Case 3298

Curculio assimilis Paykull, 1792 (currently Ceutorhynchus assimilis; Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of Ceutorhynchus assimilis (Paykull, 1792) for the species commonly known as the ‘cabbage seed weevil’ (family curculionidae), a major pest of oilseed rape. The name Ceutorhynchus assimilis is threatened by three senior primary homonyms Curculio assimilis Fabricius, 1775, C. assimilis Harrer, 1784 and C. assimilis Herbst, 1784.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; curculionidae; Ceutorhynchus assimilis; cabbage seed weevil; oilseed rape pests.

1. The name Curculio assimilis was established by Paykull, 1792 (p. 69) for a species of seed weevil and has been in continuous use for a major pest of oilseed rape (e.g. Reitter, 1916; Balachowsky, 1963; Edwards & Heath, 1964; Schmidt, 1970; Hill, 1987, 1994; Seymour, 1989; Alford, 1999, 2003; Lane & Gladders, 2000; Alford, Nilsson & Ulber, 2003; Williams, 2003). The name is preoccupied by three senior primary homonyms: C. assimilis Fabricius, 1775 (p. 134) (currently Lasiorrhynchus barbicornis (Fabricius, 1775)), C. assimilis Harrer, 1784 (p. 184) (currently Cionus thapsi (Fabricius, 1792)) and C. assimilis Herbst, 1784 (p. 77) (currently Magdalis violacea Linnaeus, 1758), all in the family curculionidae (see WTAXA Electronic Catalogue of Weevil Names (Curculionoidea)). None of the senior homonyms has been used in the genus Ceutorhynchus since 1899.

2. The name Curculio obstrictus Marsham, 1802 (p. 255) was used only once since 1899 (as Ceutorhynchus obstrictus) by Colonnelli (1993), for the cabbage seed weevil, a species for which the name C. assimilis is in prevailing use (see Alford, 2003). Colonnelli (1993) applied the name C. assimilis to a species commonly known as the turnip gall weevil and for which the name Curculio pleurostigma Marsham, 1802 (p. 282) is in prevailing use (see Balachowsky, 1963; Alford, 2003). Usage of the name C. assimilis by Colonnelli (1993) was also invalid since it is a preoccupied name. Therefore, in the interest of stability and particularly because of the economic importance of the taxa involved, it is proposed that the Commission use its plenary power to rule that the specific name of Curculio assimilis Paykull, 1792 (currently Ceutorhynchus assimilis) is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym.

3. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked: (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the name assimilis Paykull, 1792, as published in the binomen Curculio assimilis, is not invalid by reason of being
a junior primary homonym of *assimilis* Fabricius, 1775, *assimilis* Harrer, 1784, and *assimilis* Herbst in Fuessli, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio assimilis*;

(2) to place the name *assimilis* Paykull, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio assimilis*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

References


Acknowledgement of receipt of this application was published in *BZN* 60: 262.

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).

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