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Corrections to Neotropical *Rhinaspis* Perty
and *Plectris* LePeletier and Audinet-Serville
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae)
classification and nomenclature

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Corrections to Neotropical *Rhinaspis* Perty and *Plectris* LePeletier and Audinet-Serville (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae) classification and nomenclature

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Abstract. The name *Melolontha hypocrita* Mannerheim, 1829 has been long unused, even though it is the type species of *Hyporhiza* Dejean, 1833. I examined the only known specimen from the type series and here designate it as the lectotype. Examination of this lectotype reveals that this species is best placed in the genus *Rhinaspis* Perty, 1830. Consequently, the genus *Hyporhiza* Dejean, 1833 is confirmed as a junior synonym of *Rhinaspis*. Further, the replacement name *Rhinaspis fuhrmanni* is proposed for *Rhinaspis hypocrita* (Blanchard, 1850), a new secondary homonym of *Rhinaspis hypocrita* (Mannerheim, 1829). A homonymy problem was also discovered and corrected for the genus *Plectris* LePeletier and Serville, 1828. The replacement name *Plectris schoolmeestersi* is proposed for *Plectris paraguayensis* Moser, 1924, which is a secondary junior homonym of *Plectris paraguayensis* (Moser, 1921).

Key words. Macroductylini, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, chafers.

Introduction

The Neotropical genera *Rhinaspis* Perty, 1830 and *Plectris* LePeletier and Audinet-Serville, 1828 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Macroductylini) include 14 and 360 species, respectively. Evans and Smith (2009) recently catalogued both of these genera, but there are still issues of classification and nomenclature that need to be addressed. This paper synonymizes a generic name under *Rhinaspis*, reclassifies a long-forgotten species in *Rhinaspis*, and proposes two replacement names for secondary junior homonyms within *Plectris* and *Rhinaspis*.

Materials and Methods

The only known syntype specimen of *Rhinaspis hypocrita* (Mannerheim, 1829) was borrowed from the Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki, Finland. Macroductylini specimens from the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada were used for comparison. The label data of the lectotype is verbatim with lines breaks indicated by a slash “/”.

The images were taken using a Leica image stacking system at the Canadian Museum of Nature and the plates were composed in Adobe Photoshop.

Genus *Rhinaspis* Perty, 1830

Rhinaspis Perty, 1830: 46. Type species *Rhinaspis schrankii* Perty, 1830 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Hyporhiza* Dejean, 1833: 162. Type species *Melolontha hypocrita* Mannerheim, 1829 by monotypy. **Confirmed synonym.**

Synonym. *Ulomenes* Blanchard, 1850: 125. Type species *Ulomenes hypocrita* Blanchard, 1850 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Barybas* Burmeister, 1855: 20 (junior homonym of *Barybas* Blanchard, 1850: 94). Type species *Barybas volvulus* Burmeister, 1855 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Byrasba* Harold, 1869: 122. Type species *Barybas volvulus* Burmeister, 1855 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Rhinaspoides* Moser, 1919: 348. Type species *Rhinaspoides aeneofusca* Moser, 1919 by monotypy.

Remarks. The generic name *Hyporhiza* Dejean, 1833 was recently discussed by Bousquet and Bouchard (2013), but they erroneously stated that the name was an objective synonym of *Ulomenes* Blanchard, 1850 (which is also a synonym of *Rhinaspis* Perty, 1830). This seems to stem from a lengthy confusion in the literature between *Melolontha hypocrita* Mannerheim, 1829 (the type species of *Hyporhiza*) and *Ulomenes hypocrita* Blanchard, 1850 (the type species of *Ulomenes*). Although the two specific names have the same spelling they are different species and were validated independently by Mannerheim (1829) and Blanchard (1850).

***Rhinaspis fuhrmanni* Smith, new name**

Original combination. *Rhinaspis fuhrmanni* Smith (replacement name for *Rhinaspis hypocrita* (Blanchard, 1850: 125))

Synonym. *Ulomenes hypocrita* Blanchard, 1850: 125 (secondary junior homonym of *Rhinaspis hypocrita* (Mannerheim, 1829: 65))

Distribution. Brazil.

Etymology. The replacement name is a patronym for Juares Fuhrmann, in appreciation of his helpful comments on *Rhinaspis* and *Plectris* characters.

***Rhinaspis hypocrita* (Mannerheim, 1829) new combination**

Original combination. *Melolontha hypocrita* Mannerheim, 1829: 65.

