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Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae)

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Drepanocanthoides Schmidt
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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).

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