

**SCARABAEUS VERTICICORNIS LAICHARTING, 1781
(CURRENTLY ONTHOPHAGUS (PALAEONTHOPHAGUS) VERTICICORNIS),
A VALID NAME (COLEOPTERA, SCARABAEIDAE)**

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Abstract: Evidence is presented why *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Laicharting, 1781 ought to be used as the valid name (as a *nomen protectum*) for the species currently most commonly known as *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) verticicornis* (Laicharting, 1781), but for which the name *nutans* (Fabricius, 1787) has been used lately.

Keywords: Scarabaeidae, Article 23.9. of the Code, *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Laicharting, 1781, valid name.

While working on the catalogue of the Scarab beetles of Portugal, I came across the question of the valid name for the species hitherto most frequently known as *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) verticicornis* (Laicharting, 1781). In the past, the name *nutans* (Fabricius, 1787) has been used as the valid name every now and then, for instance: BRITTON, 1956; PAULIAN, 1959; JESSOP, 1986.

Lately the name *nutans* (Fabricius, 1787) has been used, again, in a few works: MARTÍN-PIERA, 2000; HORTAL-MUÑOZ *et al.*, 2001; ZIANI & GUDENZI, 2001. The reason is that Laicharting's name is a junior primary homonym of *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775.

Article 23.9.1 of the Code stipulates that the prevailing usage must be maintained when the following conditions are both met:

- 23.9.1.1. the senior homonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899, and
- 23.9.1.2. the junior 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.

As substantiated below, the two conditions of Article 23.9.1. are both met. Therefore, in accordance with Article 23.9.2. of the Code, *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Laicharting, 1781 ought to be given precedence (as a *nomen protectum*) over *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775 (a *nomen oblitum*), and must be used as the valid name.

To the best of my knowledge, the first condition of Article 23.9.1. is met. As far as I can ascertain *verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775 has not been used as a valid name after 1899.

MULSANT (1842) addresses the question of the identity of *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775 without reaching, however, a definite conclusion. Under "*Oniticellus flavipes* Fab." (currently *Euoniticellus fulvus* (Goeze, 1777)), Mulsant writes: «M. Schönherr rapporte à une variété de l'*O. flavipes* le *Copris verticicornis* de Fabricius. Herbst, Gmelin, de Villers, Olivier, Suckow et

Marsham qui ont mentionné cette espèce dans leurs ouvrages, se sont bornés à reproduire le texte du professeur de Kiel. Il est probable qu'aucun deux [sic!] ne l'a pas vue, car tous se bornent à lui donner l'Angleterre pour patrie, et à citer la collection de Tunstall dans laquelle elle a été décrite par l'Entomologiste danois. M. Stephens lui-même n'ajoute aucun détail descriptif à ceux de Fabricius: cet insecte semble être pour lui notre *O. flavipes*.»

HAROLD (1870) proposes the replacement of *flavipes* Fabricius, 1781 with the older name *verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775: «[p. 1039] *O[niticellus] flavipes* Fabr. – Der ältere Name *verticicornis* Fabr. Syst. Ent. 1775. p. 27 ist dafür herzustellen. » To my knowledge, that was the last time that *verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775 was used as a valid name.

REITTER (1892) does not list *verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775, either as a synonym of "*Oniticellus fulvus* (Goeze, 1777)" (page 166) or, for that matter, anywhere else in his work.

BOUCOMONT & GILLET (1927) list Fabricius' name, with a question mark, as a synonym of "*Oniticellus pallipes* (Fabricius, 1781)" (currently *Euoniticellus pallipes*). They were followed by Janssens (1953) who, in his revisional work of the world *Oniticellini*, quotes *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775, with a question mark, as a synonym of *Euoniticellus pallipes* (Fabricius, 1781).

Anyhow, after 1899, and to the best of my knowledge, *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Fabricius, 1775 has never been used as the valid name for either *Euoniticellus fulvus* (Goeze, 1777) or for *Euoniticellus pallipes* (Fabricius, 1781) or for any other species.

