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July 2004

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Andrew Smith
asmith@unl.edu

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CLARIFICATION ON THE NOMENCLATRURAL STATUS OF
SIX GENUS-GROUP NAMES IN THE TRIBE TRICHIINI
(COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: CETONIINAE)

ANDREW B. T. SMITH
Division of Entomology, W436 Nebraska Hall
University of Nebraska State Museum
Lincoln, NE 68588-0514, U.S.A.

Abstract

Six genus-group names in the tribe Trichiini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae) are discussed with regards to their availability and validity under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. *Aleurostictus* Kirby, *Archimedioides* Kirby, *Euclidioides* Kirby, *Gymnodus* Kirby, *Tetropthalmus* Kirby, and *Trichinus* Kirby all have priority over most other generic names in the tribe but none of the names are in prevailing usage. Clarifications are needed due to the reemergence of *Aleurostictus* Kirby in current literature and confusion over the nomenclatural status of the other names. Type species are designated for *Aleurostictus* Kirby, *Tetropthalmus* Kirby, and *Stegopterus* Burmeister and Schaum. The gender of the genera *Trigonopeltastes* Burmeister and Schaum and *Apeltastes* Howden is also discussed.

Within the tribe Trichiini, there has been some confusion and nomenclatural instability caused by the reemergence of several long-forgotten genus-group names erected by Kirby (1827). The purpose of this paper is to stabilize the nomenclature within this group by clarifying the status of each of these names. In order to do this, three of Kirby's generic names must undergo a reversal in precedence to be junior synonyms of younger names in order to preserve "prevailing usage." Article 23.9.2 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999; hereafter called the Code) is used to reverse the precedence of *Gymnodus* Kirby with a younger name because it is not in prevailing usage. *Archimedioides* Kirby and *Euclidioides* Kirby both undergo a reversal in precedence with *Trigonopeltastes* Burmeister and Schaum using Article 23.12.1 and based on the actions of Howden (1968). An application has been accepted to the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (Case 3314) to maintain the prevailing usage of the genus *Trichiotinus* by reversing the precedence with the unused older name *Trichinus* Kirby and to maintain the prevailing usage of the genus *Stegopterus* by reversing the precedence with the unused older name *Tetropthalmus* Kirby. Finally, Dechambre (2001) previously reversed the precedence of *Aleurostictus* Kirby (with *Gnormius* LePeletier and Serville) using Article 23.9.2 of the Code.

In the time of Linnaeus, Olivier, and Fabricius (1758–1819), scarab beetles were divided up into only a handful of genera. For example, what is now recognized as the subfamily Cetoniinae contained only five genera (*Cetonia* Fabricius, *Cremastocheilus* Knoch, *Goliathus* Lamarck, *Trichius* Fabricius, and *Valgus* Scriba). From the 1820s on, taxonomists began major splitting of scarab beetle genera to accommodate the diversity and morphological variation within these groups. Kirby (1827) recognized that the genus *Trichius* contained vastly different species and attempted to divide the group into seven subgenera. For reasons unknown, Kirby's names quickly fell into disuse and have not been used as valid taxa in over 160 years.

When Kirby (1827) named these subgenera, he did it in Latin text as a plural noun. Therefore each of the names ended with "i" instead of the standard "us" ending. This has caused confusion and several subsequent authors rejected Kirby's names on this

basis. Kirby explicitly stated that the gender of all genera were to be male from his statement “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*].” In this case, Article 11.8.1 should be used to correct the endings of the six subgenera so the generic names are in the nominative singular while retaining the original author and date (justified emendations). The correct spelling, author, and date for these six generic names are given in bold headings below.

***Aleurostictus* Kirby, 1827**

Aleurosticti: Kirby 1827 [original spelling].

Aleurostictus: Stephens 1839 [justified emendation].

Nomenclatural Status. Available but invalid name, junior synonym of *Gnorimus* LePeletier and Serville, 1828 as a reversal of precedence under Article 23.9.2 of the Code. This action was taken by Dechambre (2001) to counteract the erroneous resurrection of *Aleurostictus* as a valid name by Ádám (1994) and Tauzin (2000). Dechambre (2001) outlined the case against using *Aleurostictus* by pointing out that Tauzin (2000) violated Article 23.11 of the Code, which states that “If an author wishes to replace a name in prevailing usage by its older synonym when the conditions of Article 23.9.1 are met, he or she must apply to the Commission for a ruling under the plenary power.” No such application to the commission has been published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. Additionally, the use of *Aleurostictus* as a valid name by Ádám (1994) and Tauzin (2000) (and subsequent authors such as Whitehead [2003]) all violate Article 23.9.6 which states “The deliberate use of a name contrary to Article 23.9.1, or the mentioning of a name in a synonymy, or its mere listing in an abstracting publication, or in a nomenclator or other index or list of names must not be taken into account in determining usage under Articles 23.9.1.1 and 23.9.1.2.” Tauzin (2000), Whitehead (2003), and perhaps others used *Aleurostictus* incorrectly because of the “deliberate use of a name contrary to Article 23.9.1.” The use of *Aleurostictus* by Ádám (1994) is not to be considered for prevailing usage because it is listed in a checklist, which is a “mere listing in an... index or list of names.” The nomenclatural action of Dechambre (2001) permanently gives *Gnorimus* priority over *Aleurostictus* thus ending the debate over which name is valid.

