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Reversal of precedence for *Scarabaeus monoceros* Nicolson, 1776,  
in favor of *Scarabaeus oblongus* Palisot de Beauvois, 1807 to stabilize  
the nomenclature of *Strategus oblongus* (Palisot de Beauvois)  
from Hispaniola (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae)

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**Abstract.** The rediscovery of an older available name threatens the stability of the long accepted name of *Strategus oblongus* (Palisot de Beauvois, 1807) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) from Hispaniola. Using Article 23.9 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, *Scarabaeus monoceros* Nicolson, 1776 is designated a *nomen oblitum* to maintain nomenclatural stability while its junior synonym, *Scarabaeus oblongus* Palisot de Beauvois, 1807, is designated a *nomen protectum*.

## Overview

During the preparation of the forthcoming monograph on the dynastine scarabs of the West Indies by myself and Ronald Cave, I discovered an old, overlooked name for what is known today as *Strategus oblongus* (Palisot de Beauvois, 1807) from Hispaniola. Nicolson (1776) described (page 360) and illustrated (his Plate 8, Figure 1 in this paper) *Scarabaeus monoceros*. This name was never, to my knowledge, used again for this species.

Inasmuch as *Scarabaeus monoceros* has not been used to refer to *Strategus oblongus* since 1776, I am proposing a reversal of precedence to maintain nomenclatural stability using Article 23.9 of the Code (ICZN 1999) to suppress *Scarabaeus monoceros* Nicolson as used to refer to *Scarabaeus oblongus* Palisot de Beauvois. *Scarabaeus monoceros* Nicolson would become a *nomen oblitum*, and *Scarabaeus oblongus* Palisot de Beauvois will become a *nomen protectum*.

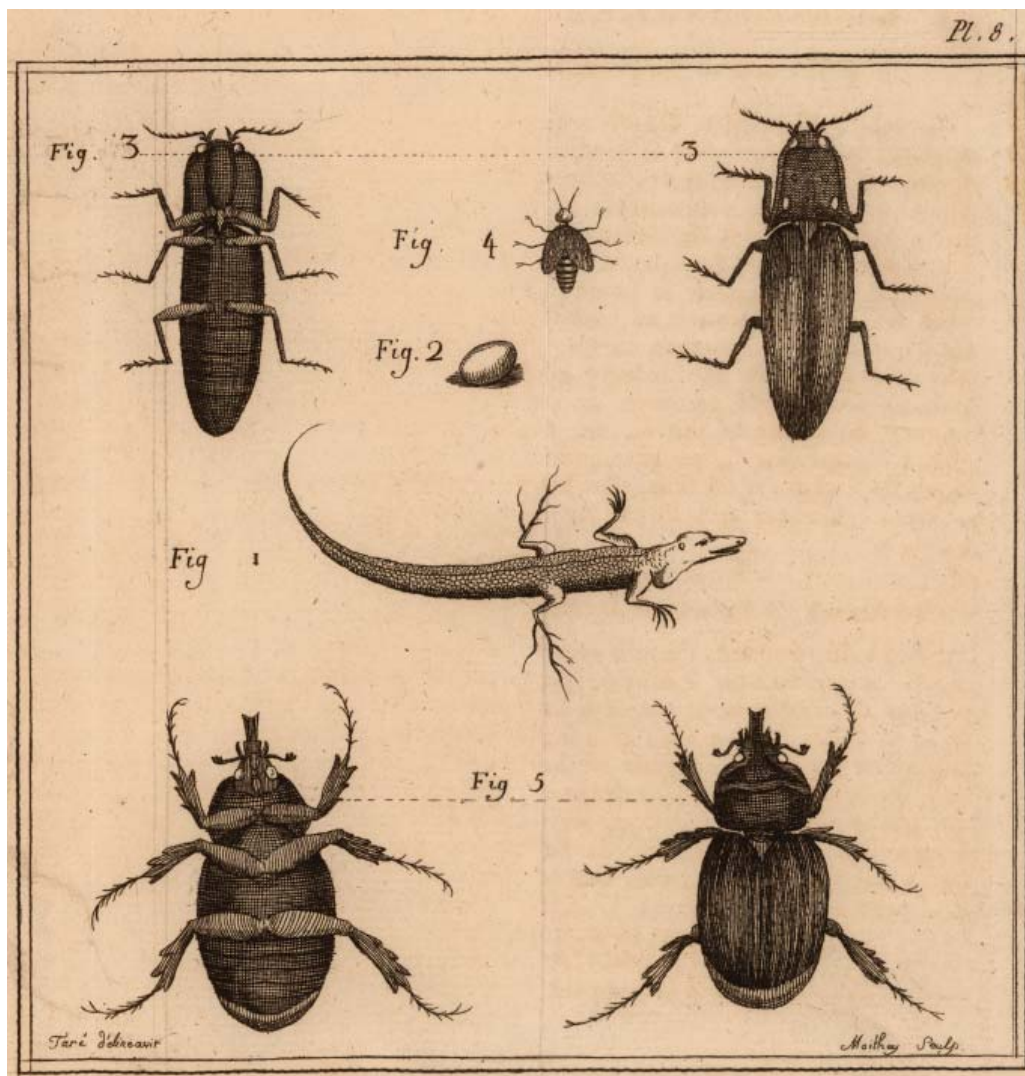
It should be noted that there is also *Scarabaeus monoceros* Olivier, 1789 (now *Oryctes monoceros*) from Africa that is currently considered a valid species and also *Scarabaeus monoceros* Weber, 1801 that is a junior synonym of *Scarabaeus gyas* Herbst, 1785 (now *Megasoma gyas*) from South America. Neither of these names, for taxa in other genera, are affected by this situation.

To apply a reversal of precedence, the Code (ICZN 1999) stipulates that prevailing usage must be maintained when the following conditions are both met: (23.9.1.1) the senior synonym or homonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899, and (23.9.1.2) the junior synonym or homonym has been used for a particular taxon, as its presumed 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.

Those 25 works published by ten authors from 1964–2014 that include *Strategus oblongus* (Palisot de Beauvois) are: Thompson (1965); Endrödi (1976, 1985); Martorell (1976); Ratcliffe (1976); Bedford (1980); Coto et al. (1983); Saunders et al. (1983); Capriles and Medina-Gaud (1987); Schmutterer et al. (1990); Hogue (1993); Maddison (1993); Parrotta (1993); Torres (1994); Reagan and Waide (1996); Rogg (2000, 2001); Krajcik (2005, 2012); Serra (2006); Perez-Gelabert (2008); Turnbow and Thomas (2008); Ratcliffe and Cave (2008, 2010); Maddison and Crosby (2009); Gasca and Ratcliffe (2011); Thomas et al. (2011).

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**Figure 1.** Plate 8 from Nicolson (1776) illustrating *Scarabaeus monoceros* in Fig. 5. Illustration courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University.

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