Nomenclatural and taxonomic changes, new distribution and biological records for jewel beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Abstract: Replacement names, nomenclatural, distributional and biological notes are presented for 21 species of Buprestidae (Coleoptera). Agrilodes strandi ssp. meranus Obenberger, 1942, and Polybothris (Amphisbeta) uitalisi var. stygia, Obenberger, 1942, are proposed to allow the subspecies or variety names define the species, respectively, with strandi and uitalisi remaining in synonymy as nomina nuda. Acmaeodera ruficaudis macfadyeni is proposed as a new replacement name for Acmaeodera ruficaudis pinguis Holm, 1985, preoccupied by A. pinguis Fairmaire, 1902; Buprestis aeneescens Wiedemann, 1823 is synonymized under Buprestis albomarginata Herbst, 1801; Buprestis planus Fabricius, 1798 is transferred to Dismorpha Gistel, 1848; Damarsila conturbata Thomson, 1879 is removed from synonymy under Buprestis amaurotica Klug, 1855 and reinstated as a valid species; Damarsila obati Cobos, 1957 is rejected as an unnecessary replacement name for Psiloptera ornata Obst, 1903; Dicerca reticulatoidea is proposed as a new replacement name for D. reticulata Assmann, 1870, a fossil taxon, preoccupied by Buprestis reticulata Fabricius, 1794, a junior subjective synonym of Dicerca aenea (Linné, 1758); Kamosia luciae Obenberger, 1935, is synonymized under Kamosiella dermestoides (Thomson, 1878); Melobasis novaeguinae is proposed as a new replacement name for Melobasis papuana Obenberger, 1938, preoccupied by M. (Briseis) papuana Obenberger, 1924; Sjoestedtius divinus Obenberger, 1935, is transferred to Malawiella Bellamy, 1990, and Sjoestedtius atakenscitensis Descarpentries, 1952 is proposed as its new subjective synonym. Buprestis albomarginata Herbst, Damarsila conturbata Thomson, and Psiloptera ornata Obst are transferred to Lampetis Dejean, 1833. Biological or distributional notes are given for species of Agrilaxia Kerremans, 1903, Agrilus Curtis, 1825, Conognatha Eschscholtz, 1829, Euplectalecia Obenberger, 1924, Halecia Laporte and Gory, 1837, Ovalisia Kerremans, 1900, Sambomorpha Obenberger, 1924, and Spectralia Casey, 1909.

Introduction

With several large catalogue projects underway (e.g. world buprestids, Bellamy; North American (north of Mexico) buprestids, Nelson, both in prep.), the need to extend distribution, add biological associations and propose new synonyms and replacement names for numerous species continues. This paper continues in the style of data presented earlier by Bellamy (1998, 1999).

Materials and Methods

The species discussed below are presented in alphabetical sequence and the order should not imply any classification detail nor opinion.

The annotations used in the text are: (h) for handwritten label data; (p) for printed label data; the forward slash '/' to separate data from consecutive labels and subsequently added data are added in square brackets '[' and the following collection codens:

CASC California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.
CLBC C. L. Bellamy collection, Sacramento, California, U.S.A.
CMNC Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada
HNHM Hungarian National History Museum, Budapest
INBC Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica
LACM Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, California, U.S.A.
MNHN Museum National d'histoire Naturelle, Paris
NMPC National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic
RLWE R. L. Westcott collection, Salem, Oregon, U.S.A.
UCDC R. M. Bohart Museum of Entomology, University of California, Davis, California, U.S.A.
ZMUC Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Nomenclatural and Taxonomic Changes

**Acmaeodera ruficaudis macfadyeni**, new replacement name

*Acmaeodera ruficaudis pinguis* Holm, 1985: 156 (name preoccupied).

**Remarks.** The subspecies epithet *Acmaeodera ruficaudis pinguis* Holm, 1985, is preoccupied by *Acmaeodera pinguis* Fairmaire, 1902, now placed in *Sponsor* Gory and Laporte, 1839, under the replacement name of *S. cobosi* Bellamy, 1998, itself preoccupied in that combination by *S. pinguis* Guérin-Méneville 1840: 357. The replacement name is chosen to honor Duncan MacFadyen, formerly of the Transvaal Museum, for his friendship, collecting prowess and many favors during the time we worked together.

**Agriloides meranus** Obenberger, 1942

**Remarks.** Obenberger (1942a) described a new subspecies of *Agriloides strandi* ssp. *meranus* from Ecuador, but as later noted by Cobos (1959), *A. strandi* itself was never described. There is no labelled type specimen of the nominate subspecies in the Obenberger collection (NMPC), so I propose the type of *A. meranus* should define the species, with the name *strandi* remaining in synonymy as a nomen nudum.

