

Case 2757***Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905 for a subgenus of weevils by the suppression of the senior homonym *Rhinapion* Motschulsky. *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq includes species which are seed predators of leguminous plants (wild or cultivated) in sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar.

1. In 1866 Motschulsky used the generic name *Rhynapion* (p. 430) in a list of three coleopteran species from Ceylon (Sri Lanka), none of which were described, and the name is therefore a nomen nudum.

2. Later, Motschulsky (1868, p. 86) used the generic name *Rhinapion* (apparently an emendation for the etymologically incorrect *Rhynapion*) in a list of the taxa which he had described, with the former three undescribed species plus two species described by himself in 1860, i.e. *Apion nigricorne* Motschulsky, 1860 and *A. angulosum* Motschulsky, 1860. Therefore *Rhinapion* Motschulsky, 1868 is available under Article 12b(5) of the Code. This name has not been used since and is a junior subjective synonym of *Oxystoma* Duméril, 1806 (see Alonso-Zarazaga, 1991).

3. In 1905 Beguin-Billecocq described a subgenus *Rhinapion* (p. 147) of the genus *Apion* Herbst, 1797 from Madagascar, including three new species: *Apion oblique-striatum*, *A. insigne* and *A. pauxillum*. No type species was designated. This name is a homonym of *Rhinapion* Motschulsky, 1868 and, in accordance with the Code, should not be used.

4. Kissinger (1968, p. 28) designated *Apion pauxillum* Beguin-Billecocq (1905, p. 149) as the type species of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905. No type species has been designated for *Rhinapion* Motschulsky, 1868.

5. The name *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905 has been used by authors dealing with the Madagascan or African APIONIDAE since its description, either as a subgenus of *Apion* Herbst, 1797 or as a subgenus of *Conapium* Motschulsky, 1866 (also spelt *Conapion*). The genus presently includes 11 species but many others await description. The name *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905 is used by applied entomologists; authors include Beguin-Billecocq (1910, p. 431), Wagner (1910, p. 8; 1912a, p. 24; 1912b, p. 43),

Hustache (1923, p. 89), Burgeon (1938, p. 210), Voss (1959, pp. 53, 64) and Kissinger (1968, pp. 28, 38). A list of three additional references by Voss and a further reference by Wagner have been given to the Commission Secretariat.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Rhinapion* Motschulsky, 1868, and all uses of the name *Rhinapion* prior to that by Beguin-Billecocq (1905), for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905 (gender: neuter), type species by designation by Kissinger (1968) *Apion pauxillum* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *pauxillum* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905, as published in the binomen *Apion pauxillum* (specific name of the type species of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Rhinapion* Motschulsky, 1868, as suppressed in (1) above.

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