Case 2532

Phymatodes Mulsant, 1839 and Phymatestes Pascoe, 1867 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation

Maciej Mroczkowski

Instytut Zoologii, Polska Akademia Nauk, ul. Wilcza 64, Warsaw, Poland

Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the currently used generic names Phymatodes Mulsant, 1839 and Phymatestes Pascoe, 1867, which belong to the families Cerambycidae and Tenebrionidae respectively. Phymatodes Mulsant, 1839 is threatened as it is a junior objective synonym of Merium Kirby, 1837 and also a junior homonym of Phymatodes Dejean, 1834, both unused. Phymatestes Pascoe, 1867 is a junior objective synonym of Phymatodes Dejean, 1834.

1. Dejean (1834, p. 203) introduced the generic name Phymatodes (family Tenebrionidae) for Lagria tuberculata Fabricius, 1792 (p. 78) and a nomen nudum, Phymatodes brevicornis Dejean (described later by Lacordaire, 1859, p. 395, note 2). Neave (1940, p. 747) treated Phymatodes as a nomen nudum but according to Art. 12b (5) of the Code it is an available name and Lagria tuberculata Fabricius, 1792 is the type species by monotypy.

2. Blanchard (1845, p. 39) gave a description of Phymathodes [sic] Dejean, and mentioned (p. 45) 'P. scabra Fabricius' as the only species but without any reference to a Fabricius work. However, Fabricius described several species of Coleoptera under the name scabra, and thus 'P. scabra Fabricius' is a nomen nudum and cannot be the type species of a genus. In fact, Phymathodes Blanchard, 1845 is only an incorrect subsequent spelling of Phymatodes Dejean, 1834 (Blanchard cited Dejean after the name) and is hence unavailable.

3. Mulsant (1839, pp. 39 & 47) described a new genus Phymatodes in the family Cerambycidae; the type species Cerambyx variabilis Linnaeus, 1761 (p. 192) was designated by LeConte (1850, p. 32).

4. Pascoe (1867, p. 142) introduced a replacement name, Phymatestes, for 'Phymatodes' Blanchard, 1845 nec Mulsant, 1839. The name Phymatestes Pascoe, 1867 is accepted by all Tenebrionidae specialists and is still used at the present time. I know of no use of Phymatodes Dejean, 1834 (or Blanchard, 1845) after the work of Pascoe (1867). Phymatestes Pascoe, 1867 is a little known South American genus with six species (see Gebien, 1911 in his World Catalogue). The type species is Lagria tuberculata by indication (Art. 67h of the Code).

5. The cerambycid genus Phymatodes Mulsant, 1839 is a large (several dozen species) and very well known holarctic genus with many species of economic importance. In the 19th century this genus was treated by many authors as a subgenus of Callidium Fabricius, 1775 (p. 187).

6. Linsley (1957, p. 287) showed that Merium Kirby, 1837 (p. 172) is a senior objective synonym of Phymatodes Mulsant, 1839, as the type species of Merium is Cerambyx...
may be confusion. Cause Mulsant, 1837, treated 'M^x,^mini, o^ species a name is variabilis Phymatodes unused Merium 1837, although Blanchard, C. 1834, of the binomen Cerambyx variabilis Linnaeus, 1761; tuberculata Fabricius, 1792; proteus Kirby, 1837, as published in the binomen Merium proteus (specific name of the type species of Meriellum Linsley, 1957); proteus Kirby, 1837, as published in the binomen Merium proteus (specific name of the type species of Meriellum Linsley, 1957);

References


Passoe, F. P. 1867. On the Longicornia of Australia, with a list of all the described species, etc. *Journal of the Linnean Society of London, Zoology*, 9: 113–142.