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over its subspecies *Macraspis concoloripes ratcliffi* Soula, 2005  
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae: Rutelini: Rutelina)

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Correction of the priority of *Macraspis concoloripes* (Blanchard, 1851)  
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**Abstract.** The priority of the name *Macraspis concoloripes* (Blanchard, 1851) over the name *Macraspis ratcliffi* Soula, 2005 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae: Rutelini: Rutelina) is restored.

**Key words.** Principle of Priority, Anticheirina.

## Introduction

After solving a number of nomenclatural issues in Hielkema (2017), I have found an additional error in the subfamily Rutelinae. This problem needs to be fixed, in order to prevent its further dissemination through my forthcoming checklist on the Scarabaeoidea of the Guianas. After contacting some of the leading experts on Neotropical Rutelinae (i.e. Jameson, Moore and Seidel) to confirm that this issue had not yet been resolved in a publication that escaped my attention, I wrote the present paper. Rather than just correcting the error, I have attempted to also present some of the nomenclatural history of the relevant taxon names.

## Materials and Methods

To prevent the creation of new errors in this paper, I have checked all original names, dates and page numbers in copies of the original descriptions. The relevant articles of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 2012) were then used to identify and solve the actual problem.

## History and correction of the priority of *Macraspis concoloripes* (Blanchard, 1851) over its subspecies *Macraspis concoloripes ratcliffi* Soula, 2005

Linnaeus (1758: 350) describes the species *Scarabaeus chrysis* from India. In Linnaeus (1767: 551) he corrects the type locality to America australi [= South America]. Olivier (1789: 75) describes *Cetonia lucida* from Guadeloupe and refers on the following page to Linnaeus' *S. chrysis* as *C. chrysis*. Fabricius (1792: 131) also mentions both names under *Cetonia*. Dejean (1837: 171), assigning both names to Fabricius, places them in *Macraspis* MacLeay (1819: 156). They are also mentioned as *M. chrysis* and *M. lucida* by Ohaus (1918: 54, 55; 1934: 153, 154), and Blackwelder (1944: 241, 242). Landin (1956: 10) states that *M. chrysis* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *M. lucida* (Olivier, 1789) are synonymous, and that the *M. chrysis* mentioned by Olivier (1789) and several other authors is actually a different species, which he proceeds to name *M. pseudochrysis*. Machatschke (1972: 70, 72) seems to have been unaware of Landin's action, and instead continues to refer to both taxa as *M. chrysis* and *M. lucida*.

Blanchard (1851: 205) describes the species *Antichira concoloripes* from Bolivia. The species is mentioned under its original name by Waterhouse (1881: 536) and then as *M. concoloripes* by Ohaus (1918: 55; 1934: 153), Blackwelder (1944: 241) and Machatschke (1972: 71). Soula (1998: 44) changes its status and places it as a subspecies of *M. pseudochrysis* Landin, 1956, forming *M. pseudochrysis concoloripes*. By doing so, he disregards the Principle of Priority as mentioned in Article 23.3.1 of the ICZN (2012), which states that "Priority of the name of a nominal taxon is not affected by elevation or reduction in rank of the taxon within the family group, genus group or species group [Arts. 36, 43, 46],

nor by any mandatory change in suffix of a family-group name consequent upon change in rank [Art. 34].” This incorrect combination is mentioned again in Soula (2003: 44).

Soula (2005: 375) describes *M. ratcliffi* from Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. On the following page, he moves the subspecies *M. pseudochrysis concoloripes* to *M. ratcliffi*, creating the new combination *M. ratcliffi concoloripes*. Again, this violates Article 23.3.1. Due to this action, *M. pseudochrysis* would have been restored to a species without subspecific taxa if it had not been for *M. pseudochrysis chaparensis*, which Soula describes on page 377 of the same paper. In Soula (2011: 83) the combination *M. pseudochrysis concoloripes* is used again, this time in a subscript to a photo of a teratological specimen. It has become apparent from Soula’s various publications (e.g. Soula 1998, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010) that he often appears to forget his previous nomenclatural actions, and this may be another one of those instances. In Ratcliffe et al. (2015: 199) the subspecies is mentioned again, but this time in accordance with the Principle of Priority as *M. concoloripes ratcliffi*. However, this latter publication does not contain a formal correction of Soula’s failure to follow the rules of the ICZN. The issue stays also unmentioned in Moore et al. (2014), which otherwise takes care of many of the errors made by Soula in his treatments of the “Anticheirina” (now part of the subtribe Rutelina). A formal correction thus still needs to be made.

Given the remaining incorrect subspecific name *M. ratcliffi concoloripes*, I hereby invoke Article 23.3.1 to formally correct this name to *M. concoloripes ratcliffi*.

According to Soula (1998: 44), *M. concoloripes concoloripes* is exclusively known from Bolivia and Peru, and according to Soula (2005: 375), *M. concoloripes ratcliffi* is only recorded from the island of Trinidad and the neighboring Venezuelan state of Delta Amacuro.

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