REPLACEMENT NAMES
FOR TWO PREOCCUPIED BEETLE GENERA
(COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: MELOLONTHINAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: Two junior homonyms were detected amongst the genera of Melolonthinae and the following replacement names are proposed: Brittonius nom. nov. for Bryantella Britton, 1957 and Bezdekiá nom. nov. for Metagonia Kolbe, 1899. Accordingly, new combinations are herein proposed for the species currently included in these genera.

KEY WORDS: Nomenclatural changes, homonymy, replacement names, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae

The purpose of the present paper is to bring the taxonomy of Melolonthinae scarabs into accordance with the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999). In an effort to reduce the number of homonyms in Melolonthinae, we recently found two genus group names which had been previously published for spider taxa, making them junior homonyms. In accordance with Article 60 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, we propose substitute names.

Order Coleoptera, Family Scarabaeidae, Subfamily Melolonthinae
Tribe Automoliini

Genus Brittonius nom. nov.


Nomenclatural Remarks: The Bryantella Britton, 1957 was established for an Australian genus (type species, Bryantella castanea Britton, 1957) of the Coleoptera. It is still used as a valid genus name in the family Scarabaeidae (e.g. Houston and Weir, 2002). Currently, the genus includes only one named species, Bryantella castanea Britton, 1957 [Australian Region: W Australia (NW coastal, SW coastal)]. Nevertheless, the name Bryantella is preoccupied. Chickering (1946) established a spider genus Bryantella, with the type species Bryantella speciosa Chickering, 1946 in the Araneae. Also, it is still used as a valid genus name in the family Salticidae (e.g. Prószyński, 2003, 2006a,b; Platnick, 2007). Currently, the genus includes three named species: Bryantella smaragdus (Crane, 1945) [Argentina, British Guyana, Panama], Bryantella speciosa Chickering, 1946 [Brasil, Panama] and Bryantella tropica (Peckham and Peckham, 1901) [Brasil, North Argentina]. Thus, the beetle genus Bryantella Britton, 1957 is a junior homonym of the genus Bryantella Chickering, 1946.

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In accordance with Article 60 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Fourth Edition (1999), we suggest here that the name Brittonius should be erected as a replacement name for Bryantella Britton, 1957, not Bryantella Chickering, 1946.

**Etymology:** from E. B. Britton, author of the preexisting genus name Bryantella. It is masculine in gender.


**Tribe Diplotaxini**

**Genus Bezdekia nom. nov.**


**Nomenclatural Remarks:** Kolbe (1899) described three new subgenera within the beetle genus Apogonia Kirby, 1819: Catagonia, Ceratogonia, and Metagonia. In his catalogue, Bezdik (2004a) accepted the provisional generic treatment as proposed by Moser (1918) and Burgeon (1945) concerning the former subgenera of the genus Apogonia Kirby, 1819. This means that Ceratogonia Kolbe, 1899; Metagonia Kolbe, 1899; Rhynchogonia Arrow, 1902; and Dichecephala Brenske, 1895 (=Catagonia Kolbe, 1899) are assumed to be valid genera. In his catalogue, Bezdik (2004) also designated the species Metagonia mediocris (Kolbe, 1891) as the type species of Metagonia Kolbe, 1899. Bezdik (2004b) stated that the tribe Diplotaxini Burmeister, 1855 is one of the least studied Melolonthine groups in Old World. Bezdek (2004b) listed 422 valid species and subspecies distributed in the Palaearctic, Oriental, and Ethiopian Regions. Over 300 species are placed in the genus Apogonia Kirby, 1819, which will most probably be subdivided into several independent genera during revisionary works. In his paper, Bezdik also mentioned that the subgenus Catagonia Kolbe, 1899, was subsequently synonymized with the genus Dichecephala Brenske, 1895, by Arrow in Scott (1940). Moreover, Arrow (1902) created an additional subgenus Rhynchogonia. In his revision of Diplotaxini from Belgian Congo (currently Democratic Republic of the Congo), Burgeon (1945) elevated the taxa Ceratogonia, Dichecephala, Metagonia, and Rhynchogonia to the generic level. Unfortunately, the generic name, Metagonia, was already preoccupied by Simon (1893), who had described the genus Metagonia with the type species Metagonia bifida Simon, 1893 in the spider family Pholcidae (Araneae). It is still used as a valid genus name in the family Pholcidae (e.g. Gertsch, 1971, 1977, 1986; Gertsch and Peck, 1992; Huber 1997; Huber 2000; Platnick, 2007). The genus Metagonia Simon, 1893 is very rich. For the present, the genus includes 81 species. Thus, the genus Metagonia Kolbe, 1899 is a junior homonym of the genus Metagonia Simon, 1893 (Araneae). We propose a new replacement name Bezdekia nom. nov. for Metagonia Kolbe, 1899.
Etymology: The name “Bezdekia” dedicated to well-known coleopterist Ales Bezdič (Czech Republic).


LITERATURE CITED


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