Case 2646

_Ptochus_ Schönherr, 1826 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation by confirmation of Marshall's (1916) designation of _Ptochus porcellus_ Bohemian in Schönherr, 1834 as the type species

R. T. Thompson

_Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), London SW7 5BD, U.K._

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name _Ptochus_ Schönherr, 1826 for a weevil genus, by setting aside an overlooked and inadvertent type designation of a misidentified species. In addition the Commission is asked to confirm Marshall's (1916) designation of _Ptochus porcellus_ Bohemian in Schönherr, 1834 as type species. This is in accordance with current usage.

1. _Ptochus_ Schönherr is a genus of some sixty species which occur mainly in the Palaearctic and western Oriental Regions. It is included in each of Schönherr's three major works on the _curculionidæ_. The first of these is his catalogue of 1823. Here (column 1144) the name appears without a description and the two included species, _Ptochus porcellus_ (Schönherr in litt.) (type) and _Omias grandicornis_ Dejean, (1821, p. 96) are both nomina nuda. In his larger work of 1826, the same type designation is proposed on p. 15 and repeated, after a generic description, on p. 188. This would have validated both _Ptochus_ and _porcellus_ (as type) under Article 12b (6) of the Code (combined description) but Schönherr then adds: 'Ejusdem generis est: Cure, inustus Steven seu Omias grandicornis Dej.'. Steven's name is available, having been validly published by Germar (1824, p. 453) in the genus _Polydrusus_, where it stands today. Thus, contrary to Schönherr's intention, under Article 68d of the Code, the type species of _Ptochus_ is _Polydrusus inustus_ Germar by monotypy.

2. In Schönherr's third and major work (1834, pp. 481 et seq.) _Ptochus porcellus_ (p. 483, described by Boheman) and ten other species are described but no type designation is made. _Omias grandicornis_ Dejean appears in the synonymy of _Ptochus bisignatus_ Bohemian in Schönherr but _Polydrusus inustus_ Germar is listed under _Polydrusus_ (as _Polydrosus_) (p. 153), with a footnote: 'Mihi invisus'. The synonymy, first published by Dejean (1821, p. 96), of _inustus_ ('Russia mer.') and _grandicornis_ ('Dalmat.') was clearly based on a misidentification of the former species.

3. The only other type species designation for _Ptochus_ is that of Marshall (1916, p. 259) who cites _P. porcellus_ Bohemian, in accordance with Schönherr's intention and in conformity with all subsequent usage.

4. From the above, it is clear that there is an overwhelming case for nullifying Schönherr's inadvertent type species designation of 1826. Otherwise _Ptochus_ will sink as a synonym of _Polydrusus_; both it, and the family-group name based upon it (Reitter, 1913, p. 12), will have to be replaced, causing considerable confusion.
5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Ptochus* Schönherr, 1826, prior to that by Marshall (1916) of *Ptochus porcellus* Boheman in Schönherr, 1834;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Ptochus* Schönherr, 1826 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Marshall (1916) *Ptochus porcellus* Boheman in Schönherr, 1834;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *porcellus* Boheman in Schönherr, 1834, as published in the binomen *Ptochus porcellus* (specific name of the type species of *Ptochus* Schönherr, 1826).

Acknowledgement

The author gratefully acknowledges the help and advice of Dr R. B. Madge (CAB International Institute of Entomology) in preparing this case.

References


https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.476.

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44487
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.476
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/476

Holding Institution
Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by
Natural History Museum Library, London

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