

Scientific Note

Notes on the taxonomic identity of *Trogosita pusillima* Mannerheim, 1843, with transfer from Laemophloeidae and synonymy under *Holoparamecus depressus* Curtis, 1833 (Endomychidae: Merophysiinae)

In his treatment of the beetle fauna of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, Mannerheim (1843) described a new species which he placed in the genus *Trogosita* Olivier, 1790 (= *Tenebroides* Piller & Mitterpacher, 1783) (Coleoptera: Trogossitidae). The original description for *Trogosita pusillima* Mannerheim, 1843 reads as follows: “Elongata depressa, pallide rufe-testacea, thorace basi transversim impresso, lineolis tribus exarato, in medio foveolato, elytris subtiliter crebre punctulatis, stria suturali profunde impressa. Longit. 1/2 lin. Latit. 1/6 lin. Habitat in insula Sitkha D. Blaschke.”

Hetschko (1930) correctly recognized that it was not a trogossitid and transferred it to Cucujidae, placed it under the genus *Laemophloeus* Dejean, 1835 (now Laemophloeidae) and inadvertently introduced a misspelling with *L. pisillimus* (Mannerheim). There are no subsequent references to *Laemophloeus pisillimus* after Hetschko (1930), but subsequent catalogues of Trogossitidae (Barron 1971, Kolibáč 2013) continued to list *Tenebroides pusillimus* (as incertae sedis) because they either were unaware of Hetschko’s transfer to *Laemophloeus* or chose to ignore it. Recently, the second author (MCT) contacted Dr. Olof Biström at the Finnish Museum of Natural History to examine the type specimen of *Trogosita pusillima* (Fig. 1) to confirm its identity. Upon examination, Dr. Biström concluded it was not a *Laemophloeus*, leading MCT to request a loan of the specimen for direct examination. Upon receipt, it was recognized as an endomychid in the genus *Holoparamecus* Curtis, 1833. The second author then contacted the first (FWS), who identified it as *H. depressus* Curtis, 1833, necessitating its formal transfer from Laemophloeidae to Endomychidae and synonymization under *H. depressus*.

Holoparamecus depressus Curtis, 1833:186.

Calyptobium kunzei Aubé, 1843:245.

Holoparamecus integer Rey, 1889:54.

Trogosita pusillima Mannerheim, 1843:303. **New Synonym.**

Tenebroides pusillimus: Léveillé, 1910:18; Barron 1971:120; Kolibáč 2013:86.

Laemophloeus pisillimus (sic): Hetschko 1930:40.

As pointed out by Fall (1899), *Holoparamecus depressus* (as *H. kunzei* (Aube)) is easily recognizable from other species by its large eyes, antennal shape and structure, and the pronotum which bears a small median punctiform fovea in the center of the disc and three short sulci at its base (two sublateral and one medial) connected anteriorly by a transverse sulcus and posteriorly by a basal sulcus to form a large depressed area divided into two equal halves. Although originally described from Europe, *H. depressus* has since become cosmopolitan and is now known from isolated encounters across North America, South America, Africa and Asia (Shockley et al. 2009). Although

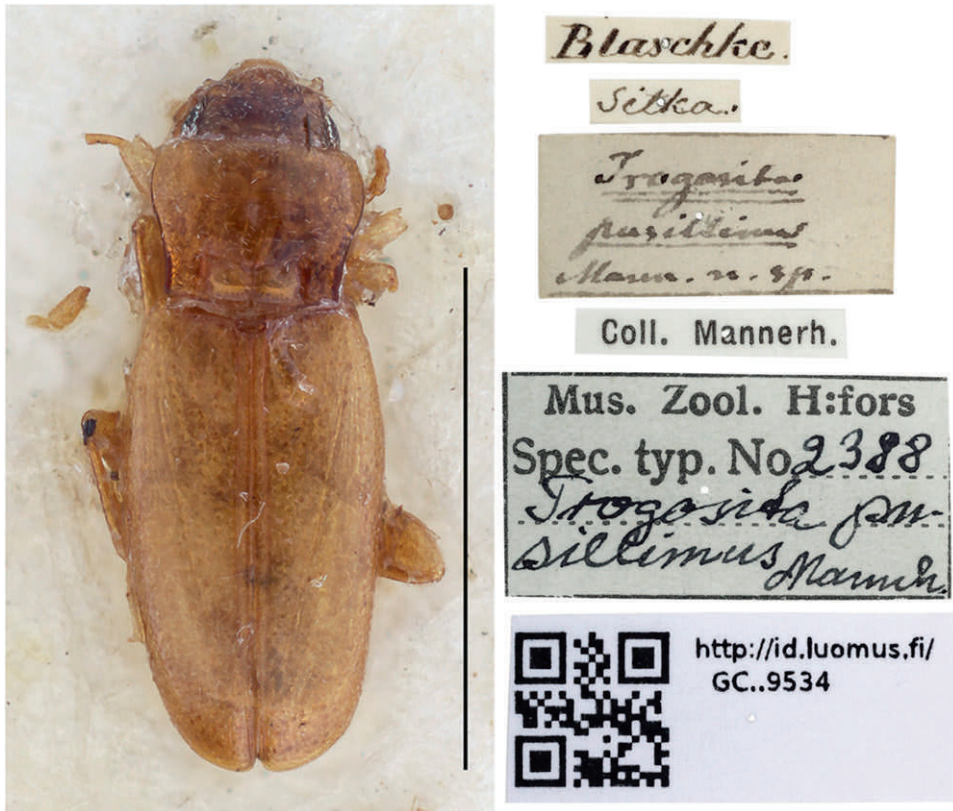


Figure 1. Holotype of *Trogosita pusillima* Mannerheim, 1843 and its labels. Scale bar = 1 mm.

presumed to be widespread since it is a stored product pest, *H. depressus* had only been reported in the U.S. from California, Georgia and New York. The transfer and synonymy of *T. pusillima* under *H. depressus* thus also constitutes a **new state record** (Fig. 2).

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Figure 2. Map of Alaska with Sitka City and Borough (highlighted in red). Image courtesy of David Benbennick [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.

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