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Case 3314

Stegopterus Burmeister & Schaum, 1840 and *Trichiotinus* Casey, 1915 (Insecta, Coleoptera, SCARABAEIDAE): proposed conservation

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the names of two well-established genera of cetoniine scarab beetles, *Stegopterus* Burmeister & Schaum, 1840 and *Trichiotinus* Casey, 1915. *Stegopterus* Burmeister & Schaum is a junior synonym of *Tetrophthalmus* Kirby, 1827 and *Trichiotinus* Casey a junior synonym of *Trichinus* Kirby, 1827. The two junior names are in prevailing use and it is proposed that they be conserved by suppression of both Kirby's names.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; SCARABAEIDAE; *Stegopterus*; *Trichiotinus*; *Stegopterus suturalis*; *Trichiotinus piger*; scarab beetles; North America; South Africa.

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1. Kirby (1827, p. 156) established the names *Trichinus* and *Tetrophthalmus* as subgenera of the genus *Trichius* Fabricius, 1775. The original spellings of the names were *Trichini* and *Tetrophthalmi* but this was in Latin text as plural nouns. Kirby explicitly stated that the gender of both subgenera was male, stating: 'Instead of giving the denominations of the subgenera a feminine termination as proposed in the *Introduction to Entomology*, I have followed the gender of the genus [*Trichius*]'. Kirby (1837, p. 137) later correctly emended *Trichini* to *Trichinus* and designated *Trichius piger* Fabricius, 1775 as the type species. The name *Tetrophthalmi* should also be emended, retaining the original author and date, to *Tetrophthalmus* in accordance with Article 11.8.1 so that the name is in the nominative singular. The type species of *Tetrophthalmus* is *Trichius sutularis* Kirby, 1827 by monotypy.

2. Burmeister & Schaum (1840, p. 404) established the name *Stegopterus* for the same taxonomic group described as *Tetrophthalmus* by Kirby, with *Trichius suturalis* Gory & Percheron, 1833 (p. 48) as one of the included species. Burmeister & Schaum mentioned *Tetrophthalmus* in a footnote, but chose to use the generic name *Stegopterus* instead. I (Smith, 2004, p. 288) designated *Trichius suturalis* Gory & Percheron as the type species of *Stegopterus*. The name *Tetrophthalmus* has not been used as a valid name for over 150 years and qualifies as a nomen oblitum under Article 23.9.1.1. However, the name *Stegopterus* is a little-known genus that has been mentioned in fewer than 10 papers over the past 50 years, including Krikken (1984), Evans (1987), Ricchiardi (1998, 2001) and Smith (2004). This limited use of the name *Stegopterus* is insufficient to allow its automatic conservation as a nomen protectum under Article 23.9.1.2. It is for this reason that I propose that the Commission

should use its plenary power to conserve the name *Stegopterus* by suppression of *Tetrophthalmus*.

3. Casey (1915, p. 381) described the genus *Trichiotinus* without mention of the name *Trichinus*, apparently being unaware of its existence. *Trichius piger* Fabricius, 1775 (p. 41) was designated by Kirby (1837, p. 137) as the type species of *Trichinus*; the same nominal taxon is the type species of *Trichiotinus* by original designation by Casey (1915, p. 381), making *Trichinus* and *Trichiotinus* objective synonyms. The name *Trichiotinus* has been used in the majority of publications for this taxonomic group since 1915, although a few authors lump *Trichiotinus* under the name *Trichius*. The following authors have used *Trichiotinus* as a valid name in the last 50 years: Ritcher (1958), Kaul (1960), Woodruff (1960), Dillon & Dillon (1961), Gates & Peters (1962), Borror & DeLong (1964), Ritcher (1966), Arnett (1968), Howden (1968), Ritcher (1969a), Ritcher (1969b), Borror & White (1970), Thien (1974), Green (1978), Lago et al. (1979), Arnett et al. (1980), White (1983), Morón (1984), Schneider & Nichols (1984), Travis (1984), Howden (1985), Glaser (1986), Lago & Miller (1986), Lago & Mann (1987), Firmage & Cole (1988), Borror et al. (1989), Howden & Ratcliffe (1990), Vogt (1990), Delgado-Castillo & Morón (1991), Ratcliffe (1991), Downie & Arnett (1996), Harpootlian (2001) and Ratcliffe (2002). The only author to use *Trichinus* as a valid genus-group name since Kirby (1837) was Hatch (1971, pp. 482, 484) who used the name as valid without explanation or justification in a work on the beetles of Washington and Oregon in the United States. Hatch's use of *Trichinus* as a valid name after 1899 prevents its qualification as a nomen oblitum under Article 23.9.1.1. It is for this reason that I propose that the Commission should use its plenary power to conserve the name *Trichiotinus* Casey by suppression of *Trichinus* Kirby.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary power to suppress the following names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
   (a) *Tetrophthalmus* Kirby, 1827;
   (b) *Trichinus* Kirby, 1827;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *Stegopterus* Burmeister & Schaum, 1840 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Smith (2004) *Trichius suturalis* Gory & Percheron, 1833;
   (b) *Trichiotinus* Casey, 1915 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Trichius piger* Fabricius, 1775;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *suturalis* Gory & Percheron, 1833, as published in the binomen *Trichius suturalis* (specific name of the type species of *Stegopterus* Burmeister & Schaum, 1840);
   (b) *piger* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Trichius piger* (specific name of the type species of *Trichiotinus* Casey, 1915);

(4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *Tetrophthalmus* Kirby, 1827 (as suppressed in (1)(a) above);
   (b) *Trichinus* Kirby, 1827 (as suppressed in (1)(b) above).

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