

Case 2676***Ochthebius* Leach, 1815 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of *Elophorus marinus* Paykull, 1798 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve *Elophorus marinus* Paykull, 1798 as the nominal type species of the water beetle genus *Ochthebius* Leach, 1815, since the first type species designation makes the genus a junior objective synonym of *Hydraena* Kugelann, 1794.

1. Leach (1815, pp. 95–96) erected the genus *Ochthebius* with two included species: (i) "*Hydraena riparia* Illiger, Latr." (with the synonyms "*Elophorus* [sic] *pygmaeus* [sic] Paykull", "*Elophorus* [sic] *minimus* Fabr." and "*Hydrophilus impressus* Marsham") and (ii) "*Elophorus marinus* Paykull" (with the synonyms "*Hydraena margipalleus* Latr." and "*Hydrophilus margipalleus* Marsh."). No type species was designated by Leach.

2. The first designation of a type species was by Brullé (1835, p. 308) who designated "*Ochthebius riparius* Illig." (with the synonyms "*Hydraena riparia*" and "*Elophorus pygmaeus* Gyllenh."). However, *Hydraena riparia* was not described as a new species by Illiger, which is obvious from his (1798, p. 279) reference to "Kugelann.Schneid. M.579", so the species is really *Hydraena riparia* Kugelann, 1794. This species is the type species of *Hydraena* Kugelann, 1794 by monotypy. Thus although Leach and Brullé wrongly attributed Kugelann's species, *Ochthebius* is formally a junior objective synonym of *Hydraena*, a name in current use and the type genus of the HYDRAENIDAE.

3. Other authors, e.g. Hope (1839, p. 148), Westwood (1840, p. 9), Chenu (1853, p. 239) and Thomson (1859, p. 15), have designated what they apparently considered to be the same species as the type species of *Ochthebius*, but under the name *pygmaeus* Fabricius. These designations might be considered valid if Brullé's designation were to be suppressed, as Leach included *pygmaeus* Paykull as a synonym of *riparia*, and because Paykull (1798, p. 245) in his description of *pygmaeus* clearly refers to it as a Fabrician species ("Fabr.Ent.Syst.I.p.205.7 . . ."). Also Gyllenhal (1808, p. 133) clearly credits "his" *pygmaeus* (cf. para. 2) to Fabricius ("Fabr.syst.eleut.I.278.7"). Thus, according to the designation of Hope, followed by subsequent authors mentioned above, the type of *Ochthebius* would be *Elophorus pygmaeus* Fabricius, 1792. Unfortunately this was also a misidentified species, which later was identified as *Helophorus granularis* (Linnaeus, 1761), as confirmed by Angus (1969, p. 3).

4. Kuwert (1887) divided *Ochthebius* into a number of subgenera, placing *pygmaeus* Gyllenhal (with the synonyms "*riparius* Ill." and "*impressus* Bedl.") in a new subgenus *Homalochthebius* (p. 383), and *marinus* Paykull in *Ochthebius sensu stricto* (p. 384).

Perkins (1980, pp. 293, 388) indicated that *Homalochthebius* should be synonymised with the subgenus *Asiobates* Thomson, 1859, but he still maintained this and *Ochthebius* s.str. as separate subgenera.

5. Knisch (1924, p. 7) designated *Hydrophilus impressus* Marsham, 1802 as the type species of *Ochthebius*, but quite inconsistently he followed Kuwert in placing this species in *Homalochthebius* (p. 17) and *marinus* Paykull in *Ochthebius* s.str. (p. 27).

6. In an attempt to conserve the accustomed usage of the subgeneric names Orchymont (1942, p. 2) designated *Elophorus marinus* Paykull, 1798 as the type species of *Ochthebius*.

7. The name *Ochthebius* Leach has now been used for more than 150 years for a well known and widely distributed water beetle genus, comprising more than 300 described species. Some authors have separated the two originally included species into different subgenera (of *Ochthebius*, with wrong priority since *Hydraena* is senior), with *marinus* consistently placed in *Ochthebius* s.str. A list of 15 representative references is held by the Commission Secretariat.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Ochthebius* Leach, 1815 prior to that by Orchymont (1942) of *Elophorus marinus* Paykull, 1798;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Ochthebius* Leach, 1815 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Orchymont (1942) *Elophorus marinus* Paykull, 1798, as ruled in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *marinus* Paykull, 1798, as published in the binomen *Elophorus marinus* (specific name of the type species of *Ochthebius* Leach, 1815).

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