

SOME CORRECTIONS TO THE GENERIC RECORDS OF
CENTRAL AMERICAN EUMOLPINAE (CHRYSOMELIDAE:
COLEOPTERA)

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Seeno & Wilcox (1982) list 56 genera of Eumolpinae (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) as occurring in Central America. As part of an ongoing project on the Eumolpinae of Costa Rica, I have found that eight of these generic records are probably incorrect since they are based on species that have been transferred to other genera or are based on very doubtful records. Since study and identification of Central American Eumolpinae is difficult enough without worrying about genera that do not in fact occur there, I feel it worth while to review these questionable records.

Agbalus Chapuis 1874:242. Type species *Agbalus sericeus* Chapuis by monotypy. Valid genus, South America.

Hylax Lefèvre 1884:xliv. Type species *Amasis chalcarratus* Chapuis by monotypy. Valid genus, Central and South America.

Bechyné (1950a) restricted this genus to its type species, *A. sericeus* Chapuis from Brazil, transferring all other species to *Hylax* Lefèvre. Those other species, including

chalybaeus chiriquiensis Jacoby, *hoegei* Jacoby, *mexicanus* Jacoby, *puncticollis* Jacoby, *quadriplagiatus* Jacoby, *tenebrosus* Jacoby, and *viridis* Bowditch from Central America are listed under *Hylax* in the Bechyné (1953) catalog of the Eumolpinae.

Chalcoplacis Chevrolat 1837:433. Type species *Colaspis fulgurans* Klug by monotypy. [*C. incerta* Dejean, designated as type species by Chevrolat 1845, is a *nomen nudum*. Subsequent designation of *Lamprosphaerus abdominalis* Baly as type species by Baly 1875 is unnecessary and invalid.] Valid genus, South America.

Parachalcoplacis Bechyné 1950a:268. Type species *Lamprosphaerus mrazi* Bechyné by original designation. Synonym of *Chalcoplacis* (Monrós & Bechyné 1956).

Lamprosphaerus Baly 1859:124. Type species *Lamprosphaerus abdominalis* Baly by original designation. Valid genus, Central and South America.

Antitypona Weise 1921:17. Type species *Lamprosphaerus collaris* Baly by original designation. Valid genus, Central and South America.

Neochalcoplacis Bechyné 1950a:268. Type species *Chalcoplacis dimidiata* Lefèvre by original designation. Valid genus, South America.

Chalcoplacis is in the center of a very tangled nomenclatural web. Baly began it by designating the species *Lamprosphaerus abdominalis* Baly as the type species first for his genus *Lamprosphaerus* (Baly 1859), then for Chevrolat's *Chalcoplacis* (Baly 1865). Weise (1921) resolved this problem by restricting the definition of *Chalcoplacis* to *Chalcoplacis incerta* Chevrolat, the species designated as type species by Chevrolat (1845), and establishing the genus *Antitypona* with Baly's *Lamprosphaerus collaris* as the type species. Weise also stipulated that all *Lamprosphaerus* then listed in the *Coleopterorum Catalogus* (Clavareau 1914) are *Antitypona* and all *Chalcoplacis* in that catalog are *Lamprosphaerus*.

Bechyné (1950a) erected a new genus *Neochalcoplacis*, designating *Chalcoplacis dimidiata* Lefèvre as the type species, including two species from Central America [*N. constituta* Bechyné and *N. fulvipes* (Jacoby)], and erected the subgenus *Parachalcoplacis* for a South American species. In the Bechyné's 1953 catalog, *Parachalcoplacis* became a valid genus including numerous South American species described by Bechyné or transferred by him from *Antitypona* and *Lamprosphaerus*. However, both of the Central American species (*constituta* and *fulvipes*) were transferred to *Lamprosphaerus*. *Neochalcoplacis* was now restricted to its type species.

Monrós & Bechyné (1956) identified *Colaspis fulgurans* Klug as the type species of *Chalcoplacis* (by monotypy), stated that *Chalcoplacis incerta* Chevrolat was a *nomen nudum*, and synonymized *Parachalcoplacis* with *Chalcoplacis* (but they did not synonymize *Neochalcoplacis*, as stated by Seeno & Wilcox 1982). *Colaspis fulgurans* had previously been designated as the type species of *Parachalcoplacis* (Bechyné 1950a). Thus, both *Chalcoplacis* and *Neochalcoplacis* are valid genera but neither is known from Central America at present. On the other hand, *Lamprosphaerus* and *Antitypona* are valid and widespread Central American genera.

Corysthea Baly 1865:336. Type species *Corysthea ferox* Baly by monotypy. Valid genus, South America.

