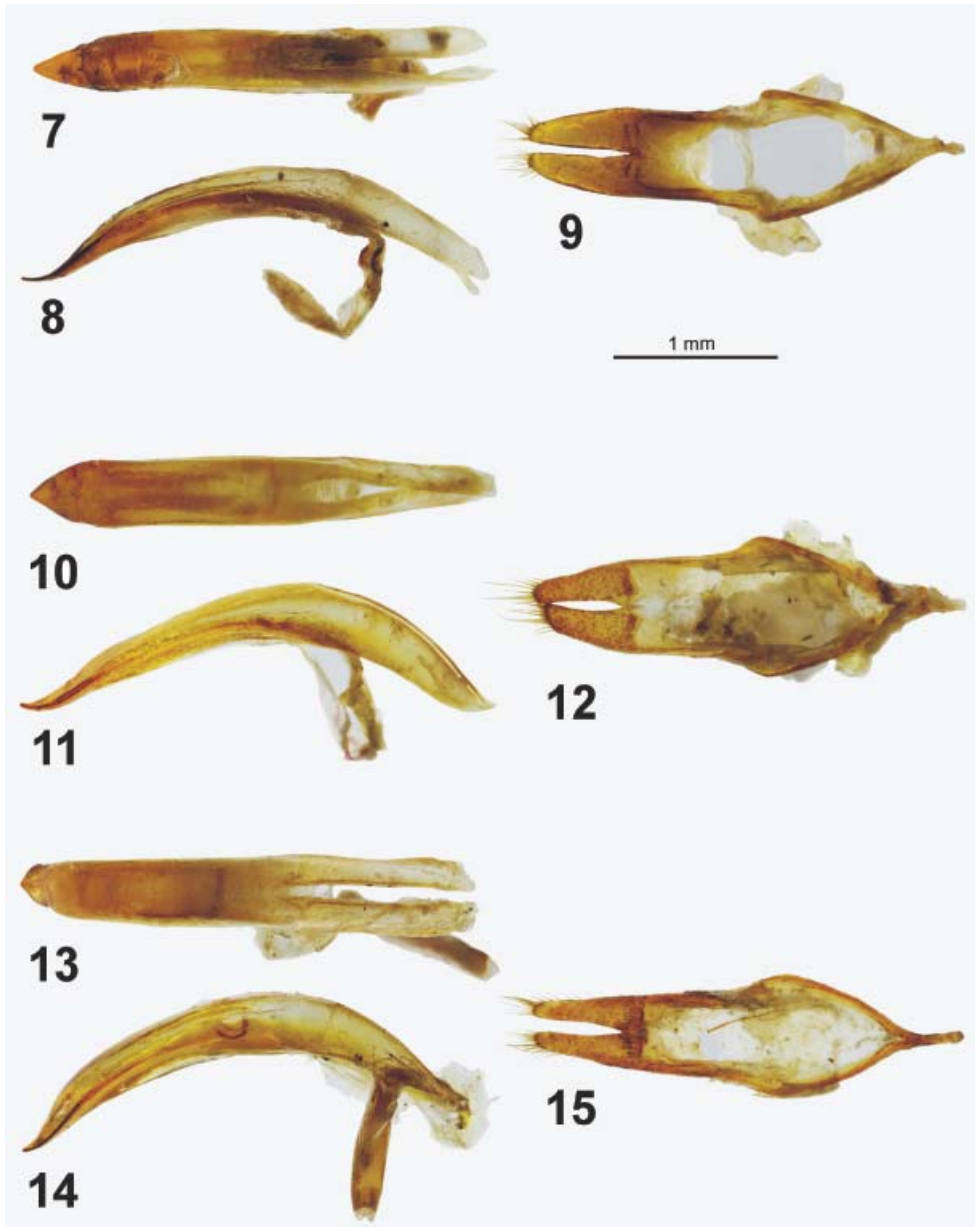
Arabosybrinus Breuning, 1948: 16 (type species *S. flavescens* Breuning, 1948, by original designation).

Sokotrosybrinus Breuning, 1949: 21 (type species *S. simonyi* Gahan, 1903, by original designation).

