DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENERA OF AUSTRALIAN PAROPSINE BEETLES (COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)

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Abstract

Type species are listed for all Australian genera in the subtribe Paropsina, including necessary first designations for Chrysophlharta Weise, Faex Weise, Notoclea Marsham, Pyrgoides gen. nov., Sterromela Weise, Trachymela Weise and Trochalodes Weise. The synonymy of Notoclea with Paropsis Olivier, and Pyrgoides with Acacicola Lea are confirmed. A new species synonym is recorded: Paropsis hamadryas Stål = Acacicola tristis Lea.

Introduction
The paropsine chrysomelids are among the most diverse and taxonomically intricate group of beetles associated with natural vegetation in Australian. A few paropsines have in recent years become serious pests in eucalypt plantations in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Many of the 450 described species have been allocated uncritically to genus and the genera themselves have not always been delineated clearly. This paper is a start towards resolving these taxonomic problems.

The genus Paropsis was erected by Olivier (1807) for 14 Australian chrysomelid species. Marsham (1808) erected the genus Notoclea with 20 species which were incorporated into Paropsis by Olivier (1825). Subsequently, Boisduval (1835), Erichson (1842), Germain (1848), Boheman (1858), Stål (1860), Clark (1864, 1866), Baly (1864), Chapuis (1877) and Blackburn (1890–1901) added large numbers of species to the genus, so that by 1916, 406 species were listed from Australia (Weise, 1916). Since 1916, a number of species have been described by Weise (1817, 1923), Lea (1924), Gressitt (1963) and Selman (1983), and the current total is about 450 species.

This large number of rather similar species, many with quite inadequate descriptions, has made identification by later workers very difficult. Several attempts have been made to split Paropsis into smaller groups. Motschulsky (1960) split three genera from Paropsis, namely Dicranosterna, Niliosoma, and Paropsisterna. Blackburn, in a series of papers (1897a–1901) arranged Paropsis into five “subgroups” and a number of “subgroups” while still retaining the genus Paropsis for all species. Weise (1901–1915) split Paropsis into nine genera: Sterromela Weise, Trochalodes Weise, and Dicranosterna Motschulsky in the tribe Dicranosternini Weise and Paropsis Olivier, Paropsisterna Motschulsky, Chrysophlharta Weise, Trachymela Weise, Faex Weise, Procis Weise, Philhydronopa Weise and Pyrgo Weise in the tribe Paropsinini Weise. Most of these genera are poorly diagnosed with no accompanying illustrations. Some are defined only by the species that Weise placed in them and most lack designated type species.

Daccordi (1994) presented a checklist of world chrysomeline genera and made several new synonymous designations in the paropsine genera, thus at present 15 Australian genera are considered valid.

For this paper type specimens were examined for most designated type species and where none was available specimens named by Blackburn or Lea were used. The validity of these genera is not discussed here.
Australian generic names in the Paropsina (sensu Daccordi, 1994), with designated type species

The name Coccinelloides Latreille is not listed below. Selman (1963) following Weise (1916) claimed that this is an available generic-rank name based on a species, “australasiae”, without authorship. He then decided that Chrysomela australasiae Fabricius was the intended species and declared this to be the type species. We believe that the phrase “coccinelloides australasiae” of Latreille (1807:58) was never meant to be generic but was merely descriptive and this is clearly how Latreille uses the term “coccinelloides” in a later work (1825: 10).

Acacicola Lea, 1902: 392
Type species. Acacicola tritis Lea, 1903 by monotypy.

Chondromela Weise, 1915: 435
Type species. Chondromela mjoebergi Weise, 1915 by monotypy.

Chrysophtharta Weise, 1901: 165
Type species. Weise (1901) did not nominate a type species but listed six species. The first of these, Paropsis nobilitata Erichson, 1842, is here designated type species.

Diceranosterna Motschulsky, 1860: 193
Type species. Paropsis picea Olivier, 1807 by original designation.

Facex Weise 1901: 165
Type species. Weise (1901) did not designate a type species but listed three species names. The first, Paropsis notatipennis Chapuis, 1877 is here designated type species.

Niliosoma Motschulsky, 1860: 194
Type species. Paropsis testacea Olivier, 1807 by original designation. This species is unrecognisable and the type is apparently lost. Niliosoma is therefore a nomen dubium and unusable, but in any case it has always been ignored by Australian workers.

Notoclea Marsham, 1808: 283
Type species. Marsham described 20 species in this genus but failed to designate a type. Notoclea obsoleta Marsham, 1808 is hereby designated type species. Notoclea obsoleta is a junior synonym and homonym of Paropsis obsoleta Olivier, 1808 therefore synonymy of the two genera is confirmed (Daccordi, 1994).

Novacastria Selman, 1983a: 129
Type species. Novacastria nothofagi Selman, 1983 by original designation and monotypy.

Paropsides Motschulsky, 1860: 192
Type species. Paropsis diodeccimopulata Gebler, 1825 by original designation.

Paropsis Olivier, 1807: 596
Type species. Paropsis obsoleta Olivier, 1807 by subsequent designation (Selman, 1963).

Paropsisterna Motschulsky, 1860: 192
Type species. Notoclea sexpustulaia Marsham, 1808 by original designation.

Philhydronopa Weise, 1901: 166
Type species. Paropsis aeneipennis Chapuis, 1877 by original designation.

Procrisina Aslam, 1968: 129

Procris Weise, 1901: 165, nec Fabricius, 1807 (junior homonym).


Clorindiella Jolivet, 1971: 382 (unecessary nom. nov.).

Type species. Paropsis pictipennis Boheman, 1858 by original designation (Weise, 1901).

Pyrgoides gen. nov.

Pyrgo Weise 1901: 166, nec Defrance, 1824 (junior homonym).

Pyrgoides Aslam, 1968: 129 (nomen nudum, no type species)

Type species. The name Pyrgoides was proposed by Aslam (1968) as a replacement name for the preoccupied Pyrgo Weise. Published after 1930 Aslam’s name is unavailable as no type species was designated (ICZN Article 13(b)). We make it available here. Weise (1901) did not designate a type species of Pyrgo but listed a number of species to be included in his genus. Paropsis hamadryas Stål, 1860, one of these, is hereby designated type species. This species is a senior synonym of Acacicola tritis Lea (syn. nov.; types examined), thereby confirming synonymy of Pyrgoides with Acacicola Lea (Daccordi, 1994).
**Rhaebosterna** Weise, 1917: 124

Type species. *Rhaebosterna sciola* Weise, 1917 by monotypy.

**Sterromela** Weise, 1915: 436

Type species. Weise (1915) placed four species of *Paropsis* in *Sterromela* without designating a type species. The first named of these, *Paropsis subcostata* Chapuis, 1877 is here designated type species.

**Trochalodes** Weise, 1901: 167

Type species. No type species was designated by Weise (1901) but three species were named, two erroneously. The first and only correctly named species, *Paropsis cirec Stål, 1860 is here designated the type species.

**Trachymela** Weise, 1908: 8

Type species. No type species was designated by Weise but he listed three species names and, by inference, all species in Blackburn’s Group III of *Paropsis*. One of the listed names, *Paropsis sloanei* Blackburn 1897, is here designated type species.

**Xanthogramma** Weise, 1923: 63

Type species. *Xanthogramma pellucida* Weise, 1923 by monotypy.

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