

The taxonomic status of *Hypnoidus consobrinus* (Mulsant & Guillebeau, 1855) and *H. rivularius* (Gyllenhal, 1827) (Coleoptera, Elateridae)

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Andersen, J. 2005. The taxonomic status of *Hypnoidus consobrinus* (Mulsant & Guillebeau, 1855) and *H. rivularius* (Gyllenhal, 1827) (Coleoptera, Elateridae). *Norw. J. Entomol.* 52, 27-37.

Hypnoidus consobrinus and *H. rivularius* have variously been regarded as conspecific and as distinct species. In the present study, the morphology, distribution and ecology of the two forms were studied. The two forms are completely separated in the length ratio of elytra/pronotum and nearly so in flatness of pronotum and colour, whereas there is more overlap in the other characters studied (overall length, ratio width/length and sinuation of sides of pronotum, slenderness of antennae, surface structure of elytra and form of parameres). *H. consobrinus* seems to be more stenoeicous than *rivularius* and has a much more restricted distribution in Fennoscandia. It is concluded that the two forms are distinct, although closely related species. A key to the three West-European species is given.

Key words: *Hypnoidus consobrinus*, *Hypnoidus rivularius*, Elateridae, taxonomic status.

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