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***Ozodius*, n. gen., for the Australian members of the genus  
*Drepanocanthoides* Schmidt (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae:  
Aphodiinae)**

Paul E. Skelley

*Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

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Skelley, Paul E., "*Ozodius*, n. gen., for the Australian members of the genus *Drepanocanthoides* Schmidt (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae)" (2007). *Papers in Entomology*. 117.

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# INSECTA MUNDI

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*Drepanocanthoides* Schmidt  
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae)

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Date of Issue: 2 November 2007

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Insecta Mundi 0015: 1-2

**Published in 2007 by**

Center for Systematic Entomology, Inc.

P. O. Box 147100

Gainesville, FL 32614-7100 U. S. A.

<http://www.centerforsystematicentomology.org/>

**Insecta Mundi** is a journal primarily devoted to insect systematics, but articles can be published on any non-marine arthropod taxon. Manuscripts considered for publication include, but are not limited to, systematic or taxonomic studies, revisions, nomenclatural changes, faunal studies, book reviews, phylogenetic analyses, biological or behavioral studies, etc. **Insecta Mundi** is widely distributed, and referenced or abstracted by several sources including the Zoological Record, CAB Abstracts, etc.

As of 2007, **Insecta Mundi** is published irregularly throughout the year, not as a quarterly issues. As manuscripts are completed they are published and given an individual number. Manuscripts must be peer reviewed prior to submission, after which they are again reviewed by the editorial board to insure quality. One author of each submitted manuscript must be a current member of the Center for Systematic Entomology.

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ISSN 0749-6737

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**Abstract.** The genus name *Drepanocanthoides* Schmidt has recently been applied to Australian and North American taxa, based on generic concepts following separate designations of different type species. *Drepanocanthoides*, type species *Aphodius walshii* Horn, is a Nearctic genus that is not congeneric with the Australian members. The new name *Ozodius*, n. gen., is here proposed for the Australian taxa, with *Aphodius neglectus* Schmidt designated as the type species. All Australian members of *Drepanocanthoides* are transferred to *Ozodius*.

### Discussion

Schmidt (1913) erected *Drepanocanthoides* and included in it both *Aphodius walshii* Horn (North America) and *Aphodius neglectus* Schmidt (Australia). However, he did not designate a type species. In his world catalog, M. Dellacasa (1988: 378) designated *A. walshii* as the type species of *Drepanocanthoides*. Later, G. Dellacasa and Gordon (1994: 159) substantiated this designation.

In their revisionary work on the Australian fauna, Stebnicka and Howden (1995) apparently overlooked these designations. They designated *A. neglectus* as the type species of *Drepanocanthoides*, and stated the North American members of the genus were not congeneric with the Australian members. This subsequent designation is unnecessary and invalid, and leaves the Australian species without a generic name. Gordon and Skelley (2007) discussed the designations and agreed that the taxa are not congeneric, but did not propose a name for the Australian taxa.

Thus, I am here proposing a generic name, *Ozodius*, for the Australian species previously placed in the genus *Drepanocanthoides* by Stebnicka and Howden (1995).

### *Ozodius* Skelley, n. gen.

**Type species.** *Aphodius neglectus* Schmidt (1912), here designated.

**Description.** A detailed description for *Ozodius* is provided by Stebnicka and Howden (1995: 720), under the name *Drepanocanthoides*. Additional notable characters are: length 2.5-4.0 mm; head not sexually dimorphic; pronotum and elytra lacking lateral fringe of setae; pygidium pointed; abdominal sutures fine, sometimes minutely fluted; epipharynx with prominent corypha usually bearing few apical setae.

Besides distributional differences, the North American genus *Drepanocanthoides* differs in having: length 4.0-6.0 mm; clypeal margin of male distinctly thicker and more deeply emarginate than female; pronotum and elytra with distinct fringe of setae; pygidium rounded; abdominal sutures coarse, often with membrane visible, never minutely fluted; epipharynx with short corypha bearing apical cluster of setae.

**Remarks.** Australian species previously considered *Drepanocanthoides* are here transferred to *Ozodius*, becoming the following **new combinations**: *Ozodius canberrae* (Stebnicka and Howden 1995), *Ozodius neglectus* (Schmidt 1912), *Ozodius walpolensis* (Stebnicka and Howden 1995), and *Ozodius windyensis* (Stebnicka and Howden 1995).

**Etymology.** The name is based on a slang name for Australia, “Oz”, combined with the suffix “-odius” from *Aphodius* (gender masculine).

## Acknowledgments

For reviews of this manuscript, I thank A. B. T. Smith, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada; Robert D. Gordon, Northern Plains Entomology, Willow City, ND; M. J. Paulsen and M. C. Thomas, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, FL, USA; and W. N. Dixon, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, FL. Partial support was provided through an NSF/PEET grant (DEB-0118669) to M. L. Jameson and B. C. Ratcliffe, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE, USA. This is Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Entomology Contribution No. 1080.

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Accepted September 20, 2007