GAHAN (1900) described the genus *Sybrinus* based on the single species *S. commixtus* Gahan, 1900 from Socotra Island, and placed it close to the genus *Sybra* Pascoe, 1865, within the group 'Ptericoptides'. GAHAN (1903) redescribed the genus and added one new species, again from Socotra Island. In accordance with GAHAN'S (1900) original description, AURIVILLIUS (1922) catalogued *Sybrinus* within the tribe Ptericoptini, and named one variety mentioned in GAHAN (1903). Subsequently BREUNING (1948) described two new species from 'Aden' in the new subgenus *Arabosybrinus* Breuning, 1948, BREUNING (1949) created a new subgenus *Sokotrosybrinus* Breuning, 1949 based on the Socotran *S. simonyi*, and BREUNING (1950) added three new species of *Sybrinus* from east Africa. In addition, BREUNING (1978) described two more Afrotropical *Sybrinus*, those were, however, synonymised with species of the genus *Nyoma* Duvivier, 1892 by SUDRE & TÉOCCHI (2005) and TÉOCCHI et al. (2008). HOLZSCHUH & TÉOCCHI (1991) listed both Arabian species, noted that they were erroneously placed in the genus *Sybrinus* and transferred them to genus *Sophroniella* Breuning, 1943. However, most recently, JIROUX et al. (2004) overlooked this synonymy and described a third Socotran taxon: *Sybrinus* (*Arabosybrinus*) *albosignatus sokotrensis* Jiroux, Sudre & Téocchi, 2004. Subsequently, TÉOCCHI et al. (2007) elevated the subspecies to specific rank, added two more new species, but also listed *S. commixtus* within the subgenus *Arabosybrinus* and assumed *S. simonyi* to be its synonym. Since *S. commixtus* and *S. simonyi* are the type species of their respective subgenera, by doing this TÉOCCHI et al. (2007) in fact informally synonymised all *Sybrinus* subgenera – which was formally published by SAMA (2010). SAMA (2010) also established a formal synonymy of *Sybrinus* with *Sophroniella*, currently a junior synonym of *Nyoma* (*Sophronica punctata* Jordan, 1894, type species of *Sophroniella*, is considered to be a junior subjective synonym of *Nyoma parallela* Duvivier, 1892, type species of *Nyoma*). Since the synonymy of *Sybrinus* and *Nyoma* is not based on study of type species, we retain,



Figs. 1–6. Habitus of *Sybrinus*. 1 – *Sybrinus commixtus* Gahan, 1900 (Hadibo; 11 mm); 2 – *S. albosignatus* Breuning, 1948 (Yemen, wadi Sari; 11 mm); 3 – *S. simonyi* Gahan, 1903 ♂ (W of Hadibo; 10 mm); 4 – *S. simonyi* ♀ (W of Hadibo; 10 mm); 5 – *S. x-ornatus* Téocchi, Jiroux & Sudre, 2007 (Scant Mt.; 12 mm); 6 – *S. x-ornatus* (holotype; 14 mm).



Figs. 7–15. Male genitalia of *Sybrinus*. 7–9. *Sybrinus commixtus* Gahan, 1900; 10–12. *S. simonyi* Gahan, 1903; 13–15. *S. x-ornatus* Téocchi, Jiroux & Sudre, 2007. 7, 10, 13 – median lobe in dorsal view; 8, 11, 14 – same in lateral view; 9, 12, 15 – parameres.

in accordance with TÉOCCHI et al. (2009), both genera as valid, pending a comprehensive revision of the group.

After the synonymy presented below, the genus *Sybrinus* contains seven species occurring in east Africa (3 species), Socotra Island (3 species) and continental Yemen (2 species).

Sybrinus commixtus Gahan, 1900

(Figs. 1, 7–9)

Sybrinus commixtus Gahan, 1900: 13 (original description); GAHAN (1903): 286 (description); AURIVILLIUS (1922): 299 (catalogue); NEUMANN et al. (2004): 139 (notes); ADLBAUER (2010): 227 (catalogue).

Sybrinus sp.: GAHAN (1903): 287 (notes).

Sybrinus commixtus var. *Gahani* Aurivillius, 1922: 299 (description by indication to GAHAN 1903: 287).

Sybrinus (*Sybrinus*) *commixtus*: BREUNING (1949): 21 (notes).

Sybrinus (*Arabosybrinus*) *commixtus*: TÉOCCHI et al. (2007): 21 (redescription).