As for the second condition of Article 23.9.1., I provide below a list of 25 works published in the last 50 years, by 19 (first) authors and encompassing a span of 48 years, where *verticicornis* (Laicharting, 1781) is used as the presumed valid name for this well-known species:

1. Mikšič, R. 1953. Fauna insectorum Balcanica - Scarabaeidae. 15. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Scarabaeiden. *Godisnjaka Bioloskog Instituta u Sarajevu*, 6: 49-281. [page 74]

2. Panin, S. 1957. *Fauna Republicii Populare Romine, Insecta, 10 (4). Coleoptera, Familia Scarabaeidae (Subfamiliile: I Coprinae, II Geotrupinae, III Aphodiinae, IV Aegialinae, V Hybosorinae, VI Ochodaeinae, VII Orphninae, VIII Troginae, IX Glaphyrinae, X Sericinae, XIII Hoplinae, XIV Dynastinae, XV Valginae, XVI Trichiinae și XVII Cetoniinae)*. Academiei Republicii Populare Romime, Bucharest, 315 pp, 36 pls. [page 86]
3. Tesař, Z. - 1957. *Brouci Listorzi Lamellicornia, II. Scarabaeidae Laparosticti. Fauna „ SR, 11. Nakladatelství „ eskoslovenské Akademie V d, Praha. 326 pp, 16 pls. [pages 137, 144]*
4. Janssens, A. 1960. *Faune de Belgique. Insectes Coléoptères Lamellicornes*. Institut royal des Sciences naturelle de Belgique, Bruxelles. 411 pp. [page 274]
5. Balthasar, V. 1963. *Monographie der Scarabeidae und Aphodiidae der palaearctischen und orientalischen Region (Coleoptera: Lamellicornia). Band 2. Coprinae (Onitini, Oniticellini, Onthophagini)*. Tschechoslowakischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Prague, 627 pp, 16 pls. [pages 212, 578]
6. Báguena, L. 1967. *Scarabaeoidea de la fauna Ibero-Balear y Pirenaica*, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, xi + 576 pp. [page 88]
7. Iablokoff-Khnzorian, S. M. 1967. *Fauna Armyanskoi SSR, Nasekomye zhestokrylye. Tom VI. Plastintchaousye (Scarabaeoidea)*. Izdatielstvo Akadiemii Nauk Armyanskoi SSR, Erevan, 226 pp. [page 140]
8. Machatschke, J. W. 1969. *Familienreihe Lamellicornia. In Freude, H., K. W. Harde & G. A. Lohse, Die Käfer Mitteleuropas, Vol. 8 (Teredilia, Heteromera, Lamellicornia)*, Goecke & Evers, Krefeld: 265-371. [page 287]
9. Allenspach, V. 1970. *Insecta Helvetica, Catalogus, 2. Coleoptera Scarabaeidae, Lucanidae.. Schweizerischen Entomologischen Gesellschaft, Lausanne, 168 pp. [page 37]*
10. Carpaneto, G.M. 1976. *Reperti di Coleotteri Scarabaeoidea Laparosticti del Vicino Oriente e delle isole greche. Fragmenta Entomologica, 12: 253-271. [page 260]*
11. Baraud, J. 1977. *Coléoptères Scarabaeoidea. Faune de l'Europe occidentale: Belgique, France, Grande-Bretagne, Italie, Péninsule Ibérique. Supplément à la Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie, 7(1), Toulouse, 352 pp. [page 44]*
12. Paulian, R. & Baraud, J. 1982. *Faune des Coléoptères de France. II, Lucanoidea et Scarabaeoidea*. Encyclopédie Entomologique, Editions Lechevalier, Paris, 43, 477 pp, 16 pls. [page 270]
13. Martín-Piera, F. - 1983a. *Composición sistemática y origen biogeográfico de la fauna ibérica de Onthophagini (Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea). Bolletino del Museo regionale di Scienze naturali - Torino, 1: 165-200. [pages 174, 182]*
14. Martín Piera, F. - 1983b. *Los Onthophagini Ibero-Balears (Col., Scarabaeoidea). I. Claves de identificación. Eos, Revista española de Entomologia, 59: 109-125. [page 120]*