The single Central American species, *Corysthea violacea* described by Jacoby (1882), was transferred to *Hylax* by Bechyné (1953) and renamed *pseudoviolaceus* (Bechyné 1955) since the specific epithet *violaceus* was preoccupied by *Hylax auratus violaceus* (Jacoby). No species of *Corysthea* are presently known from Central America.

Coytiera Lefèvre 1875:116. Type species *Coytiera marginicollis* Lefèvre by monotypy. Valid genus, South America.

Euphrytus Jacoby 1881:124. Type species *Euphrytus aeneus* Jacoby, designated by Bechyné (1950a). Valid genus, Central America.

Bechyné (1953) transferred *Colaspis melancholica* Jacoby to this genus. In 1957, he transferred three other Jacoby *Coytiera* species, *costata* Jacoby, *fulvipes* Jacoby, and *rugipennis* Jacoby to the genus *Euphrytus* Jacoby, thus leaving *melancholica* as the only valid Central American *Coytiera*. In 1969, Bechyné & Bechyné again moved *melancholica*, this time to the genus *Freudeita* Bechyné, based, in their opinion, on the structure of the antenna (see below for further discussion of this species). No valid species of *Coytiera* are presently known to exist in Central America.

Freudeita Bechyné 1950b:241. Type species *Colaspis parallina* Erichson, by original designation. Valid genus, South America.

Bechyné (1953) and Wilcox (1985) list the species *F. dentifera* Bechyné from Costa Rica. Bechyné & Bechyné (1969) also transferred *Coytiera melancholica* (Jacoby) and *Colaspis balyi* Jacoby to *Freudeita*, and noted the similarity of both species to *F. dentifera*. Blake (1976) treated *melancholica*, *balyi*, and six closely related species as a species complex within *Colaspis*. She ignored (as was her custom) all Bechyné's work and mentioned neither *F. dentifera* nor other South American *Freudeita* that Bechyné described as similar to *dentifera*. In Bechyné's (1950b) original description of *Freudeita*, the defining character is described as antennae with middle segments noticeably wider than either basal or apical segments. This character is readily apparent in the South American species originally placed in *Freudeita* (Bechyné 1950b) but is very weakly developed in *melancholica*—as the Bechynés themselves admitted. Although Blake's across-the-board dismissal of everything Bechyné wrote was, on occasion, excessive and incorrect, I agree in this case that the *melancholica* complex is better left in *Colaspis*. Based on published descriptions, *dentifera* is close to *C. melancholica* and *C. spinigera* Blake (all three have a subapical spine on the hind tibia of the male); accordingly Bechyné's species is now *Colaspis dentifera* (Bechyné) **new combination**.

Ischyrolamprina Bechyné 1950a:265. Type species *Spintherophyta lampros* Lefèvre by original designation. Valid genus, South America.

Ischyrolampra Lefèvre 1885:166 [Name for *Eulampra* Baly which was preoccupied]

Type species *Eulampra batesi* Baly by monotypy. Valid genus, South America.

Agrosterina Harold 1875:103. Type species *Agrosterina buphthalma* Harold by monotypy. Valid genus, Central and South America.

This was originally described as a subgenus of *Ischyrolampra* Lefèvre, which included *I. panamensis* Jacoby from Panamá. In his catalog, Bechyné (1953) transferred *I. panamensis* to the genus *Agrosterina* Harold. Wilcox (1983) apparently missed this change and listed *panamensis* as *Ischyrolampra*, and this was perpetuated in the Seeno & Wilcox list. All valid species now included in both *Ischyrolamprina* and *Ischyrolampra* are South American.

Longeumolpus Springlová 1960:5. Type species *Eumolpus imperialis* Baly, by original designation. Valid genus, South America, Martinique.

I have found no records from continental Central America but Springlová (1960), in her revision of the genus, lists the type species, *L. imperialis* (Baly), as occurring on Martinique in the Lesser Antilles. To be consistent with other listings in Seeno & Wilcox (1982), this record should be considered "W. Indies".

Lycaste Gistel 1848:123. Type species *Lycaste trichoa* Gistel by monotypy.

Callicolaspis Bechyné 1950a:275. Junior synonym.

Bechyné (1950a) mentioned a specimen of *Lycaste cuneiformis* (Bechyné) in the Frey Museum from Mexico, a record he considered erroneous for this otherwise South American genus. This appears to be the only published Central American record. As

Lycaste species are among the largest and showiest of the Neotropical Eumolpinae, it is not likely that collectors in Mexico have been missing them all these years.

SUMMARY

Eumolpinae genera *Agbalus*, *Chalcoplacis*, *Corysthea*, *Coytiera*, *Freudeita*, *Ischyrolamprina*, *Longeumolpus*, and *Lycaste* do not occur in Central America, contrary to previous records in the literature. Current synonymies and known ranges for each of these genera are given.

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