

**BAEOCERA ERICHSON, 1845 (COLEOPTERA, SCAPHIDIIDAE)
REQUEST FOR THE DESIGNATION OF TYPE-SPECIES IN
HARMONY WITH THE INTENTION OF ITS AUTHOR. Z.N.(S.)
2194.**

By Ivan Löbl (*Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Genève, Switzerland*)

Erichson (1845) erected the genus *Baeocera* for a North American species that he identified as *Scaphidium concolor* Fabricius, 1801, and for a related unnamed species from Mexico. The genus *Cyparium* Erichson, based on a Mexican species, *Cyparium palliatum* Erichson, was described in the same paper, above *Baeocera*. He compared *Baeocera* with *Scaphisoma* Leach and characterized it by "Antennae capillares, articulis 3. - 8. subaequalibus, ultimus tribus crassioribus ...", *Cyparium* was held to be related to *Scaphidium* Olivier in having, "Antennae clavatae, clava 5 articulata, continua ...". Since then, numerous New and Old World species have been recognized and placed in both genera which exhibit many good distinguishing characters, those noted by Erichson and others besides, permitting their separation even without use of magnification. Both genera are placed in different tribes and were never confused by later students.

2. Achard (1920) studied the type-specimen of *Scaphidium concolor* F., then preserved in the Bosc collection (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris), but now lost or untraceable, and stated its identity with *Cyparium flavipes* Le Conte. This Nearctic species is congeneric with *C. palliatum* Erichson, the type-species of *Cyparium* by monotypy. He proposed a new name *falsata* for the species described as *Baeocera concolor* by Erichson (1845) and Casey (1893) and introduced into the keys by Casey (1900) and Blatchley (1910). Thus Achard showed that *Baeocera* was based on a misidentified type-species and for that reason reference to the Commission is now necessary. Achard (1924) and ensuing authors until 1967 continued to use *Baeocera* and *Cyparium* for the two distinct genera, in harmony with Erichson's intention.

3. *Baeocera falsata* Achard, as described by Casey as *Baeocera concolor* and then by Cornell as *Eubaeocera youngi* (Löbl, 1976) is a rather common and widely expanded Nearctic species. It agrees with the characters noted for *Baeocera* by Erichson and it might be the species named by Erichson *concolor*. The single original specimen of Erichson's "concolor" is preserved in the Zoologisches Museum, Berlin but is a female in very poor condition so that I could not settle its true identity.

4. Cornell (1967) designated a lectotype for *Cyparium flavipes* Le Conte and selected this lectotype as neotype of *Scaphidium concolor* Fabricius; he assumed that *Baeocera* is

restricted to *concolor* and introduced the new genus *Eubaeocera*, with type-species *Baeocera abdominalis* Casey, for *Baeocera* of workers later than Erichson. Cornell placed in *Eubaeocera* all Nearctic species described in *Baeocera* and added several new ones, except *falsata* which seems to be for him an unavailable name. About Achard's action he said "For unknown reasons he then renamed *B. concolor* (F.) as *Baeocera falsata* Achard". although Achard had clearly said that he was renaming *conolor* Erichson *non* Fabricius. During the following years I have transferred the Palaearctic and Oriental *Baeocera* species to *Eubaeocera* and described 35 new ones in this genus.

5. Recent studies (Löbl, 1977) have proved that *Sciatrophes latens* Blackburn from Australia, which is poorly represented in collections, and which is type-species of the little known genus *Sciatrophes* Blackburn, 1903, is congeneric with *Baeocera abdominalis* Casey. Thus *Sciatrophes* Blackburn has to be regarded as a senior subjective synonym of *Eubaeocera* Cornell.

6. *Baeocera* is a long familiar name denoting a large and widely represented genus. With regard to the (under the Code) incorrect action of Cornell and because I believe that the name *Baeocera* should be conserved in its original sense for the stability and uniformity of the nomenclature of the group, the Commission is asked to take the following actions:-

- (a) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Baeocera* Erichson, 1845, hitherto made and to designate *Baeocera falsata* Achard, 1920, to be the type-species of that genus;
- (b) to place the generic name *Baeocera* Erichson, 1845 (gender: feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (a) above, *Baeocera falsata* Achard, 1920, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (c) to place the specific name *falsata* Achard, 1920, as published in the binomen *Baeocera falsata* (specific name of type-species of *Baeocera* Erichson, 1845) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

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