15. Carpaneto, G.M. & Piattella, E. 1988. *I Coleotteri Scarabaeoidea Laparosticti dei Monti Cimini (Antiappennino Laziale) (Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea). Bolletino dell'Associazione Romana di Entomologia, 42 (1987): 41-61. [page 49]*
16. Lumaret, J-P. 1990. *Atlas des coléoptères Scarabéides Laparosticti de France*. Secrétariat de la Faune et de la Flore, Paris. 418 pp. [page 84]
17. Baraud, J. 1992. *Coléoptères Scarabaeoidea d'Europe. Faune de France et régions limitrophes. 78. Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelle & Société Linnéenne de Lyon. ix + 856 pp, xi pls. [page 386]*
18. Král, D. 1993. *Scarabaeoidea. In J. Jelínek, Check-list of Czechoslovak Insects IV (Coleoptera). Folia Heyrovskyana, Supplementum 1: 66-71. [page 68]*
19. Krell, F.-T. 1993. *Die Lamellicornia (Coleoptera) der Käfersammlung Paul Dolderer im Museum Schöß Hellenstein, Heidenheim an der Brenz, Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Mitteilungen Entomologischer Verein Stuttgart, 28: 22-42. [page 25]*
20. Carpaneto, G.M. & Piattella, E. 1995. *Coleoptera Polyphaga V (Lucanoidea, Scarabaeoidea). In A. Minelli, S. Ruffo & S. La Posta (eds.), Checklist delle specie della fauna italiana. Fascicolo 50. Edizione Calderini, Bologna, 18 pp. [page 11]*
21. Krell, F.-T. 1995. *Die Lamellicornia (Coleoptera) der Käfersammlung Dr. Theodor Hüeber in den Naturkundlichen Sammlungen der Stadt Ulm, Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Mitteilungen des Vereins für Naturwissenschaft und Mathematik Ulm/Donau, 36/37 (1993-1995): 49-87. [page 56]*
22. Ziani, S. 1995. *Catalogo faunistico ed analisi zoogeografica degli Scarabaeoidea saproscoprofagi della «Romagna Zangheriana» (Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea). Bolletino dell'Associazione Romana di Entomologia, 49: 169-214. [page 182]*
23. Chikatunov, V. & Pavlí. ek, T. 1997. *Catalogue of the beetles (Coleoptera) in Israel and adjacent areas: 1. Scarabaeoidea. Klapalekiana, 33: 37-65. [page 47]*
24. Bunalski, M. 1999. *Die Blatthornkäfer Mitteleuropas, Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea. Bestimmung - Verbreitung - Ökologie*. František Slamka, Bratislava, 80 pp. [page 12]
25. Carpaneto, G. M., Piattella, E. & Pittino, R. 2000. *The scarab beetles of Turkey: an updated checklist and chorotype analysis (Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea). Biogeographia, 21: 217-240. [page 232]*

As a matter of interest, I reproduce below, in its entirety, Laicharting's original description of *Scarabaeus verticicornis*, the Gothic type of Laicharting's German text converted to Roman:

«15. *Scarabaeus verticicornis* Der Scheitelhörnige Dungkäfer. Im Kühkoth etwas selten.
Gegenwärtiger Dungkäfer ist durchaus schwarz, am Grund des Kopfschildes befindet sich ein an der Wurzel breites, an der Spitze vorgebeugtes Horn wie bey dem *Scar. nuchicornis*, mit dem er sehr viele Aehnlichkeit hat, doch bemerk ich aus Brustschild diese zwey hervorragende Punkte, die ich bey dem nachhörnigen Dungkäfer vermisste, und nachdem wir einmal bey dessen Beschreibung, die gefleckten Flügeldecken als ein Hauptmerkmal angenommen, so kann man gegenwärtigen nicht wol für eine Abänderung gelten lassen.
SCARABAEUS totus niger, verticis spina erecta.
Clypeo marginato; cornu verticis basi lato, apicem versus prorsum flexo.
Thorace punctis duobus elevatis contiguus.»

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