

REPLACEMENT NAMES FOR TWO PREOCCUPIED BEETLE GENERA (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: MELOLONTHINAE)¹

Hüseyin Özdikmen² and Hakan Demir²

ABSTRACT: Two junior homonyms were detected amongst the genera of Melolonthinae and the following replacement names are proposed: *Brittonius* nom. nov. for *Bryantella* Britton, 1957 and *Bezdekia* nom. nov. for *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899. Accordingly, new combinations are herein proposed for the species currently included in these genera.

KEY WORDS: Nomenclatural changes, homonymy, replacement names, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae

The purpose of the present paper is to bring the taxonomy of Melolonthinae scarabs into accordance with the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999). In an effort to reduce the number of homonyms in Melolonthinae, we recently found two genus group names which had been previously published for spider taxa, making them junior homonyms. In accordance with Article 60 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, we propose substitute names.

Order Coleoptera, Family Scarabaeidae, Subfamily Melolonthinae Tribe Automoliini

Genus *Brittonius* nom. nov.

Bryantella Britton, 1957. A revision of the Australian chafers (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae). British Museum (Natural History) London 1: 102. (Insecta: Coleoptera: Polyphaga: Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Automoliini). Preoccupied by *Bryantella* Chickering, 1946. Bull. Mus. comp. Zool. Harv. 97: 389 (Arachnida: Araneae: Salticidae).

Nomenclatural Remarks: The *Bryantella* Britton, 1957 was established for an Australian genus (type species, *Bryantella castanea* Britton, 1957) of the Coleoptera. It is still used as a valid genus name in the family Scarabaeidae (e.g. Houston and Weir, 2002). Currently, the genus includes only one named species, *Bryantella castanea* Britton, 1957 [Australian Region: W Australia (NW coastal, SW coastal)]. Nevertheless, the name *Bryantella* is preoccupied. Chickering (1946) established a spider genus *Bryantella*, with the type species *Bryantella speciosa* Chickering, 1946 in the Araneae. Also, it is still used as a valid genus name in the family Salticidae (e.g. Prószyński, 2003, 2006a,b; Platnick, 2007). Currently, the genus includes three named species: *Bryantella smaragdus* (Crane, 1945) [Argentina, British Guyana, Panama], *Bryantella speciosa* Chickering, 1946 [Brasil, Panama] and *Bryantella tropica* (Peckham and Peckham, 1901) [Brasil, North Argentina]. Thus, the beetle genus *Bryantella* Britton, 1957 is a junior homonym of the genus *Bryantella* Chickering, 1946.

¹ Submitted on October 24, 2007. Accepted on November 12, 2007.

² Gazi Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Biyoloji Bölümü, 06500 Ankara, Turkey. E-mails: (HO) ozdikmen@gazi.edu.tr and (HD) ozyptila@gmail.com.

In accordance with Article 60 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Fourth Edition (1999), we suggest here that the name *Brittonius* should be erected as a replacement name for *Bryantella* Britton, 1957, not *Bryantella* Chickering, 1946.

Etymology: from E. B. Britton, author of the preexisting genus name *Bryantella*. It is masculine in gender.

Summary of nomenclatural changes: *Brittonius* **nom. nov.** = *Bryantella* Britton, 1957 (non Chickering, 1946). *Brittonius castaneus* (Britton, 1957) **comb. nov.** = *Bryantella castanea* Britton, 1957

Tribe Diplotaxini

Genus *Bezdekia* **nom. nov.**

Metagonia Kolbe, 1899. Ent. Nachr., 25, 42, 57. (Insecta: Coleoptera: Polyphaga: Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Diplotaxini). Preoccupied by *Metagonia* Simon, 1893. Ann. Soc. ent. France, 62, 318 (Arachnida: Araneae: Pholcidae).

Nomenclatural Remarks: Kolbe (1899) described three new subgenera within the beetle genus *Apogonia* Kirby, 1819: *Catagonia*, *Ceratogonia*, and *Metagonia*. In his catalogue, Bezdik (2004a) accepted the provisional generic treatment as proposed by Moser (1918) and Burgeon (1945) concerning the former subgenera of the genus *Apogonia* Kirby, 1819. This means that *Ceratogonia* Kolbe, 1899; *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899; *Rhynchogonia* Arrow, 1902; and *Dichecephala* Brenske, 1895 (= *Catagonia* Kolbe, 1899) are assumed to be valid genera. In his catalogue, Bezdik (2004) also designated the species *Metagonia mediocris* (Kolbe, 1891) as the type species of *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899. Bezdik (2004b) stated that the tribe Diplotaxini Burmeister, 1855 is one of the least studied Melolonthine groups in Old World. Bezdik (2004b) listed 422 valid species and subspecies distributed in the Palearctic, Oriental, and Ethiopian Regions. Over 300 species are placed in the genus *Apogonia* Kirby, 1819, which will most probably be subdivided into several independent genera during revisionary works. In his paper, Bezdik also mentioned that the subgenus *Catagonia* Kolbe, 1899, was subsequently synonymized with the genus *Dichecephala* Brenske, 1895, by Arrow in Scott (1940). Moreover, Arrow (1902) created an additional subgenus *Rhynchogonia*. In his revision of Diplotaxini from Belgian Congo (currently Democratic Republic of the Congo), Burgeon (1945) elevated the taxa *Ceratogonia*, *Dichecephala*, *Metagonia*, and *Rhynchogonia* to the generic level. Unfortunately, the generic name, *Metagonia*, was already preoccupied by Simon (1893), who had described the genus *Metagonia* with the type species *Metagonia bifida* Simon, 1893 in the spider family Pholcidae (Araneae). It is still used as a valid genus name in the family Pholcidae (e.g. Gertsch, 1971, 1977, 1986; Gertsch and Peck, 1992; Huber 1997; Huber 2000; Platnick, 2007). The genus *Metagonia* Simon, 1893 is very rich. For the present, the genus includes 81 species. Thus, the genus *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899 is a junior homonym of the genus *Metagonia* Simon, 1893 (Araneae). We propose a new replacement name *Bezdekia* **nom. nov.** for *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899.

