

***Catapion meieri* (Desbrochers des Loges, 1901) is very likely a synonym of *Catapion seniculus* (Kirby, 1808)?**

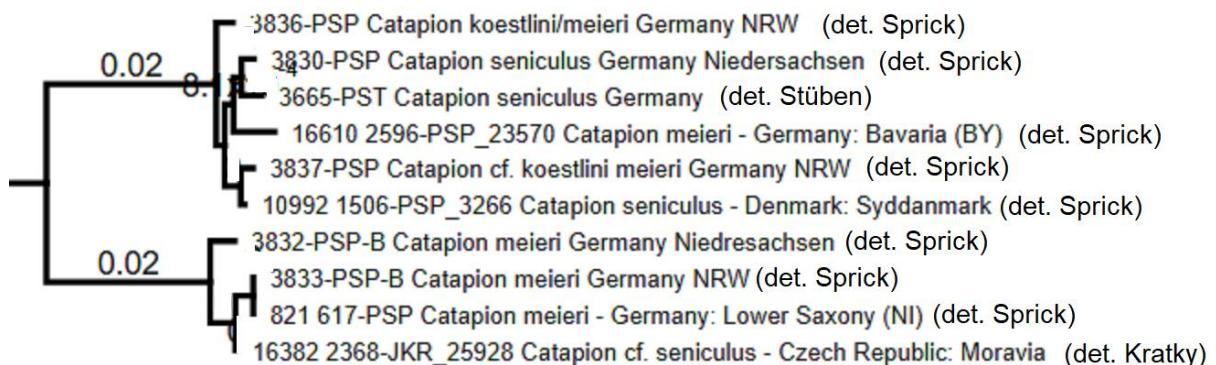
In our publication on the Western Palaearctic Apioninae, we have already stated:

The type series of *C. koestlini* was available to the authors as well as the extensive material of the three species *C. seniculus*, *C. meieri* and *C. koestlini* that was determined before by L. Dieckmann. The morphological differences that were given mainly by Dieckmann could not be verified - neither the shape of the antennomeres and its setae, the different rostrum lengths, the shape of the elytra and the humeral calli nor the supposed differences of the aedeagi - to list only some of the alleged differential characters here. Our first molecular CO1 barcodes - considering the actually valid characters of the species - support more likely a polyphyletical clade. As the 'taxa' do not show any significant p-distances, we cannot see any clear arguments for a species differentiation of *C. seniculus*. Only the host plant data of Dieckmann remain, and we repeat them here with the request, to make available to us plant-specific collected weevils of these taxa, stored in ethanol for further sequencing.

- *C. seniculus* (Kirby, 1808): on clover species (*Trifolium pratense*, *T. medium* and *T. fragiferum*)
- *C. meieri* (Desbrochers des Loges, 1901): monophagous, on *T. hybridum*.
- *C. koestlini* (Dieckmann, 1989): on *Ononis* species.

Stüben, P.E., Bayer, Ch., Bahr, F., Sprick, P. & Braunert, C. & Behne, L. (2017): Digital-Weevil-Determination for Curculionoidea of the West Palearctic: **Transalpina: Apionidae III** - Kalcapiini, Oxystomatini (*Oxystoma* & black species). **SNUDEBILLER**: Studies on taxonomy, biology and ecology of Curculionoidea **18**, No .**264**: 32 p., CURCULIO-Institute: Mönchengladbach. <https://www.curci.de/?beitrag=264>

Based on the morphological characteristics mentioned by Dieckmann, molecular investigations (COI gene) were carried out, which have not yet revealed any clear clade formation:



Based on these results, it appears that *C. seniculus* probably conceals two species, which cannot be distinguished on the basis of the characteristics mentioned by Dieckmann.

Catapion meieri is therefore not included in this Cyprus catalog!

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