**Dismorpha plana** (Fabricius, 1798), new combination

**Remarks.** This species' name was noted as preoccupied (by *B. plana* Olivier, 1790, now *Latipalpis plana*), replaced by the epithet *planula* and transferred to *Stenogaster* Solier, 1833, by Saunders (1871). Obenberger (1934) transferred this species, with a question mark, to *Mychommatus* Murray, 1868. Théry (1947) noted the similarity between two species of *Mychommatus* and *S. planula*. The generic name *Dismorpha* was proposed by Gistel (1848), since *Stenogaster* was preoccupied by the hymenopteran *Stenogaster* Guérin-Méneville 1831, and this was first noted by Hespenheide (1979). Neither Hespenheide (1979) nor Cobos (1990), in his revision of *Dismorpha*, listed *S. planula*. In Cobos' revision, *Dismorpha* was presumed to have a Neotropical distribution. I have examined the type of *B. plana* F. (ZMUC) and note that it agrees well, in general facies and character states, to species placed in *Dismorpha*. It comes close to specimens in my possession identified as *D. irrorata* (Gory and Laporte, 1839) from Brazil. Since *B. plana* was originally described from Senegal, several conclusions are possible, including: 1) the original label data was transposed and ‘Senegal’ is an error; or 2) the range of *Dismorpha* actually includes West Africa. Since I am not aware of additional specimens of *B. plana* or any specimens of *Dismorpha* from West Africa, it seems more certain that this specimen must have been mislabeled or otherwise confused. Without the opportunity now to compare the Fabrician type to the types of other *Dismorpha* spp., I will simply note the change of combination.

**Dicera reticulatoides**, new replacement name

*Dicera reticulata* Assmann, 1870: 60 (name preoccupied).

**Remarks.** The fossil taxon *Dicera reticulata* Assmann (1870) is preoccupied by *Buprestis reticulata* Fabricius, 1794, currently a junior subjective synonym of *Dicerca aenea* (Linné, 1758) and this new name is proposed to replace it.

**Kamosiella dermestoides** (Thomson, 1878)

*Meliboeus dermestoides* Thomson, 1878: 81.

**Amorphosoma originaria** Peringuey, 1908: 303.

**Kamosia dermestoides**: Théry, 1926: 59; Obenberger 1934: 877.

**Kamosia originaria**: Obenberger 1934: 877; Bellamy 1988: 187.


**Kamosia luciae** Obenberger, 1935: 53. new synonym

**Specimens examined.** The single type specimen (NMPC 23045) is labelled: “St. Lucia Lake, H W B- M Oct. 1927”, although the description lists “Trans­vaal (sic): Sta Lucia”.

**Remarks.** This South African species has been described three times. At the time Obenberger (1935) described *Kamosia luciae*, he related it to *K. originaria*.

**Lampetis albomarginata** (Herbst, 1801), new combination
**Buprestis albo-marginata** Herbst, 1801: 132.

**Buprestis aenescens** Wiedemann, 1823: 100. new synonymy

Type specimen: sex undetermined (ZMUC), Mus. Westerm. (p)/Type (red, p)/Cap. b. sp., Aenescens Wiedem. (h).

**Remarks.** Following the original description, Buprestis aenescens Wiedemann has been an anomaly since it has only been listed in one subsequent work, that by Saunders (1871: 137) under “Species, the genera of which are doubtful”. I have not found it listed in the catalogues of Gemminger and Harold (1869), Kerremans (1903) nor Obenberger (1926, 1930) under Buprestis nor under any other combination. Since it is conspecific with the widespread African species B. albo-marginata Herbst, 1801, the new synonymy is proposed. The placement of these taxa in the genus Lampetis Dejean, 1833, follows the proposals of Kurosawa (1993).

**Lampetis conturbata** Thomson, 1879, name resurrected and new combination

**Damarsila conturbata** Thomson, 1879: 171.

**Psiloptera (Damarsila) conturbata**: Thery, 1955: 392; Descarpentries, 1970: 199.


**Remarks.** At time of description, Thomson (1879) remarked that his new species was close to Buprestis amaurotica Klug, 1855. All subsequent authors regarded it as distinct until Obenberger (1926) listed it as a variety of B. amaurotica and he was followed in this by da Veiga-Ferreira (1959). However, both Thery (1955) and Descarpentries (1970) considered it a valid species. It is transferred to Lampetis following the concepts of Kurosawa (1993). This species is common in southern Africa and is collected from the foliage of *Terminalia sericea* Burch. ex DC (Combretaceae).