Type Species. *Scarabaeus nobilis* Linnaeus, 1758 (now *Gnorimus nobilis*), here designated. Tauzin (2000) erroneously listed *Scarabaeus nobilis* as the type species “according to the original description.” However, two species were explicitly listed in the genus with the original description so one is selected here as the type species.

***Archimedi* Kirby, 1827**

Archimedi: Kirby 1827 [original spelling].

Archimedi: justified emendation.

Nomenclatural Status. Available but invalid name, junior synonym of *Trigonopeltastes* Burmeister and Schaum, 1840 as a reversal of precedence under Article 23.12. Howden (1968) recognized *Archimedi* as a synonym of *Trigonopeltastes* and explicitly declared the older name as a *nomen oblitum*. This action satisfies Article 23.12 in the Code permanently giving *Trigonopeltastes* precedence over *Archimedi*.

Type Species. *Scarabaeus delta* Forster, 1771 (now *Trigonopeltastes delta*) by monotypy.

***Euclidi* Kirby, 1827**

Euclidi: Kirby 1827 [original spelling].

Euclidi: justified emendation.

Nomenclatural Status. Available but invalid name, junior synonym of *Trigonopeltastes* Burmeister and Schaum, 1840 as a reversal of precedence under Article 23.12. Howden (1968) recognized *Euclidius* as a synonym of *Trigonopeltastes* and explicitly declared the older name as a *nomen oblitum*. This action satisfies Article 23.12 in the Code permanently giving *Trigonopeltastes* precedence over *Euclidius*.

Type Species. *Trichius triangulus* Kirby, 1819 (now *Trigonopeltastes triangulus*) by monotypy.

***Gymnodus* Kirby, 1827**

Gymnodi: Kirby 1827 [original spelling].

Gymnodus: Kirby 1837 [justified emendation].

Nomenclatural Status. Available but invalid name, junior synonym of *Osmoderma* LePeletier and Serville, 1828 as a reversal of precedence under Article 23.9.2. Although Howden (1968) recognized *Gymnodus* as a synonym of *Osmoderma*, he did not explicitly declare the older name as a *nomen oblitum*. Therefore I here reverse the precedence of *Gymnodus* and place it as a junior synonym of *Osmoderma* under Article 23.9.2 of the Code. The requirement is that *Osmoderma* be used as a valid name in “at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years and encompassing a span of not less than 10 years.” In compliance with the requirements of the Code, the following list of qualified publications, in chronological order, used *Osmoderma* as a valid generic name, which is sufficient evidence that it is in prevailing usage: Ritcher 1958, Dillon and Dillon 1961, Ritcher 1966, Arnett 1968, Howden 1968, Ritcher 1969*a, b*, Ratcliffe 1977, Lago *et al.* 1979, Kusui 1986, Sternbergs 1988, Baraud and Tauzin 1991, Ratcliffe 1991, Ohno 1992, Storey *et al.* 1993, Sparacio 1994, Tauzin 1994*a*, Tauzin 1994*b*, Massa 1995, Downie and Arnett 1996, Tauzin 1996, Prunier 1999, Ranius 2000, Hardtke 2001, Harpootlian 2001, Ranius 2001, Ranius and Hedin 2001, Boucher 2002, De La Puebla *et al.* 2002, Hedin and Ranius 2002, Ranius 2002, Ratcliffe 2002, Tauzin 2002, Ugarte-San Vicente and Ugarte-Arrue 2002, Larsson *et al.* 2003.

The porcupinefish (Teleostei: Diodontidae) generic name *Gymnodus* Delfortrie, 1871 is a junior homonym of *Gymnodus* Kirby, 1827. *Gymnodus* Delfortrie is currently considered a junior synonym of *Diodon* Linnaeus, 1758, therefore no replacement name is needed.

Type Species. *Scarabaeus eremita* Scopoli, 1763 (now *Osmoderma eremita*) by monotypy.

***Tetrophthalmus* Kirby, 1827**

Tetrophthalmi: Kirby 1827 [original spelling].

Tetrophthalmus: justified emendation.

Nomenclatural Status. Available but invalid name, junior synonym of *Stegopterus* Burmeister and Schaum, 1840. Kirby (1827) described this subgenus for the species *Trichius sutularis*. The specimen(s) Kirby described was (were) “from Java.” I suspect that the specimens were mislabeled because no trichiines from southeastern Asia match the description given. Later, Burmeister and Schaum (1840) indicated that they were renaming this taxon as *Stegopterus* (a small genus endemic to South Africa). Reasons for their failure to use Kirby’s name are unknown. Kirby’s original description of *Tetrophthalmus* is vague but does match specimens of *Stegopterus*. *Stegopterus* has not been used enough in the literature to qualify for the reversal of precedence criteria in Article 23.9.1.2, therefore, I have made an application to the Commission of Zoological Nomenclature to conserve *Stegopterus* by reversal of precedence with *Tetrophthalmus*.

