

## New records and synonyms in the Colydiinae and Pycnomerini (Coleoptera: Zopheridae)

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**Abstract.** New synonyms are proposed for: *Pethelispa arizonica* Dajoz 1992 = *Pycnomerus arizonicus* Stephan 1989 **NEW SYNONYMY**; *Microprius cubanus* Slipinski 1985 = *Eudesmula californica* Dajoz 1992 = *Microprius rufulus* (Motschulsky 1863) **NEWSYNONYMIES**; and *Aulonium chilense* Dajoz 1980 = *Aulonium parallelopedium* (Say 1826) **NEW SYNONYMY**. *Colobicus parilis* Pascoe is recorded from Louisiana, a new distributional record for the New World.

### Introduction

While preparing the Colydiidae (=Colydiinae of Slipinski and Lawrence 1999) chapter for Volume II of American Beetles (Arnett *et al.* 2002), new North American generic records, synonyms, and various other items of nomenclatorial and distributional house-keeping have been discovered. Since new nomenclatorial acts will not appear in that work, this paper is aimed at making these changes known. A few extralimital actions required for the family will also be addressed here.

Material examined or cited is deposited in the following collections: Natural History Museum, London [BMNH]; Edward G. Riley personal collection, College Station, Texas [EGRC]; Florida State Collection of Arthropods [FSCA]; Hungarian Natural History Museum [HNHB]; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge [LSUC]; Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris [MNHN]; Montana Entomology Collection, Montana State University, Bozeman [MTEC]; Narodni Muzeum v Prahe, Prague

[NMPC]; Roger Dajoz personal collection, Brunoy [RDPC]; Bohart Museum, University of California, Davis [UCDC]; Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University (ZMUM).

Part of this paper reflects new findings, honest mistakes, and the normal problems that surface in the course of ongoing taxonomic work. However, the other portion deserves some comment. Few insect taxonomists have so abused the world's systematists that they have been called to task in the scientific literature. The comments of Charles W. Leng (1911) and Hans Roeschke (1907) about Thomas Casey's rampant creation of synonyms are examples, as is Carrington's (1874) obituary of Francis Walker that lamented the lateness of his death. In recent decades only Mohammad Abdullah has rivaled the infamous ecologist/taxonomist Roger Dajoz of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle's Laboratoire d'Ecologie, in Brunoy, France, in this regard. Not to be confused with systematists in the taxonomic laboratories of that same museum's Paris facility, Dajoz' many errors and cavalier ap-

proach to such trivial factors as generic or even familial placement, type localities, character consistency, and the courtesy of labeling of types have been highlighted in several papers over the last 2 decades, including: Iablokoff-Khnzorian (1979), Nikitsky and Belov (1979), and Ivie and Slipinski (1989, 1990). After Slipinski's (1985a) pointed rebuke, one would think he would get the point.

However, in just a few years, he continued with a paper on North American colydiids (Dajoz 1992), where he sank to new lows. First, without comment he described a species in a genus that was synonymized 130 years earlier, a synonymy confirmed and detailed by recent workers (Slipinski 1984, Ivie and Slipinski 1989) and so listed in the latest catalog of the family (Ivie and Slipinski 1990). This species is obviously a conspecific with a species described in a major comprehensive publication covering the entire North American fauna of this family three years earlier (Stephan 1989), and his name created an obligatory, but secondary homonym in the process, because when *Penthelispa arizonica* Dajoz 1992 was placed in the senior generic synonym *Pycnomerus*, it is identical to *P. arizonicus* Stephan 1989. Recommendation I.5.(a) of the ICZN (1985) in force at the time: "A zoologist should not publish a new species-group name identical with one already in use in a closely related or associated genus-group taxon..." holds no sway over Roger Dajoz! Luckily, the types of these 2 homonyms are conspecific, so the homonym is also a synonym.

Next, he renamed *Mircoprius rufulus* (Motschulsky), the most common and widespread species of the genus, and indeed, a species he had already dealt with repeatedly, albeit under different names (Dajoz 1977, 1980, 1992). In spite of the fact that the type of its multiple African synonyms are in easy access to Dajoz at the Paris Museum, he placed his latest synonym in a totally unrelated genus (*Eudesma* LeConte) that bears no resemblance, let alone relationship, to this species, using a known unjustified replacement name — *Eudesmula* Cockerell (see Ivie and Slipinski 1990). To date, he has recognized this common species as 3 different species, in 3 separate genera as *Microprius linearis* (Wollaston), *Bitoma rufa* (Reitter), and *Eudesmula californica* Dajoz (Dajoz 1977, 1980, 1992) without any indication that he knows they are all the same species!

