GEONEMUS SCHOENHERR, 1833 AND BRACHYOMUS LACORDAIRE, 1863 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): PROPOSAL TO MAINTAIN CURRENT USAGE BY DESIGNATION OF A TYPE SPECIES FOR GEONEMUS. Z.N.(S.)2565

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In this application, it is proposed that the accustomed usage of the generic names Geonemus Schoenherr, 1833 and Brachyomus Lacordaire, 1863 in the family CURCULIONIDAE be maintained by the designation of an appropriate type species for Geonemus.

2. The name Geophilus was established by Schoenherr (1823, column 1140) with two species listed in column 1141: Geophilus suturalis, cited there as type, but a nomen nudum, and Curculio octotuberculatus Fabricius (1787, p. 112) thus the type species by monotypy. Schoenherr (1826, p. 161) provided a description of the genus and octotuberculatus, from Cayenne, was cited as type species on p. 14, again the only available name of the four listed on p. 162 (including virgatus, cited there as type).

3. Geophilus Schoenherr is a junior homonym of Geophilus Leach, 1814, a myriapod genus (see Neave, 1939, p. 457). Schoenherr (1833, p. 13) replaced it with Geonemus and listed Curculio amictus Wiedemann (1823, p. 123) as type, although by Article 67(h) of the Code the type continues to be C. octotuberculatus. If the designation of amictus were to be upheld, Geonemus would be a senior synonym of the well known genus Rhinoscapha Montrouzier (1855, p. 47). Schoenherr (1834, p. 296) included in the genus Curculio flabellipes Olivier (1807, p. 374) from S. France and Algeria. Schoenherr’s final concept of Geonemus (1834, pp. 289–297) is clearly a mixed assemblage, including species from Europe, the East Indies, the West Indies, and Central and South America. Lacordaire (1863, p. 131) emended the generic name to Geonomus, but this name was not adopted by most subsequent workers.

4. The name Brachyomus was established by Lacordaire (1863, p. 130) to include octotuberculatus and other New World species previously placed in Geonemus, and on pp. 131 and 132 he restricted Geonemus to three Old World species, including flabellipes. This concept of the two genera has been followed by all subsequent authors, e.g. Gemminger & Harold (1871, pp. 2239–2240 & 2240); Bedel (1883, p. 31); Faust (1892, pp. 14–16); Dalla Torre, Emden & Emden (1936, pp. 46–47); Lona (1938, p. 508); Hoffmann (1950, pp. 360–361) and Wibmer & O’Brien (1986, pp. 73–74). Wibmer & O’Brien (1986, p. 73) reported the error, but maintained the current usage to maintain stability and designated octotuberculatus as type species of Brachyomus.
5. According to the rules of nomenclature Geonemus Schoenherr, 1833 and Brachyomus Lacordaire, 1863 are objective synonyms, both having Curculio octotuberculatus Fabricius as the type species. Clearly this confuses the application of both names, and the consequences can be avoided by setting aside the fixation of Curculio octotuberculatus as type of Geonemus and by designating for this genus an Old World type species in accordance with current usage.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all fixations hitherto made of type species for the nominal genus Geonemus Schoenherr, 1833, and then to designate curculio flabellipes Olivier, 1807, as type species, thus removing Brachyomus Lacordaire, 1863 from objective synonymy with Geonemus;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) Geonemus Schoenherr, 1833 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) above, Curculio flabellipes Olivier, 1807;

(b) Brachyomus Lacordaire, 1863 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Wibmer & O'Brien, 1986, Curculio octotuberculatus Fabricius, 1787;

(3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) flabellipes Olivier, 1807, as published in the binomen Curculio flabellipes (specific name of the type species of Geonemus Schoenherr, 1833);

(b) octotuberculatus Fabricius, 1787, as published in the binomen Curculio octotuberculatus (specific name of the type species of Brachyomus Lacordaire, 1863).

REFERENCES


