Case 2713

Colydiidae Erichson, 1842 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over Cerylonidae Billberg, 1820 and Orthocerini Blanchard, 1845 (1820); and Cerylon Latreille, 1802: proposed conservation of Lyctus histeroides Fabricius, 1792 as the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the usage of the beetle family-group name Colydiidae Erichson, 1842 by giving it precedence over the senior names Cerylonidae Billberg, 1820 and Orthocerini Blanchard, 1845 (1820). Additionally, it is proposed to maintain the nominal genus Cerylon Latreille, 1802 in its current usage by designation of Lyctus histeroides Fabricius, 1792 as the type species.

1. The genus Colydiium was established by Fabricius (1792, p. 495) with four included species, among them Bostrichus elongatus Fabricius, 1787 (p. 36; the generic name was printed Bostrichus in error). Latreille (1810, p. 431) designated B. elongatus as the type species of Colydiium. Erichson (1842, p. 213) formed the family COLYDIIDAE (as Colydiid); he based this name on Colydiium which he mentioned earlier in his paper (p. 114) but not on the pages where the family-group name was given. Erichson (1845, p. 251) later discussed the family in more detail and included a number of subordinate family-group names.

2. The genus Orthocerus was established by Latreille (1796, p. 16) who gave a description but did not include any species. Later (Latreille, 1807, p. 172) he used this generic name for Tenebrio hirticornis De Geer, 1775 (p. 47), which thus became the type species of Orthocerus by subsequent monotypy. Blanchard (1845, p. 29) established a new family which he called ‘Orthocérites’, based on the genus Orthocerus. Reitter (1882, p. 116) was the next worker to use Orthocerus as the basis for a family-group name, the tribe ORTHOCERINI.

3. Illiger (1798, p. 339) established a new genus Sarrotrium with only one nominal species, Hispa mutica Linnaeus, 1767 (p. 604); Linnaeus (1767) had introduced that name as an unnecessary replacement for Dermestes clavicornis Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 355). Billberg (1820, p. 9) listed Sarrotrium in a separate family (‘Natio Sarrotriides’).

4. When De Geer (1775) described Tenebrio hirticornis, the type species of Orthocerus (para. 2 above), he gave both Dermestes clavicornis and Hispa mutica as synonyms. Sarrotrium is a junior subjective synonym of Orthocerus, and it has not been used this century. Accordingly, the family-group names based on Sarrotrium and Orthocerus are also subjective synonyms. With one exception ORTHOCERINI has been in universal use since Reitter (1882). Under Article 40b of the Code it should be retained, but given the precedence of the senior synonym, i.e. recorded as ORTHOCERINI Blanchard, 1845 (1820). The exception is Burakowski, Mroczkowski &
Stefanśka (1986) who resurrected the name SARROTRINI, having apparently not noticed the effect of Article 40b in either the 1985 or 1964 Codes; Burakowski also used SARROTRINI in a paper jointly with Slipinski (1986).

5. The genus Cerylon was established by Latreille (1802, p. 205), with ‘Lyctus terebrans Fabricius’ as the single included species; this species is Ips terebrans Olivier, 1790 (no. 18, p. 5). However, Latreille himself (1810, p. 431) later gave Lyctus histeroides Fabricius, 1792 (p. 504) as the type species of the genus. This was not an originally included species, but has always been accepted as the type species. Lawrence & Stephan (1975, p. 157) and Dajoz (1976, p. 261) expressly noted Lyctus histeroides as the type species of Cerylon; other authors have used Cerylon in the same sense (e.g. Arnett, 1968; Lucht, 1987; Pope, 1977; the Commission Secretariat holds a list of a further 15 works by 17 authors over the last 35 years illustrating the current usage of Cerylon). Billberg (1820, p. 47) included Cerylon (based upon C. histeroides) in a new family, called ‘Natio Cerylonides’.

6. Ips terebrans Olivier, the type species of Cerylon by monotypy, is currently included in the genus Pycnомерus Erichson, 1845 (cf. Burakowski, Mroczkowski & Stefanśka, 1986; Lucht, 1987), a genus which is the base for the tribe PycnомерINI Erichson, 1845 (p. 290). This tribe has been included in the COLYDIdae from the very beginning, and is still considered to belong there (Lawrence, 1980). To change the name Pycnомерus to Cerylon would merely create confusion.

7. Ever since Erichson (1845) Orthocerus has been included in the COLYDIdae (subfamily COLYDIINAE), and there have not been any suggestions to remove it (cf. Lawrence, 1980). Erichson (1845, p. 293) also included Cerylon in the COLYDIdae. Following Crowson (1955) many systematists have considered the CERYLONIDAE to be a separate family (cf. Pal & Lawrence, 1986), but other workers have continued to list CERYLONINAE as a subfamily within the COLYDIdae (cf. Lucht, 1987).

8. The name COLYDIdae is commonly used, although opinions vary as to its limitation (e.g. Arnett, 1968, p. 839; Dajoz, 1977, p. 37; Pope, 1977, p. 65; the Commission Secretariat holds a list of 10 further references by 11 authors over the last 35 years using COLYDIdae). Under the Principle of Priority it should be replaced by ORTHOCERIDAE; if CERYLONIDAE is not considered to denote a separate family it would also replace COLYDIdae. To replace COLYDIdae by ORTHOCERIDAE or CERYLONIDAE would cause considerable confusion and nomenclatural instability.

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

(1) to use its plenary powers:

(a) to rule that the family-group name COLYDIdae Erichson, 1842 is to be given precedence over the names ORTHOCERIDAE Blanchard, 1845 (1820) and CERYLONIDAE Billberg, 1820 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;

(b) to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus Cerylon Latreille, 1802 and to designate Lyctus histeroides Fabricius, 1792 as the type species;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) Colydiunm Fabricius, 1792 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Latreille (1810) Bostrichus elongatus Fabricius, 1787;
(b) Cerylon Latreille, 1802 (gender: neuter), type species by designation in (1)(b) above Lyctus histeroides Fabricius, 1792;
(c) Orthocerus Latreille, 1796 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent monotypy Tenebrio hirticornis De Geer, 1775 (a junior subjective synonym of Dermestes clavicornis Linnaeus, 1758);

(3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
(a) elongatus, Fabricius, 1787, as published in the binomen ‘Bostricillus’ (= Bostrichus) elongatus, specific name of the type species of Colydium Fabricius, 1792;
(b) histeroides, Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen Lyctus histeroides, specific name of the type species of Cerylon Latreille, 1802;
(c) clavicornis, Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen Dermestes clavicornis (senior subjective synonym of Tenebrio hirticornis De Geer, 1775, the type species of Orthocerus Latreille, 1796);

(4) to place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
(a) COLYDIIDAE Erichson, 1842 (type genus Colydium Fabricius, 1792) with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over CERYLONIDAE Billberg, 1820 and ORTHOCERINI Blanchard, 1845 (1820) whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
(b) CERYLONIDAE Billberg, 1820 (type genus Cerylon Latreille, 1802) with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over COLYDIIDAE Erichson, 1842 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
(c) ORTHOCERINI Blanchard, 1845 (1820) (type genus Orthocerus Latreille, 1796) with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over COLYDIIDAE Erichson, 1842 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;

(5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name SARROTRIIDAE Billberg, 1820 (type genus Sarrotrium Illiger, 1798) (replaced before 1961 as a name based on a junior generic synonym).

References


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