Etymology: The name “Bezdekia” dedicated to well-known coleopterist Ales Bezdík (Czech Republic).

Summary of nomenclatural changes: *Bezdekia* **nom. nov.** = *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899 (non Simon, 1893). *Bezdekia brunoi* (Frey, 1976) **comb. nov.** = *Metagonia brunoi* (Frey, 1976). *Bezdekia kaszabi* (Frey, 1974) **comb. nov.** = *Metagonia kaszabi* (Frey, 1974). *Bezdekia mediocris* (Kolbe, 1891) **comb. nov.** = *Metagonia mediocris* (Kolbe, 1891). *Bezdekia platypus* (Kolbe, 1899) **comb. nov.** = *Metagonia platypus* (Kolbe, 1899). *Bezdekia platypyge* (Kolbe, 1899) **comb. nov.** = *Metagonia platypyge* (Kolbe, 1899).

LITERATURE CITED

- Bezdík, A.** 2004a. Catalogue of the tribe Diplotaxini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae) of the Old World. *Zootaxa* 463:1-90.
- Bezdík, A.** 2004b. Revision of the genus *Ceratogonia* Kolbe, 1899 (Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Diplotaxini). *Annales Zoologici (Warszawa)* 54:797-801.
- Britton, E. B.** 1957. A revision of the Australian Chafers (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae). The British Museum (Natural History). London, England. United Kingdom. Volume 1, 185 pp.
- Chickering, A. M.** 1946. The Salticidae of Panama. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University)* 97:1-474.
- Gertsch, W. J.** 1971. A report on some Mexican cave spiders. *Association for Mexican Cave Studies Bulletin* 4:47-111.
- Gertsch, W. J.** 1977. Report on cavernicole and epigeal spiders from the Yucatan peninsula. *Association for Mexican Cave Studies Bulletin* 6:103-131.
- Gertsch, W. J.** 1986. The spider genus *Metagonia* (Araneae: Pholcidae) in North America, Central America, and the West Indies. *Texas Memorial Museum, Speleological Monographs* 1:39-62.
- Gertsch, W. J and S. B. Peck.** 1992. The pholcid spiders of the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador (Araneae: Pholcidae). *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 70:1185-1199.
- Houston, W. W. K and T. A. Weir.** 2002. Australian Biological Resources Study; updated by Calder, A. A. CSIRO Entomology, Canberra, Australia. Updated: 01 Dec 2002. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/abrs/fauna/details.pl?pstrVol=SCARABAEOIDEA;pstrTaxa=354;pstrCh ecklist Mode=2>.
- Huber, B. A.** 1997. On American *Micromerys* and *Metagonia* (Araneae, Pholcidae), with notes on natural history and genital mechanics. *Zoologica Scripta* 25:341-363.
- Huber, B. A.** 2000. New World pholcid spiders (Araneae: Pholcidae): a revision at generic level. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 254:1-348.
- International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature.** 1999. International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Fourth Edition. The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London.
- Kolbe, H. J.** 1899. Ueber neue oder wenig bekannte Arten der Melolonthiden-Gattung *Apogonia* aus Africa. *Entomologische Nachrichten* 25:39-60.
- Prószyński, J.** 2006a. Salticidae (Araneae) of the World, Part II: Catalogue of Salticidae (Araneae), synthesis of quotations in the world literature since 1940, with basic taxonomic data since 1758. Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Ul. Wilcza 64, 0-679 Warsaw, Poland.
- Prószyński, J.** 2006b. Catalogue of Salticidae (Araneae), synthesis of quotations in, the world literature since 1757. Version June, 2006. Available from: <http://salticidae.org/salticid/catalog/Bryantel.htm>.
- Platnick, N. I.** 2007. The world spider catalog, version 6.0. American Museum of Natural History. Last updated June 26, 2007. Available from: <http://research.amnh.org/entomology/spiders/catalog/index.html>.
- Simon, E.** 1893. Etudes arachnologiques. 25e Memoire. XL. Descriptions d'especes et de genres nouveaux de l'ordre des Araneae. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* 62:299-330.