

Case 3374***Onthophagus sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 (Insecta, Coleoptera):
proposed conservation of the specific name**

Frank-Thorsten Krell

*Department of Zoology, Denver Museum of Nature & Science,
2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205-5798, U.S.A.
(e-mail: Frank.Krell@dmns.org)*

Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of the dung beetle *Onthophagus sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 from China and Vietnam. This name is a junior primary homonym of the forgotten name *Onthophagus sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842 from Europe (Coleoptera, SCARABAEIDAE). *O. sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 has been in regular use since its description whereas *O. sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842 has never been used after its description. It is proposed to conserve the name *O. sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 by suppression of the name *O. sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; SCARABAEIDAE; *Onthophagus*; *Onthophagus sycophanta*; dung beetles; China; Vietnam.

1. In 1842 Mulsant (p. 106) described the dung beetle *Onthophagus sycophanta* as a variety of *Onthophagus tages* (Olivier, 1789). These names are currently regarded as junior subjective synonyms of *Euonthophagus gibbosus* (Scriba, 1790) and *Euonthophagus amyntas* (Olivier, 1789), respectively (Löbl et al., 2006). *Onthophagus sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842 has never been used as a valid name since, not even by the author himself in his second monograph on French Lamellicornia (Mulsant & Rey, 1871). The name was rediscovered during the preparation of the *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera* (Krell, 2006; Löbl et al., 2006, p. 162), but not used as a valid name.

2. Fairmaire (1887, p. 100) named a new dung beetle species from Yunnan *Onthophagus sycophanta*. Since then the name has been in regular use (see Boucomont & Gillet, 1921, p. 47, 1927, p. 148; Boucomont, 1929, p. 768; Balthasar, 1935, p. 325, 1963, p. 545; Wu, 1937, p. 981; Paulian, 1945, p. 98; Kabakov, 1979, p. 76; Kabakov & Yanushev, 1983, p. 158; Zhang, 1993, p. 269; Kabakov & Napolov, 1999, p. 76; Zhang & Luo, 2002, p. 433; Kabakov, 2006, p. 312; Löbl et al., 2006, p. 172). However, the references are too few to meet the conditions for a nomen protectum (Article 23.9.1.2 of the Code – Reversed Precedence). A junior synonym of this species name does not exist. Balthasar (1963) considered the species to be common. It is the type species of the subgenus *Phanaeomorphus* Balthasar, 1963, and is distributed throughout China and Vietnam.

3. *Onthophagus sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887 has been in regular use since its description while the senior homonym *O. sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842 has never been used as valid since its description. Introducing a new name for the junior homonym

O. sycophanta Fairmaire would cause confusion, whereas suppressing the forgotten name would stabilize nomenclature.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the specific name *sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus sycophanta*, and all uses of the name before Fairmaire (1887), for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *sycophanta* Fairmaire, 1887, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus sycophanta*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *sycophanta* Mulsant, 1842, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus sycophanta* and as suppressed in (1) above.

References

- Balthasar, V.** 1935. *Onthophagus*-Arten Chinas, Japans und der angrenzenden Länder. *Folia Zoologica et Hydrobiologica*, **8**: 303–353.
- Balthasar, V.** 1963. *Monographie der Scarabaeidae und Aphodiidae der palaearktischen und orientalischen Region. 2: Coprinae (Onitini, Oniticellini, Onthophagini)*. 628 pp., 15 pls. Verlag der Tschechoslowakischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Prag.
- Boucomont, A.** 1929. A list of coprophagous Coleoptera of China. *Lignan Science Journal*, **7**: 759–794.
- Boucomont, A. & Gillet, G.** 1921. Fam. Scarabaeidae Laparosticti (Coléoptères). *Faune Entomologique de l'Indochine Française*, **4**: 1–76.
- Boucomont, A. & Gillet, J.J.E.** 1927. Fam. Scarabaeidae. Subfam Coprinae. *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, **19**(90): 103–263.
- Fairmaire, L.** 1887. Coléoptères de l'intérieur de la Chine. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique*, **31**: 87–136.
- Kabakov, O.N.** 1979. Obzor plastinchatousykh zhukov podsemeistva Coprinae (Scarabaeidae, Coleoptera) dal'nego vostoka CCCP i sopredel'nykh territorii. Pp. 58–98 in: *Zhuki Dal'nego vostoka i vostochnoi Sibiri*. Akademia Nauk SSSR, Vladivostok.
- Kabakov, O.N.** 2006. *Plastinchatousye Zhuki Podsemeistva Scarabaeinae (Insecta: Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) Fauny Rossii i Sopredel'nykh Stran*. 374 pp. Tovarishestvo Nauchnykh Izdaniy KMK, Moskva.
- Kabakov, O.N. & Napolov, A.** 1999. Fauna and ecology of Lamellicornia of subfamily Scarabaeinae (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae) of Vietnam and some parts of adjacent countries: South China, Laos and Thailand. *Latvijas Entomologs*, **37**: 58–96.
- Kabakov, O.N. & Yanushev, V.V.** 1983. Materialy po faunistike i ekologii zhukov roda *Onthophagus* (Scarabaeidae) iz yugo-vostochnoi Azii. Pp. 156–165 in Medvedev, L.I. (Ed.), *Fauna i Ekologiya Zhivotnykh V'etnama*. Nauka, Moskva.
- Krell, F.-T.** 2006. New nomenclatorial and taxonomic acts, and comments. Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae. P. 32 in Löbl, I. & Smetana, A. (Eds.), *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Vol. 3*. Apollo Books, Stenstrup.
- Löbl, I., Krell, F.-T., Ziani, S. & Král, D.** 2006. Onthophagini. Pp. 159–176 in Löbl, I. & Smetana, A. (Eds.), *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Vol. 3*. Apollo Books, Stenstrup.
- Mulsant, E.** 1842. *Histoire Naturelle des Coléoptères de France. Lamellicornes*. viii, 623 pp., 3 pls. Maisson, Paris.
- Mulsant, E. & Rey, C.** 1871. *Histoire Naturelle des Coléoptères de France. Lamellicornes—Pectinicornes*. 729, 43 pp., 3 pls. Deyrolle, Paris.
- Paulian, R.** 1945. *Faune de l'Empire Français III. Coléoptères Scarabéides de l'Indochine*. 228 pp., 1 map. Librairie Larose, Paris.
- Wu, C.F.** 1937. *Catalogus Insectorum Sinensium*, vol. 3. x, 1312 pp. Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, Peiping.

- Zhang, Y.** 1993. Coleoptera: Geotrupidae, Ochodaeidae, Hybosoridae, Scarabaeidae, Dynastinae and Melolonthidae. Pp. 268–275 in Huang, F. (Ed.), *Insects of Wuling Mountains area, Southwestern China*. x, 777 pp. Science Press, Beijing.
- Zhang, Y.-w. & Luo, X.-n.** 2002. Scarabaeidae. Pp. 428–436 in: *Fauna of Insects in Fujian Province of China*, vol. 6. Fujian Science & Technical Publishing House, Fuzhou.

Acknowledgement of receipt of this publication was published in BZN 63: 85.

Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).



Krell, Frank-Thorsten. 2007. "Case 3374 Onthophagus sycophanta Fairmaire, 1887 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 64, 32–34.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/107007>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/42779>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.