**Lampetis ornata** (Obst, 1903), new combination

**Psiloptera ornata** Obst, 1903: 144.

**Damarsila obsti** Cobos, 1957: 192 (superfluous replacement name for P. ornata Obst). new synonymy

**Remarks.** Cobos (1957) proposed this combination as a replacement name for Psiloptera ornata Obst (1903), erroneously concluding that the taxon currently known as Chalcopeelia ornata (Gory, 1840) had been originally described in the genus Psiloptera Dejean, 1833, when the original combination was in Buprestis L., 1758. The transfer to Lampetis follows Kurosawa (1993) as with the preceding two species.

**Malawiella divina** Obenberger, 1935, new combination

**Sjoestedtius divinus** Obenberger, 1935: 53.

**Sjoestedtius atakorensis** Descarpentries, 1952: 1155. new synonymy

**Specimens examined.** Holotype of divinus (NMPC 24054): Kameroun; holotype, paratype of atakorensis (MNHN): [BENIN] Dahomey, Koussokoingou Atakore, 600-700m; 6 ex. (HNHM, CLBC): Ghana, Northern Region, Nyankpala 200m, N09.25W01.00, 5.viii.1965, S. Endrödy-Younga.

**Remarks.** The types of these two taxa were compared directly. The holotype and paratype of S. atakorensis are slightly smaller and more golden green but otherwise they are identical to the holotype of S. divinus. The collective locality data indicates that this species is distributed, at least, from Ghana to Cameroun. This species is transferred to Malawiella Bellamy, 1990, as it much better agrees with character states from the original generic diagnosis and in the key to African agriline genera by Bellamy (1990).

**Melobasis novaeguineae**, new replacement name

**Melobasis papuana** Obenberger, 1938: 80 (name preoccupied by M. papuana (Obenberger, 1924)).

**Remarks.** The Australasian genus Melobasis Laporte and Gory, 1837, originally a subgenus of Buprestis, is currently defined to contain four subgenera (sensu Obenberger 1930:427): s. str., Briseis Saunders, 1871, Diceropygus Deyrolle, 1864 and Parmelobasis Thery, 1923. Since this subgeneric definition has become accepted, the combination M. papuana Obenberger, 1938 is preoccupied by Briseis papuana Obenberger, 1924 and a new name is proposed.
Polybothris (Amphisbeta) stygia
Obenberger, 1942

Remarks. In a similar situation to Agriloides mer­
anus (see above), in another work of the same year,
Obenberger (1942b) described a new variety of
Polybothris (Amphisbeta) vitalisi, var. stygia. Ac­
Cording to Dr. S. Bily, NMPC, there is no record
that P. vitalisi was ever described and no types are
present that would validate this name. The descrip­
tion of var. stygia is two lines in Latin, but would be
sufficient to define the name and would require
vitalisi be left in synonymy as a nomen nudum.

Biological, Distributional
and Predation Notes

Agrilaxia hespenheidei (Bílý, 1984)

This species is known from the Huachuca Moun­
tains of southeastern Arizona (Bílý, 1984) and from
Chiapas, Mexico (Nelson, 1987), but nothing has
been recorded about its biology. One specimen was
collected at the type locality, Copper Canyon,
11.viii.2001, J. R. Rifkind, on flowers of thistle,
Cirsium sp. (new adult host record).

Agrilus restrictus Waterhouse, 1889

This beautifully dichromatic species is known
from Chihuahua, Mexico (Fisher, 1928) and the
Huachuca Mountains, Arizona (Nelson, 1965) from
foliage of Rhus choriphylla Woot. & Standl. (Anac­
ardiaceae). Additional data are: Arizona, Santa
Cruz Co., Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains,
30.vii.1989, A. V. Evans, W. B. Warner, one speci­
men at rest on leaf of unidentified plant (CLBC);
Sycamore Canyon, N31° 25' W111°11', 12.viii.2001,
C. L. Bellamy, one male specimen beaten from
Quercus emoryi Torr. (Fagaceae) (CLBC) (new
adult host record).

Conognatha (Pithiscus) vulnerata (Perty,
1830)

Two specimens of this Brazilian species were
collected recently with the following data: Brazil:
Minas Gerais: Municipio of Santana do Riacho,
Serra do Cipó, at km 118 along the road from Lagos
Santa to Conceição do Mato Dentro, Campo rupe­
stre and Camp graminoso at 1227m./ 19° 18.802'S
43°33.479'W; feeding on anthers of Lavoisierea mac­
rocarpa Naud. (Melastomataceae); 24 October 2001,
F. Almeda collector (CASC) (new adult host
record).