Lastly, he renamed *Colydium glabriculum* Stephan as *Colydium chiracahuae* Dajoz, also previously described by Stephan (1989) in his review of the North American fauna, but this time he created only a simple synonym (Wegrzynowicz 1999). In addition,

he included a purported key to North American *Colydium*, but it included only 3 of the 5 described species (one with an incorrect name), and one that does not occur in the region.

All of this was done without citing a single paper! Could anyone really think that there are 3 North American beetles to be described without a single paper appropriate for citation? Surely the editors and reviewers (if there were any) share some responsibility for allowing such a paper to go to press? It is hoped that the administrators of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle and/or the editors of the *Bulletin Mensuel de la Société Linnéenne de Lyon* will exercise some restraint on his further ability to diminish their reputations with such unprofessional drivel.

### Synonymies

#### *Pycnomerus arizonicus* Stephan

*Pycnomerus arizonicus* Stephan 1989: 59, Arizona, holotype FSCA.

*Penthelispa arizonica* Dajoz 1992: 60, Arizona, holotype RDPC. NEW SYNONYMY

This synonymy is confirmed by Dajoz's illustrations and description, as well as by the type locality and reported biology.

#### *Microprius rufulus* (Motschulsky)

*Bitoma rufulus* Motschulsky 1863: 502, Sri Lanka, holotype in ZMUM.

*Microprius rufulus* (Motschulsky), Schuh and Misfud 2001: 261.

*Bitoma linearis* Wollaston 1867: 64, São Tiago Is., Cape Verde Islands, holotype repository unknown.

*Microprius linearis*, Dajoz 1977: 63.

*Synchitodes rufa* Reitter 1882: 131. Egypt, 4 syntypes in MNHN 2 in HNHB. Synonymized by Schuh and Misfud 2001.

*Bitoma rufa*, Dajoz 1977: 62.

*Microprius confusus* Grouvelle 1892: 296. Tanganyika Terr., MNHN. Synonymized by Pope in Geisthardt 1986: 74.

*Microprius cubanus* Slipinski 1985b: 81. NEWSYNONYMY, Cuba, holotype NMPC.

*Eudesmula californica* Dajoz 1992: 60 NEWSYNONYMY, California, holotype RDPC.

[see Slipinski 1986 and Schuh and Misfud 2001 for further synonymy]

**North American material examined:** California: Riverside Co.: 6, Cathedral City, various dates June-August 1940, L. W. Issak [MTEC, UCDC]. 1, Indio Hills, 31 August 1981, R. S. Miller [MTEC].

Several series of this species have been examined from desert areas of southern California, indicating this species was introduced and established there for at least 60 years. As currently understood, this species becomes one of the most widely distributed Colydiinae, ranging from India to Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt across North Africa and south to Madagascar, Natal, and the Transvaal and west to the Cape Verde Islands. In the New World from Cuba, Grand Cayman, and California. It has been intercepted in logs in Germany and Malta, its expected mode of transport to many of its current locales (Schuh and Misfud 2001). Given its proven ability to survive transport, it can be expected to spread more widely. This genus is not included in Stephan's (1989) key to North American genera.

#### *Aulonium parallelopedium* (Say)

*Colydium parallelopedium* Say 1826: 263.

*Aulonium chilense* Dajoz 1980: 335, figs. 5A, B, and C. **NEW SYNONYMY**, Chile (mis-labeled or introduced?). Holotype: "ex coll. Reitter, Chili/Museum Paris; 1917; Coll. Grouvelle" MNHN.

Examination of the holotype of *A. chilense* clearly showed it is a synonym of this well-known North American species. In the absence of further material of this species from South America, the Chile locality should be considered an error in labeling, and Chile dropped from the distribution.

#### New records for North America

##### *Colobicus parilis* Pascoe

*Colobicus parilis* Pascoe 1860: 202, Batjan Is., Indonesia. Syntypes BMNH.

**North American Material Examined:** LOUISIANA: 1, East Baton Rouge Parish, Baton Rouge, 23 April 1988, E. G. Riley, at light [EGRC]. 2, Baton Rouge, 16 March 1976, W. E. Blust, from rotten sweet potatoes [LSUC].

This Asian species has reportedly been introduced into Hawaii (Hetschko 1930), but has not previously been reported from the New World mainland. Its appearance in Louisiana is of some concern, as it has been implicated in the spread of the fungal

disease *Diplodia* (Coelomycetes) to sweet potatoes, yams, and citrus (Hinton 1945). Its known distribution includes China, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Samoa, Hawaii, Australia, Mauritius and now Louisiana. This genus is not included in Stephan's (1989) key to North American genera.

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