

A CORRECTION IN THE TAXONOMIC  
IDENTITY OF *PLATYPUS PARALLELUS* (FABRICIUS)  
(COLEOPTERA: PLATYPODIDAE)

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## ABSTRACT

Following type examinations, *Platypus parallelus* (Fab.) is established as the correct name for the species previously going under the names *P. rugulosus* Chapuis and *P. linearis* Stephens (New Synonymy). This species is economically important in the tropical forests of Mexico, Central and South America, and Africa.

Following a year of study and collecting in northern South America, I was greatly puzzled by the extreme rarity of the species then known as *Platypus parallelus* (Fabricius) in that area. I was also aware that the type locality of this species was Essequibo, British Guiana. Since it was not logical for the only South American specimen of *Platypus* treated by Fabricius to be an exceedingly rare species near its type locality, particular attention was given to the unique female holotype of this species when an opportunity came for me to examine it. It is in relatively good, recognizable condition and, without any doubt whatsoever, it is a female of the species previously known as *Platypus rugulosus* Chapuis (1865), the type series of which I have seen. Schedl (1960) established the synonymy of *rugulosus* and *linearis* Stephens (1832) through comparisons made by R. T. Thompson (personal communication) at the British Museum (Natural History).

Since this species is of extreme economic importance in the tropical forests of Mexico, Central and South America, and Africa, under ordinary circumstances it would be advisable to conserve the younger name rather than upset current nomenclature. However, Stephens' name came into use less than 12 years ago and in some respects it has not yet fully replaced some of the 22 synonyms listed by Schedl (1960).

For one reason or another, Chapuis (1865) did not establish the identity of *parallelus* from its type, which is 4.0 mm in length, but apparently he attempted to identify it from the original description or from erroneously named specimens. Whatever the cause might have been, the name *parallelus* became associated with a larger, darker, more slender species.

*Platypus parallelus* (Fabricius)

*Bostrichus parallelus* Fabricius, 1801, Systema Eleutheratorum 2:384 (Holotype, female; Essequibo, British Guiana; Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen).

*Platypus linearis* Stephens, 1832, Illustrations of British Entomology. Mandibulata 5:419 (Holotype, male; Sydenham, England; British Mus. Nat. Hist.) (Reference not seen, cited by Schedl, 1960, Mém. Inst. Roy. Sci. Nat. Belgique, ser. 2, 62:64). NEW SYNONYMY.

In order to remove all doubt from this new synonymy, at my request, F. G. Browne carefully examined the male holotype of *linearis* and compared it

directly to the male holotype of *rugulosus*. Both specimens are in good condition, and without any doubt, represent the same species. I have collected this species on numerous occasions in Florida, Mexico, Central and South America and have positively associated the males and females on many occasions. My male homotypes of *rugulosus* and female homotypes of *parallelus* are definitely known to represent males and females of the same species. It is on this basis and on Mr. Browne's observations, that the above synonymy is proposed.

In resolving this problem the assistance of Mr. Browne, in whose taxonomic judgement I have complete confidence, is gratefully acknowledged.

*Platypus bellus* Schedl

*Platypus bellus* Schedl, 1933, Rev. d'Ent. 3: 172 (Holotype, male; San Ignacio, Alto Paraná, Argentina; presumably in the Schedl Coll.).

In view of the misidentification of the type of *Bostrichus parallelus* Fabricius, cited above, by Chapuis and subsequent workers, the species they referred to by this name must now become known by the name of the senior synonym, *Platypus bellus* Schedl. Since Schedl's type is not currently available for loan I could not confirm its identity and must refer to Schedl (1960:26).

REFERENCES CITED

- CHAPUIS, F. 1865. Monographie des Platypides. Liège: Dessain. 344 p.; 202 Fig.  
 SCHEDL, K. E. 1960. Chapuis Platypodidae. Ein revision mit ergänzungen.  
 Mem. Inst. Roy. Sci. Nat. Belgique, Ser. 2, 62:1-68.

LITHOCHARIS ARDENUS SANDERSON IN CALIFORNIA  
 (COLEOPTERA:STAPHYLINIDAE)

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*Lithocharis ardenus* was originally described (Sanderson, 1945, Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington 47:94-97) from New York to Georgia and as far west as Kansas. It was reported from grass cuttings and from lights. It has not been mentioned in the literature since its original description. There are in the collection of the University of California at Riverside, 12 male specimens taken at Orange, Orange County, California by E. F. Legner from accumulated poultry manure on various dates from August through November, 1968 and 1969. Another male is from Sacramento, Sacramento County, California, 12 November 1970, R. F. Wilkey.