Article 82.1 of the Code instructs that the name in prevailing usage (*Stegopterus*) must be maintained until the case is ruled on by the commission. I here designate *Trichius suturalis* Gory and Percheron as the type species of *Stegopterus* since a type species has never been designated for this genus.

The chewing lice (Phthiraptera: Amblycera: Menoponidae) generic name *Tetrophthalmus* Große, 1885 is a junior homonym of *Tetrophthalmus* Kirby, 1827. *Tetrophthalmus* Große is currently considered a junior synonym of *Piagetiella* Neumann, 1906, therefore no replacement name is needed.

Type Species. *Trichius sutularis* Kirby, 1827 (now *Stegopterus sutularis*) by monotypy.

***Trichinus* Kirby, 1827**

Trichini: Kirby 1827 [original spelling].

Trichinus: Kirby 1837 [justified emendation].

Nomenclatural Status. Available but invalid name, junior synonym of *Trichiotinus* Casey, 1915. Although *Trichiotinus* is clearly in prevailing usage, Article 23.9.1 cannot be used for a reversal of precedence with *Trichinus* because the latter name was used once in the past century as a valid name (by Hatch 1972). Instead, I have made an application to the Commission of Zoological Nomenclature to conserve *Trichiotinus* by reversal of precedence with *Trichinus*. While a decision is pending on this case, Article 82.1 of the Code instructs that the name in prevailing usage (*Trichiotinus*) must be maintained.

Hoffmann (1935) discussed the usage of *Trichiotinus* and *Trichinus*. He rejected the usage of *Trichini* because Kirby “‘applied a plural ending to this . . . name.” However, Article 18.8.1 clearly states that such names should be considered available and directs taxonomists to emend the name to have the correct stem (in this case *Trichinus* Kirby, 1827). Hoffmann (1935) also considered *Trichina* Meigen, 1830 (Diptera: Empididae) to be a homonym of *Trichinus* Kirby. However, these names are not homonyms under the Code.

Type Species. *Trichius piger* Fabricius, 1775 (now *Trichiotinus piger*) by subsequent designation (Kirby 1837).

On the gender of *Trigonopeltastes* Burmeister and Schaum, 1840 and *Apeltastes* Howden, 1968

Confusion and inconsistencies exist in the literature on the gender of *Trigonopeltastes* and *Apeltastes*. These names are both derived from the Greek noun *peltestês*, which means “‘one who bears a light shield.” This word is masculine in gender, therefore *Trigonopeltastes* and *Apeltastes* should also be considered masculine in gender (following Article 30.1.1 of the Code). The following is a checklist of species in both genera with the correct endings.

Apeltastes Howden, 1968

Apeltastes chiapasensis Howden, 1994

Apeltastes elongatus Howden, 1968

- Trigonopeltastes* Burmeister and Schaum, 1840
Archimedi Kirby, 1827 (junior synonym)
Euclidi Kirby, 1827 (junior synonym)
Roplisa Casey, 1909 (junior synonym)
- Trigonopeltastes archimedes* Schaum, 1841
Trigonopeltastes barbatus Howden and Joly, 1998
Trigonopeltastes delta (Forster, 1771)
Trigonopeltastes deltoides (Newman, 1838)
Trigonopeltastes discrepans Howden, 1968
Trigonopeltastes femoratus Howden, 1968
Trigonopeltastes floridanus (Casey, 1909)
Trigonopeltastes frontalis Bates, 1889
Trigonopeltastes geometricus Schaum, 1841
Trigonopeltastes glabellus Howden, 1988
Trigonopeltastes intermedius Bates, 1889
Trigonopeltastes kerleyi Ricchiardi, 2003
Trigonopeltastes nigrinus Bates, 1889
Trigonopeltastes carus Bates, 1889 (junior synonym)
Trigonopeltastes pontilis Howden, 1988
Trigonopeltastes sallaei sallaei Bates, 1889
Trigonopeltastes sallaei sinaloensis Howden, 1968
Trigonopeltastes simplex Bates, 1889
Trigonopeltastes thomasi Howden and Ratcliffe, 1990
Trigonopeltastes triangulus (Kirby, 1819)
Trigonopeltastes nigra Burmeister, 1846 (junior synonym)
Trigonopeltastes truncatus Howden, 1968
Trigonopeltastes variabilis Howden, 1968
Trigonopeltastes wappesi Howden, 1988

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Matt Paulsen and Brett Ratcliffe (both University of Nebraska-Lincoln) for help in finding references, Al Newton (Field Museum of Natural History) for advice on nomenclatural issues, and Thomas Rinkevich (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) for information on Latin grammar. This project was supported by an NSF/BS and I grant (DEB-0342189) to A.B.T. Smith and an NSF/PEET grant (DEB-0118669) to M. L. Jameson and B. C. Ratcliffe.

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(Received 25 September 2003; accepted 25 March 2004. Full page charges borne by the author. Publication date 13 July 2004.)