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A NEW SUBGENUS OF THE GENUS *AKIMERUS* AUDINET-SERVILLE (CERAMBYCIDAE: LEPTURINAE: RHAGIINI)

| **Hüseyin Özdikmen*** |

* Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Gazi University, 06500 Ankara, TURKEY. E-mail: ozdikmen@gazi.edu.tr, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-9568-0093

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ABSTRACT: The paper presents a taxonomic evaluation on the genus *Akimerus* Audinet-Serville. As a result, *Akimeroides* subgen. nov. is described and presented with a species that were previously placed to the genus and therefore the nominate subgenus, *Akimerus* (s.str.) Audinet-Serville.

KEY WORDS: Cerambycidae, Lepturinae, Rhagiini, *Akimerus*, new subgenus, *Akimeroides* subgen nov.

The genus *Akimerus* was erected by Audinet-Serville (1835: 212) with the type species *Rhagium cinctum* Fabricius, 1787 = *Leptura schaefferi* Laicharting, 1784 from Austria. *Akimerus* Audinet-Serville is a member of the tribe Rhagiini Kirby, 1837 in the subfamily Lepturinae Latreille, 1802 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). According to Tavakilian (2024) and Danilevsky (2024), the European genus includes only three species as *Akimerus ariannae* Pesarini & Sabbadini, 2007: 19, *Akimerus berchmansi* Breit, 1915: 353, and *Akimerus schaefferi* (Laicharting, 1784: 130). The genus *Akimerus* is represented only with the species, *Akimerus berchmansi* Breit, in Turkey (Özdikmen, 2024, 2025).

The original description of the genus in Audinet-Serville (1835: 212) can be presented as below.

> Cuisses intermédiaires uniépineuses en-dessous; les postérieures bi-épineuses dans cette partie. Antennes ayant leur troisième, quatrième et cinquième articles distinctement renflés à l'extrémité. Corps plus épais, plus ramassé que dans la seconde division. (*Akimerus*, pointe, cuisse.)
> 1. *Toxotus cinctus*, Dej. Catal. - *Rhagium cinctum*, Fab., Syst. Eleut. pag. 314, no 5.- *Stenocorus cinctus*, Oliv., Entom. tom. IV, Stencor. pag. 24, no 19. PI. III, fig. 27, D'Autriche.

However, it is clear that there are two distinctly different groups within this genus, and in this regard, the genus needs still revision. While head, pronotum, labellum and underside of sterna are covered with sometimes rather shaggy, golden-yellow hairs; the eyes are hairy; elytra are almost naked, but less shining over the entire surface, and moreover less narrowed towards apex and therefore less tapered towards apex, sutural light pubescence is less clear and so less distinct in the first group [*Akimerus* (*Akimerus*) Audinet-Serville, 1835: 212] (Fig. 1), head, pronotum, labellum and underside of sterna are not covered with sometimes rather shaggy, golden-yellow hairs, at most they covered with short,

recumbent and more sparser ground pubescence or almost naked; the eyes are naked; , elytra are almost naked (except for the suture), and so more shining over the entire surface, and moreover more narrowed towards apex and therefore more tapered towards apex, sutural light pubescence is more clear and so more distinct in the second group (Fig. 2). Therefore, I think that a new subgenus is needed for this group.



Figure 1. A. *Akimerus* (*Akimerus*) *schaefferi* (Laicharting, 1784: 130) (taken from M. E. F. Sláma: https://cerambycidae-slama.cz/seznam%20podle%20pod%C4%8Deled%C3%AD/3%20Lepturinae/Akimerus%20Audinet%20-%20Serville,%201835.html).



Figure 2. *Akimerus* (*Akimeroides* subgen. nov.) *berchmansi* Breit, 1915: 353 (taken from M. E. F. Sláma: https://cerambycidae-slama.cz/seznam%20podle%20pod%C4%8Deled%C3%AD/3%20Lepturinae/Akimerus%20Audinet%20-%20Serville,%201835.html).

Accordingly, I propose here a new subgenus, *Akimerus* (*Akimeroides*) **subgen. nov.** for the second group.

In this case, species-group taxa of the nominate subgenus and the new subgenus *Akimerus* (*Akimeroides*) **subgen. nov.** can be presented as follows.

Genus *Akimerus* Audinet-Serville, 1835: 212
Type species *Rhagium cinctum* Fabricius, 1787 = *Leptura schaefferi* Laicharting, 1784

Subgenus *Akimerus* Audinet-Serville, 1835: 212
Type species *Rhagium cinctum* Fabricius, 1787 = *Leptura schaefferi* Laicharting, 1784

This European subgenus includes two species now.

ariannae Pesarini & Sabbadini, 2007: 19
E: GR

schaefferi Laicharting, 1784: 130 (*Leptura*)
cinctus Fabricius, 1787: 146 (*Rhagium*)
dentipes Mulsant, 1842a: 209 [1842b: (3)] (*Toxotus*)
E: AU BH BU CR CT CZ FR GE GR HU MD PL PT RO SK SP ST ?SZ UK

Subgenus *Akimeroides* subgen. nov.
Type species *Akimerus berchmansi* Breit, 1915

This Anatolian subgenus includes only one species now.

berchmansi Breit, 1915: 353
A: TR

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