

## TRIODONTELLA REITTER, 1919 OR TRIODONTA MULSANT, 1842: A CLARIFICATION (COLEOPTERA, MELOLONTHIDAE)

Tristão Branco<sup>1</sup> & José L. Ruiz<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rua de Camões, 788, 2º Dto., 4000-142 Porto (Portugal) – tv.branco@clix.pt

<sup>2</sup>Parques de Ceuta, Fase I, 3, 8º D, 51002 Ceuta (España) – euserica@hotmail.com

**Abstract:** Facts are reviewed that render *Triodontella* Reitter, 1919 the valid name of the Sericinae genus also known as *Triodonta* Mulsant, 1842.

**Keywords:** Nomenclature, Coleoptera, Melolonthidae, Sericinae, *Triodontella*, *Triodonta*.

As pointed out by KRELL (1991), *Triodontella* Reitter, 1919 is the valid name for the genus of Sericinae, because *Triodonta* Mulsant, 1842 is a junior homonym of *Triodonta* Bory de Saint Vincent, 1827.

Despite Krell's note, the name *Triodonta* Mulsant, 1842 has still been used recently. A review is presented by KEITH (2001).

Two facts seem to have been a source of some confusion:

- When REITTER (1919) proposed the replacement name *Triodontella*, he attributed the authorship of the name *Triodonta* to Bray.

- Two dates are indicated in the literature for Bory de Saint Vincent's name, 1824 and 1827.

We hope that the information below will help to settle the matter.

The homonymy between Mulsant's and Bory de Saint Vincent's names was first brought up by AGASSIZ (1846), who writes (page 378):

«° *Triodonta* Muls. Col. 1842.

° *Triodonta* Bory Polyg. 1824.»

DALLA TORRE (1912) did also signal the homonymy, but did not propose a replacement name. He writes (page 61):

«*Triodonta* Muls.

Muls. Hist. Nat. Col. Fr. Lamellic. 1842, p. 468; ... [non Bory 1824!].»

REITTER (1919) proposed *Triodontella* as the replacement name, writing:

«768. Von den von mir bearbeiteten Coleopterengruppen sind fünf Gattungen schon früher vergeben, weshalb ich dafür nachfolgende Namen vorschlage. Für...

*Triodonta* Muls. 1842 von Bray bei Polygastrica 1824 in *Triodontella*.»

We suspect that most probably Reitter's "Bray" is either a *lapsus calami* or a typing error for Bory.

As for the date of *Triodonta* Bory de Saint Vincent, 1824 or 1827, its description appeared in volume 2 of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, which is indeed dated from 1824, and that explains why the referred authors give 1824 as the date of publication. However, that description was published in the second part of volume 2. According to EVENHUIS (2003), who provides the most recent, and very thorough, analysis of the publication dates of the different parts of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, the second part (pages 377-819) of volume 2, was published on 26 September 1827. Therefore, the correct date is indeed 1827 as stated by Krell (1991).

Bory de Saint Vincent's description is found in page 753, under the entry "Triodonte", as follows:

«TRIODONTE: triodonta

Genre de la famille des Kolpodinées, dans l'ordre des Gymnodés de la Classe des Microscopiques, caractérisé par...».

There follows the description of the genus, which is followed by:

«Triodonte Kolpodine.

*Triodonta* Kolpodina; N. Kolpoda (Cuneus)

clava, teres, apice dentata; Mull. Inf. p. 109.

tab. 16. fig. 6-8. Encycl. Vers. III. pl. 7. fig. 28-30...».

There follows the description of the species.

The entry is signed "(B. de St.Vincent)". The second part of

volume 2 of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique* (as well as the first part) was edited by Lamouroux, Bory de Saint Vincent and Deslongchamps (EVENHUIS, 2003). Bory de Saint Vincent's signature at the end of that entry shows that he is indeed the author of the name *Triodonta*.

Hence, a description is provided for the genus *Triodonta*, and a species is included. That renders Bory de Saint Vincent's name available in the sense of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. As pointed out by KEITH (2001), the fact that those organisms are not anymore included in the kingdom Animalia does not preclude the homonymy (Article 2.2).

As a last note, we would like to point out that we do not know whether *Triodonta* Bory de Saint Vincent, 1827 is the valid name for that genus. If it is not, and if it has not been used as a valid name since 1899, there could be the case for a reversal of precedence (Article 23.9 of the Code), provided that the second condition of Article 23.9.1 is also met, and consequently the name *Triodonta* Mulsant, 1842 could be conserved. However, we did not carry our investigation that far. Therefore, as long as new evidence is not brought up, we suggest that the name *Triodontella* Reitter, 1919 should be used as the valid name for the genus of sericine beetles.

### Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to Dr. M. Sánchez-Ruiz (Madrid) who provided one of us (J.L.R.) with all the relevant information on Bory de Saint Vincent's publication.

**References:** AGASSIZ, L. 1846. *Nomenclatoris Zoologici Index Universalis, continens Nomina Systematica Classium, Ordinum, Familiarum et Generum Animalium Omnium, tam Viventium quam Fossilium, secundem Ordinem Alfabeticum unicum disposita, adjectis Homonymiis Plantarum, nec non variis adnotationibus et emendationibus*. Jent et Gassmann, Soloduri, viii + 393 pp. • DALLA TORRE, K. W. VON 1912. *Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae I*. In S. Shenkling (ed.), *Coleopterorum Catalogus*. Pars 45. *W. Junk, Berlin*, 20 (2): 1-84. • EVENHUIS, N. L. 2003. Dating and publication of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique* (1782-1832), with special reference to the parts of the *Histoire Naturelle* and details on the *Histoire Naturelle des Insectes*. *Zootaxa*, 166: 1-48. • INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Fourth Edition, adopted by the International Union of Biological Sciences*. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, xxix + 306 pp. • KEITH, D. 2001. Contribution à la connaissance des Scarabaeoidea du Moyen Orient (3<sup>ème</sup> Note): Sur le genre *Triodontella* Reitter, 1919 (Coleoptera, Melolonthidae, Sericinae). *Lambillionea*, 101: 153-160. • KRELL, F.-T. 1991. Zur Chorologie und Taxonomie einiger Lamellicornia (Coleoptera) der Mediterraneis und angrenzender Regionen. *Mitteilungen des Internationalen Entomologischen Vereins e.V. Frankfurt a.M.*, 16: 1-16. • LAMOUROUX, J., J. BORY DE SAINT VINCENT & J. DESLONGCHAMPS 1827. *Histoire naturelle des zoophytes ou animaux rayonnés*. Encyclopédie Méthodique, Agasse, Paris, Volume 2 [1824], Part 2: 377-819. • REITTER, E. 1919. Coleopterologische Notizen. *Entomologische Blätter*, 15: 220-221.