Type material. *Sybrinus commixtus*: LECTOTYPE: ♀, by present designation (BMNH), labelled: 'Type [p] / ♀ [hw] [rounded label with red margin] // Adho Dimellus, / Sokotra. [p] / 3500-4500 [hw] feet. [p] / 1-17 [hw] .Feb. 99. / W.R.O.Grant. / 99-85. [p] // *Sybrinus* / *commixtus* / Gahan ♀ / ♀ Type [hw] // LECTOTYPE ♀ / SYBRINUS / *commixtus* Gahan, 1900 / J. Hájek & P. Kabátek des. 2011 [p, red label]'.

Sybrinus commixtus var. *gahani*: HOLOTYPE: ♀ (BMNH), labelled: 'Type [p, rounded label with red margin] // Jena-agahan, / Sokotra. / 1200 [hw] feet. [p] / Jan 99. / W.R.O.Grant. / 99-85. [p] // *S. commixtus* / v. *Gahani* Auriv. [hw] / det. K.G.Blair [p] // HOLOTYPE ♀ / SYBRINUS / *commixtus* / var. *gahani* Aurivillius, 1922 / J. Hájek & P. Kabátek des. 2011 [p, red label]'.

Additional material examined. SOCOTRA ISLAND: 9 spec., Hadiboh env., 12°65'02"N, 54°02'04E, 10–100 m, 21.xi.–12.xii.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 5 spec., same data, but D. Král leg. (NMPC); 7 spec., 10 km W Hadibo, 10–70 m, 23.xi.+11.xii.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 1 spec., Suq env., 12°40'02"N, 54°03'45"E, 20–170 m, sand dune, 22.xi.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 6 spec., wadi Ayhaft, 12°36'38"N, 53°58'49"E, 190 m, 24.–26.xi.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 1 spec., Lahas (pass), 12°38'46"N, 54°05'26"E, 69 m, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 2 spec., Homhil protected area, 12°34'27"N, 54°18'32"E, 364 m, 28.–29.xi.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 1 spec., Homhil area, 12°34'25"N, 54°18'53"E, 400–510 m, at light, 9.–10.ii.2010, L. Purchart & J. Vybíral leg. (NMPC); 3 spec., Dixam plateau, wadi Esgego, 12°28'09"N, 54°00'36"E, 300 m, 2.–3.xii.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 1 spec., Firmihin plateau, 12°28'46"N, 54°00'89"E, 400–500 m, 18.–19.vi.2010, V. Hula & J. Niedobová leg. (NMPC).

Comments on classification. The number and depository of syntypes of *S. commixtus* is unknown. For that reason we here designate a lectotype to fix the identity of this species.

TÉOCCHI et al. (2007) suggested synonymy of *Sybrinus commixtus* and *S. albosignatus* Breuning, 1948 described from Yemen ('Aden'). We have compared Socotran material with the type of *S. albosignatus* [badly damaged, lacks head and prothorax] deposited in MNHN, as well with large recently collected material from several localities in Yemen. The two species are closely related and may represent subspecies of one taxon or even synonyms. However, small differences between insular and continental populations can be detected: The apex of elytra is less prominent and obtusely rounded, and the surface setation is usually denser and generally paler in *S. albosignatus* (Fig. 2). Therefore we prefer to retain both taxa as separate species.

Bionomic notes. *Sybrinus commixtus* is a polyphagous species reared from number of trees and bushes in Socotra Island: *Adenium obesum socotranum* (Vierhapper) Lavranos (Apocynaceae); *Boswellia ameero* Balf.f. (Burseraceae); *Cephalocroton socotranum* Balf.f., *Euphorbia arbuscula* Balf.f., *Jatropha unicostata* Balf.f. (Euphorbiaceae); *Sterculia africana socotrana* (K. Sch.) Abedin et al. (Malvaceae); *Acacia pennivenia* Schweinf. (Fabaceae). Adults are frequently collected at light.

***Sybrinus simonyi* Gahan, 1903**

(Figs. 3–4, 10–12)

Sybrinus simonyi Gahan, 1903: 287 (original description); AURIVILLIUS (1922): 299 (catalogue); NEUMANN et al. (2004): 139 (notes); ADLBAUER (2010): 227 (catalogue).

Sybrinus (*Sokotrosybrinus*) *simonyi*: BREUNING (1949): 21 (new subgeneric placement).

Sybrinus nov. spec.?: NEUMANN et al. (2004): 139 (notes).

