A New Synonym of *Lema (Lema) dilecta* Baly, 1873 (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae)

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*Lema (Lema) dilecta* Baly, 1873 is one of the endemic chrysomelid species in Japan, and they are known to feed on a plant *Murdannia keisak* (Japanese name: Ibo-kusa) (Kimoto & Takizawa, 1994). Suzuki (2005) described *Lema (Lema) michioi* as a morphologically and ecologically similar species of “*L. dilecta*” (sensu

Figs. 1–4. 1–2, Holotype (1, dorsal view; 2, ventral view); 3, spermathecal capsule; 4, labels.
Suzuki, 2005) from Japan. As one of major diagnoses, the pronotum of the “L. dilecta” was drawn to compare with L. michioi. However the pronotum of the “L. dilecta” is apparently those of the genus Oulema, a probably allied genus of Lema, i.e. contraction near the base of the pronotum and rounded shape of the anterior region, and these characters are used for distinguishing Oulema from Lema (Monzos, 1959). This incurred us to investigate the original description and the type specimen of L. dilecta to validate the identity of this species.

Although the original description was too simple to delimitate the identity of L. dilecta, we had a chance to investigate the type specimen (Figs. 1–4) deposited in the Natural History Museum in London (BMNH). As a result L. dilecta has the normally accepted Lema-like pronotum in shape (Fig. 1) and without incongruities between the type and the description of L. michioi, especially to the forma hiranoi. Therefore we judged that L. michioi is a junior synonym of L. dilecta.

Lema (Lema) dilecta Baly, 1873

Lema (Lema) dilecta: Baly, 1873: 74 [Hiogo, Japan] (BMNH).


Remarks. The type specimen was collected by George Lewis, and its locality is labelled “Osaka [Ôsaka]”. However, Baly (1873) noted and labelled “Hiogo [Hyôgo]” as the type locality. Osaka and Hyôgo are located closely, and Lewis might confuse or equate these cities during his visit. We guess Lewis informed Baly that the true locality is Hyôgo afterward.

Distribution. Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu.

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References


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