Euplectacea beltii (Saunders, 1874)

A single specimen purported to be this species,
previously known only from Nicaragua, was erro­
neously recorded from Panamá by Bellamy and
Westcott (1995). I have recently re-examined the
types, or photographs of types, of all Euplectalecia
spp. from Central America and must retract the
record of E. beltii from Panamá. This specimen is
actually E. sordidenotata (Obenberger, 1924), dis­
cussed below.

Euplectalecia sordidenotata (Obenberger,
1924)

This beautiful species was described from Costa
Rica and additional specimens (CLBC) are from:
Panamá: Panamá Prov., Cerro Campana, 850m,
8°40'N, 79°56'W, 27.viii.1972, Stockwell (1 ex.); 7.5­
13 km N El Llano, 13/14.v.1994, F. T. Hovore, on
Cecropia leaves (2 ex.); 12 km N El Llano, 4.vi.1986,
E. Giesbert (1 ex.); 8-10 km N El Llano, 26.iv­
4.v.1992, E. Giesbert (1 ex) (new country and
adult host records). The last specimen is green­
ish, rather than the more typical red-cupreous of
the other specimens and the type (NMPC), and was
erroneously recorded earlier as E. beltii (Saunders,
1874) (see above).

Euplectalecia suffusa (Waterhouse, 1889)

This species was originally described from Chiriqui in Panamá, and a number of specimens
have been examined from various localities in that
country, including: Canal Zone, Barro Colorado Is.,
3 km SSW Balboa, Farfan Beach, 7km SW Gatun
Lock; Panamá Prov., Cerro Campana (CLBC, RLWE).
One additional specimen (RLWE), com­
pared to the type (BMNH), extends the distribution
significantly north: México, Oaxaca, 8 mi. SW Tux­
tepec, 200', 26.vi.1983, R. Anderson (new country
record).

Halecia chrysodemoides Saunders, 1874

This species is recorded from Belize, Costa
Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panamá and was
last discussed by Bellamy and Westcott (1995). It is
not surprising to find that it occurs in Guatemala:
Dept. Izabal, Finca Firmez, Sierra del Caral, N15°
23.79 W 88° 44.18, 935 ft., 23.v.2001, J. F. Limón, flying around foliage of *Cecropia* (CLBC, LACM) (new country and adult host records).

**Ovalisia plasoni** (Théry, 1934)

This beautiful little species is apparently known only from the unique type from “Warco, New Guinea” (see Bílý, 1993). A short series was collected as follows: PAPUA NEW GUINEA GULF: Ivimka Res. Station, Lakekumu Basin, 120m, 7° 44'S, 146° 30'E, 21.iii.2000, T.A. Sears, malaise trap (UCDC, NMPC, CLBC, RLWE).

**Sambomorpha chiapas** Bellamy, 1997

This species was described from a single specimen from Chiapas, Mexico (Bellamy, 1997). Additional specimens are from: GUATEMALA: Baja Verapaz, 14.5 km N, Salama 1620 m, 23.v.1991, R. Anderson, dry oak/pine woodland, 91-13; same data except 16 mi N Salama, 1550 m, 1.vi.1991, oak pastureland, 91-40 (new country record) (CMNC, CLBC).

**Spectralia purpurascens** (Schaeffer, 1905)

On June 19, 2001, approximately 2 mi W Ocotillo, along Interstate 8 in western Imperial County, California, U.S.A., while searching the foliage of *Justicia californica* (Benth.) D. Gibson (Acanthaceae) for this uncommon beetle, a male robber fly, *Saropogon mohawki* Wilcox, was observed with prey in its grasp. Since the prey appeared to be a buprestid, both were collected and I was surprised to find that the fly had collected the beetle I had not been able to locate on the host plant (new predator record).

**Spectralia sulcifera** (Laporte and Gory, 1837)

This species was originally described from Cayenne with subsequent records only for Para in Brazil. Material sent for identification included a number of specimens (INBC, CLBC): Costa Rica: Guanacaste Prov., Estacion Maritza, 600m, W side Volcan Orosi, malaise trap, 1988; same data except, R. Vargas, 27 feb. - 10 mar, 1992; 6 km W Santa Elena de Monte Verde, 4.vii.1983, W. Colby (CLBC) (new country record).

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