Sybrinus (*Arabosybrinus*) *albosignatus sokotrensis* Jiroux, Sudre & Téocchi, 2004: 22 (original description), **syn. nov.**

Sybrinus (*Arabosybrinus*) *sokotrensis*: TÉOCCHI et al. (2007): 21 (redescription).

Sybrinus sokotrensis: ADLBAUER (2010): 227 (catalogue).

Type material. *Sybrinus simonyi*: HOLOTYPE: ♂ (BMNH), labelled: 'Type [p, rounded label with red margin] // Jena-agahan, / Sokotra. / 1200 [hw] feet. [p] / .Jan 99. / W.R.O.Grant. / 99–85. [p] // Sybrinus / simplex, / Gahan / Type [hw] // HOLOTYPE ♂ / SYBRINUS / simonyi Gahan, 1903 / J. Hájek & P. Kabátek des. 2011 [p, red label]'.

Sybrinus albosignatus sokotrensis: HOLOTYPE ♂ (MNH), labelled: 'Ile de Sokotra / Nov. 1997 / Dr. Canu leg [handwritten] // HOLOTYPE [red label, printed] // Sybrinus / (Arabosybrinus) / albosignatus Breuning / subsp. sokotrensis nov. / J. Sudre et P. Téocchi / det 2004 [handwritten]'.

Additional material examined. SOCOTRA ISLAND: 22 spec., 10 km W Hadibo, 10–70 m, 23.xi.+11.xii.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 1 spec., Homhil protected area, 12°34'27"N, 54°18'32"E, 364 m, 28.–29.xi.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 4 spec., Noged plain, Qaareh waterfall, 12°20'10"N, 53°37'56"E, 57 m, 5.–6.xii.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP) [These specimens were erroneously listed as paratypes of *S. sokotrensis* by TÉOCCHI et al. (2007: 21)]; 2 spec., wadi Ayhaft, 12°36'38"N, 53°58'49"E, 190 m, 24.–26.xi.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 3 spec., wadi Ayhaft, 12°36.5'N, 53°58.9'E, 200 m, at light, 7–8.xi.2010, J. Batelka leg. (JBCP); 2 spec., same data, but J. Bezděk leg. (NMPC); 2 spec., same data, but J. Hájek leg. (NMPC); 1 spec., Al Haghier Mts., W slopes, Skant area, 12°35'52"N, 54°00'01"E, 900–1240 m, 2.xii.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 4 spec., Qualentiah env., slopes 5 km SE from Quaysoh, 12°39.691'N, 53°26.658'E, 4.–5.vi.2010, V. Hula & J. Niedobová leg. (NMPC); 1 spec., Dixam plateau, Firmihin, Dracaena forest, 12°28.6'N, 54°01.1'E, 490 m, 15.–16.xi.2010, L. Purchart leg. (NMPC).

Comments on classification. Although the type specimen of *Sybrinus simonyi* bears an identification label '*Sybrinus simplex*', the specimen fits perfectly to Gahan's description and we have no doubts about its authenticity. We assume that Gahan changed the name during publication and dedicated the new species to Prof. Oscar Simony without changing the respective label.

JIROUX et al. (2004) did not study the type of *S. simonyi* and compared their *S. albosignatus sokotrensis* only with a non-type specimen from Saudi Arabia attributed to the nominotypical *S. albosignatus*. Similarly TÉOCCHI et al. (2007), when they elevated the taxon to specific rank, compared *S. sokotrensis* only with description of *S. albosignatus* and *S. commixtus* – and both mentioned species indeed differ significantly from *S. sokotrensis* in many characters. However, when we compared *S. sokotrensis* with the single type specimen of *S. simonyi*, we found no differences between the two taxa, and therefore consider *Sybrinus sokotrensis* **syn. nov.** to be a junior subjective synonym of *S. simonyi*.

Bionomic notes. *Sybrinus simonyi* was reared from spurses *Euphorbia arbuscula* and *Jatropha unicastata* (both Euphorbiaceae). Adult beetles were also collected at light.

***Sybrinus x-ornatus* Téocchi, Jiroux & Sudre, 2007**

(Figs. 5–6, 13–15)

Sybrinus (s. str.) *x-ornatus* Téocchi, Jiroux & Sudre, 2007: 23 (original description).

Sybrinus (*Arabosybrinus*?) *kabateki* Téocchi, Jiroux & Sudre, 2007: 23 (original description), **syn. nov.**

Sybrinus kabateki: ADLBAUER (2010): 227 (catalogue).