Type series. Lectotype male (Fig. 1–9) at the Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki, Finland labeled (Fig. 9) a) “Brasilia / Minas Gerais” (handwritten), b) “Ménétr.” (typeset), c) “MELOLONTHA / HYPOCRITA / MANNERHEIM, 1829 / LECTOTYPE ♂ / A.B.T. SMITH” (handwritten and typeset on red paper), d) “RHINASPIS / HYPOCRITA / (MANNERHEIM) ♂ / Det:A.B.T.Smith 2015” (handwritten and typeset). **Lectotype here designated.** Based on Mannerheim’s (1829) description there were more specimens in the type series (he states “frequentissima”). The current whereabouts of any paralectotypes is unknown.

Distribution. Brazil: Minas Gerais, Congonhas do Norte (“Serra da Lapa”). According to the label and Mannerheim (1829), the lectotype was collected in Serra da Lapa by Eduard Ménétriés. Papavero (1971: 53) noted that Ménétriés was in Serra da Lapa from 16 October–4 December 1824 and 3 January 1825 (return trip) with Baron Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff, which was undoubtedly when the lectotype was collected.

Remarks. The species is placed in the genus *Rhinaspis* based on the key to Macroductylini genera in Katovich (2008), and by comparison with other *Rhinaspis* species in the Canadian Museum of Nature collection. The characters supporting the placement in *Rhinaspis* are: length 12 mm; clypeus reflexed with apex straight (not rounded, bilobed, or dentate) (Fig. 3–5); mentum flat, rectangular, with bilobed apex, without medial furrow (Fig. 5); pronotum with apical margin distinctly bordered (Fig. 4); pronotum with basal margin evenly rounded, not interlocking with scutellum (Fig. 1–2); scutellum with basal margin straight, not interlocking with pronotum (Fig. 1–2); sternites evenly rounded (Fig. 6); all claws dentate (Fig. 1–2); parameres laterally with long tufts of setae (Fig. 7–8). It is noteworthy that the unmodified clypeus of the male of this species is unusual for *Rhinaspis*.

Genus *Plectris* LePeletier and Audinet-Serville

Plectris LePeletier and Audinet-Serville, 1828: 369. Type species *Plectris tomentosa* LePeletier and Audinet-Serville, 1828 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Pseudoserica* Guérin-Méneville, 1838: 86. Type species *Serica marmorea* Guérin-Méneville, 1831 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Demodema* Blanchard, 1850: 121. Type species *Demodema fallax* Blanchard, 1850 by subsequent designation (Lacordaire, 1856: 258).

Synonym. *Euryaspis* Blanchard, 1851: 130. Type species *Euryaspis gaudichaudii* Blanchard, 1851 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Trichoderma* Nonfried, 1894: 11 (junior homonym). Type species *Trichoderma ceylanica* Nonfried, 1894 by monotypy.

Synonym. *Junkia* Dalla Torre, 1913: 310 (replacement name for *Trichoderma* Nonfried, 1894). Type species *Trichoderma ceylanica* Nonfried, 1894 by monotypy.

***Plectris paraguayensis* (Moser, 1921)**

Original combination. *Demodema paraguayensis* Moser, 1921: 156.

Distribution. Paraguay.

Remarks. This species was transferred to *Plectris* when Katovich (2008) synonymized *Demodema* under *Plectris*. The first explicit use of the new combination was by Evans and Smith (2009: 283), who overlooked the secondary homonymy with *Plectris paraguayensis* Moser, 1924.

***Plectris schoolmeestersi* Smith, new name**

Original combination. *Plectris schoolmeestersi* Smith (replacement name for *Plectris paraguayensis* Moser, 1924: 130).

Synonym. *Plectris paraguayensis* Moser, 1924: 130 (secondary junior homonym of *Plectris paraguayensis* (Moser, 1921: 156)).

Distribution. Argentina, Paraguay.

Etymology. The replacement name is a patronym for Paul Schoolmeesters, who discovered this homonymy and brought it to my attention.

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Figures 1–6. *Rhinaspis hypocrita* lectotype male. 1) Dorsal habitus. 2) Lateral habitus. 3) Lateral head and pronotum. 4) Dorsal head and pronotum. 5) Ventral head. 6) Ventral habitus.



Figures 7–9. *Rhinaspis hypocrita* lectotype male. 7) Lateral genitalia. 8) Parameres. 9) Labels.