

A few corrections to my 2007 note on genus-group names and their type species (Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea)

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Abstract: With reference to the note on genus-group names and their type species (Branco, 2007) the following corrections are made: the original binomen of the type species of *Potosia* Mulsant & Rey, 1871, the author and date of the subsequent designation of the type species of *Ataenius* Harold, 1867, and the type species of *Protaetia* Burmeister, 1842.

Key words: Nomenclature, genus-group names, type species, *Potosia*, *Ataenius*, *Protaetia*.

Introduction

I believe that it is important to reiterate here that type species are crucial for nomenclatural stability. Those who care for nomenclatural stability should not spare efforts to ensure that validly designated type species are well established for the genus-group names they are publishing on. That, of course, is most relevant for genus-group names made available before 1931 without a type species fixed in the original publication. For names published after 1930 it suffices to consult the original publication. In fact, genus-group names published after 1930 to be available must be accompanied by the fixation of a type species (Article 13.3 of the Code), a rule that has been sometimes overlooked.

As explained in its introduction, my note on the genus-group names and their type species (Branco, 2007) is strictly nomenclatural. That means that no judgement is made on the taxonomic status (genus or subgenus) or on the taxonomic validity (subjective synonyms) of the genus-group names. Only those cases of nomenclatural invalidity (homonyms, objective synonyms) are pointed out.

I would also like to reiterate that my 2007 note concerns all the genus-group names rightly or wrongly used in combination with species known to occur in continental Portugal or that have been recorded from this country.

In the text that follows "Code" means the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Fourth Edition (1999), and "Commission" stands for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

1. Original binomens of type species

According to Recommendation 67B of the Code, the name of the type species should be cited by its original binomen, and that was what I intended throughout my note. However, the following correction is necessary.

***Potosia* Mulsant & Rey, 1871.** The original binomen used by Scopoli (1796) was *Scarabaeus speciosissimus*, not *Cetonia speciosissima* as incorrectly indicated in my note.

2. Subsequent type species designations

As I pointed out in the introduction to my note, whenever the type species was not originally fixed, it is possible that I have missed a valid subsequent type species designation previous to the one that I am indicating. That is indeed the case of the following two names.

***Ataenius* Harold, 1867.** Chapin's (1940: 12) subsequent designation of *Ataenius scutellaris* Harold, 1867 (cited exactly like that) as type species, predates the subsequent designation by Cartwright (1974) of the same nominal species.

Recently Stebnicka (2007) has argued that *Ataenius scutellaris* Harold, 1867 is the type species by original designation. However, *Ataenius scutellaris* Harold, 1867 is merely the first of the five nominal species included by Harold (1867) in his new genus, and that does not constitute type species designation (Article 68 of the Code). The other four nominal species included by Harold (1867) in his new genus are *Ataenius opatrinus* Harold, 1867 (there credited to Klug), *Ataenius capitosus* Harold, 1867 (there credited to Chevrolat), *Ataenius perforatus* Harold, 1867 (there credited to Reiche), and *Ataenius hispidus* Harold, 1867, in that order.

***Protaetia* Burmeister, 1842.** Arrow's (1910) subsequent designation of *Cetonia spectabilis* Schaum, 1841 as type species is predated by Reitter's (1899) designation of *Cetonia mandarina* Weber, 1801, purportedly a junior synonym of *Cetonia fusca* Herbst, 1790.

Reitter (1899: 62) wrote: «Als Typus obiger Gattung nehme ich die bekannte *Protaetia mandarina* Web. aus China an.» [As type of the above genus I adopt the well-known *Protaetia mandarina* Web. from China]. *Cetonia mandarina* Weber, 1801 is one of the 30 nominal

species included by Burmeister (1842) in his new genus *Protaetia*, hence Reitter's designation is valid.

Throughout his text Burmeister (1842: 481-483) spelt the specific name "mandarinea" and credited it to Weber (1801), whereas Weber (1801: 68) spelt the specific name "mandarina". Burmeister (1842) does not give any explanation for the changed spelling, hence "mandarinea" has to be deemed an incorrect subsequent spelling and, as such, it is not an available name (Article 33.3 of the Code).

Weber (1801) credited the name *Cetonia mandarina* to Lichtenstein (1796). However, the Commission (1995) ruled for the suppression for nomenclatural purposes of Lichtenstein's 1796 and 1797 catalogues. In the same ruling, some Lichtenstein specific names were conserved but they do not include *Cetonia mandarina*. Therefore, the name was first made available by Weber (1801).

In summary, unless a valid type species designation predating that of Reitter is found, the type species of *Protaetia* Burmeister, 1842 is *Cetonia mandarina* Weber, 1801 (= *Cetonia fusca* Herbst, 1790) by subsequent designation by Reitter, 1899, not *Cetonia spectabilis* Schaum, 1841 by subsequent designation by Arrow (1910) as incorrectly indicated in my 2007 note.

Acknowledgments

I am most grateful to Antonio Rey (Società Entomologica Italiana, Genoa) and Valerie McAtear (Royal Entomological Society, St. Albans) for photocopies of some of the works necessary for the elaboration of this note.

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