Sybrinus x-ornatus: ADLBAUER (2010): 227 (catalogue).

Type material. *Sybrinus kabateki*: HOLOTYPE: ♂ (PKCP), labelled: ‘Yemen, Soqotra Is., Al haghier / mts., W slopes, SKANT area / 2 xii.2003, N 12°35'52" E 54°/ 00'01", 900–1240 m [GPS] / leg. P. Kabátek, *ex larvae* [printed] // *Cephalocroton / socotranus* [printed] // YEMEN – SOQOTRA / 2003 / Expedition; Jan Farkač, / Petr Kabátek & David Král [printed] // HOLOTYPE [printed, red label] // *Sybrinus / (Arabosybrinus ?) / kabateki nov. sp.* / J. Sudre et P. Téocchi / det. 2005 [handwritten]’.

Sybrinus x-ornatus: HOLOTYPE ♂ (PKCP), labelled: ‘Yemen, Soqotra Is., Al haghier / mts., W slopes, SKANT area / 2 xii.2003, N 12°35'52" E 54°/ 00'01", 900–1240 m [GPS] / leg. P. Kabátek [printed] *ex larve* [handwritten] // *Cephalocroton / socotranus* [printed] // YEMEN – SOQOTRA / 2003 / Expedition; Jan Farkač, / Petr Kabátek & David Král [printed] // HOLOTYPE [printed, red label] // *Sybrinus / (s. str.) / x. ornatus nov.* / J. Sudre et P. Téocchi / det. 2005 [handwritten]’.

Additional material examined. SOCOTRA ISLAND: 14 spec., same data as both holotypes (PKCP); 1 spec., 10 km W Hadibo, 10–70 m, 23.xi.+11.xii.2003, P. Kabátek leg. (PKCP); 2 spec., Homhil area, 12°34'25"N, 54°18'53"E, 400–510 m, at light, 9.–10.ii.2010, L. Purchart & J. Vybíral leg. (NMPC).

Comments on classification. TÉOCCHI et al. (2007) had seen only two pairs of *Sybrinus* reared from the same twig of *Cephalocroton socotranus*. Since the specimens differ in body length and dorsal colouration, they decided to describe them as two species: *Sybrinus x-ornatus* and *S. kabateki*, respectively. In their original description, the authors compare the two taxa only with *S. commixtus* and not with each other. After study of the whole series, we have found that the body size of both holotypes falls within the known intraspecific variability (10–14 mm), and the different body colouration can be ascribed to individual variation, and to scraping of dorsal setae on the holotype of *S. x-ornatus*. As we were not able to find any other differences between the two taxa, we consider *Sybrinus kabateki* syn. nov. to be a junior subjective synonym of *S. x-ornatus*.

Bionomic notes. Apart from *Cephalocroton socotranus* (Euphorbiaceae), from which the type series was reared, the specimen from environs of Hadibo was reared from *Euphorbia arbuscula* (Euphorbiaceae). Adults from Homhil were collected at light.

Checklist of the genus *Sybrinus* Gahan, 1900

Sybrinus albosignatus Breuning, 1948: 16 (Yemen)

Sybrinus commixtus Gahan, 1900: 13 (Yemen: Socotra)

Sybrinus commixtus gahani Aurivillius, 1922: 299

Sybrinus crassipes Breuning, 1950: 172 (Tanzania)

Sybrinus grossepunctipennis Breuning, 1950: 172 (Somalia)

Sybrinus flavescens Breuning, 1948: 16 (Yemen)

Sybrinus persimilis Breuning, 1950: 171 (Sudan)

Sybrinus simonyi Gahan, 1903: 287 (Yemen: Socotra)

Sybrinus albosignatus sokotrensis Jiroux, Sudre & Téocchi, 2004: 22, **syn. nov.**

Sybrinus x-ornatus Téocchi, Sudre & Jiroux, 2007: 23 (Yemen: Socotra)

Sybrinus kabateki Téocchi, Sudre & Jiroux, 2007: 23, **syn. nov.**

Species excluded from the genus *Sybrinus*

Sybrinus albomarmoratus Breuning, 1978: 107. Currently *Nyoma fuscospinosa* (Breuning, 1948), see SUDRE & TÉOCCHI (2005).

Sybrinus flavicans Breuning, 1978: 107. Currently *Nyoma flavoapicalis* (Lepesme & Breuning, 1953), see TÉOCCHI et al. (2008).

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