

***Apogonia reticulata* Frey, 1969 – a new and surprising junior subjective synonym for *A. cribricollis* Burmeister, 1855 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Diplotaxini)**

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BEZDĚK A. 2013: *Apogonia reticulata* Frey, 1969 – a new and surprising junior subjective synonym for *A. cribricollis* Burmeister, 1855 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Diplotaxini). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) 97(1): 85–97. – Examination of type specimens of *Apogonia reticulata* Frey, 1969 leads to the conclusion that the name is a junior subjective synonym of *Apogonia cribricollis* Burmeister, 1855. The type locality of *A. reticulata* is discussed and the assertion made that this species has previously been described on the basis of mislabelled specimens collected in the Oriental region. *Apogonia cribricollis* is redescribed, compared with closely related species, and its geographical distribution is mapped.

**Key words.** Taxonomy, lectotype designation, new synonymy, type locality, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae, Melolonthinae, Diplotaxini, *Apogonia*

### Introduction

FREY (1969) described *Apogonia reticulata* on the basis of two females from the collection of the Moravian Museum, Brno, in the Czech Republic. Both specimens are labelled as collected in “Ethiopie, Harar”. The holotype is held in MMBC, while the only paratype became part of the personal collection of Georg Frey, now deposited in NHMB. The differential diagnosis of *A. reticulata* was a very vague: “Durch die Halschildskulptur von allen afrikanischen *Apogonia*-Arten verschieden” (FREY 1969: 184). Examination of the complete type series of *A. reticulata* revealed an interesting surprise. FREY (1969) probably overlooked (or did not examine) the shape of the protibia of his new species. The outer margin of the protibia in both specimens bears a distinct angle in the basal third (Fig. 2). This character is well known in several Oriental species (see e.g., BEZDĚK 2008), but not to date for any known Afrotropical *Apogonia*. The description of *A. reticulata* was thus very probably based on mislabelled specimens. Moreover, comparison of the holotype and paratype of *A. reticulata* reveals that they belong to different species. The holotype is without any doubt conspecific with the Oriental *Apogonia cribricollis* Burmeister, 1855. The identity of the paratype is not fully clear. Its head is distinctly broader than that of *A. cribricollis*, and the apical part of the elytra is smooth and lustrous. It therefore belongs to the cluster of morphologically similar species that includes *A. dalatensis* Frey, 1971, *A. expeditionis* Ritsema, 1896, *A. diversicollis* Moser, 1914 and some others, the identification of which is nearly impossible based upon only females. Although the identity of the paratype of *A. reticulata* is not fully resolved, the status of the holotype as a name-bearing type is clear and *A. reticulata* is proposed here as a junior subjective synonym of *A. cribricollis*.