

Two generic transfers and a synonymy for some North American Elateridae (Coleoptera)

During various studies, three instances of necessary taxonomic change were found. These changes are provided here to clarify the taxonomy of these taxa for those studies.

Agriotella debilis (LeConte) new combination

Drasterius debilis LeConte (1884) was originally placed into a group of species now largely assigned to *Aeolus* Eschscholtz [type species: *Elater scriptus* Fabricius]. In contrast, *Drasterius* Eschscholtz [type species: *Elater bimaculatus* Rossi] is contemporarily interpreted as restricted to Eurasia and Africa, except for *D. debilis*.

Drasterius and *Aeolus* possess the salient traits diagnostic for the tribe Conoderini (Johnson 1995). *Drasterius debilis* possesses a suite of structural traits that clearly place it within Elaterinae, tribe Pomachiliini. A survey of the described genera from this tribe suggests the best placement of *D. debilis* is in *Agriotella*.

Negastrius americanus (Horn) new combination

Coptostethus americanus Horn (1871) was generically assigned in a provisional sense. Cobos (1970) reduced *Coptostethus* Wollaston to a subgenus of *Cardiophorus* Eschscholtz (Cardiophorinae). Neither Horn (1891), Stibick (1971, 1990), or Wells (1996) revisited the taxonomic question of this species.

The holotype of *C. americanus* was compared with specimens of *C. femoratus* Wollaston, the type species of *Coptostethus*. It was immediately evident that the subfamily assignment of *C. americanus* was in error. *Coptostethus americanus* possesses the characteristics given by Stibick (1971, 1990) and Wells (1996) for *Negastrius* (Negastriinae), and is therefore transferred to this genus.

Paroedostethus Van Dyke

Paroedostethus was established by Van Dyke (1932) to accommodate his new species *P. relictus*, from southern California. The holotype of *P. relictus* was examined and is morphologically similar to

Hypoganus rotundicollis (Say) and *H. sulcicollis* (Say). Further, it possesses the characteristics for defining *Hypoganus* Kiesenwetter (Gurjeva 1989). Consequently, *P. relictus* is here transferred to *Hypoganus* and *Paroedostethus* becomes a new synonym.

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