

Case 2756

***Proagoderus* Lansberge, 1883 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the currently used subgeneric name of the dung beetle *Proagoderus* Lansberge, 1883 (SCARABAEOIDEA, genus *Onthophagus* Latreille, 1802) by the suppression of the unused senior subjective synonym *Onthotrogus* Motschulsky, 1859.

1. Motschulsky (1859, p. 153) introduced the generic name *Onthotrogus* for *Scarabaeus auratus* Fabricius, 1801 (p. xii; currently *Onthophagus* (*Proagoderus*) *auratus*). The three syntype specimens of *auratus* are housed in the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen.

2. Lansberge (1883, p. 15) described the new subgenus *Proagoderus* (within *Onthophagus* Latreille, 1802) for the single species *Onthophagus* (*Proagoderus*) *ritsemae* Lansberge, 1883. The holotype of *ritsemae* is in the Oberthür collection in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

3. H. d'Orbigny used the name *Proagoderus* Lansberge in 14 works between 1898–1916 and in his 1913 monograph *Synopsis des Onthophagides d'Afrique*; he did not mention *Onthotrogus*. D'Orbigny referred 93 species, including *Onthophagus auratus* (as *Scarabaeus auratus*), to the subgenus *Proagoderus*.

4. *Proagoderus* has been in general use from 1883 and has been repeatedly cited in zoological literature. A representative list of 63 references between 1883 and 1988 is held by the Commission Secretariat, and includes Marcus (1917, p. 4), Balthasar (1963, p. 158) and Ferreira (1972, p. 510).

5. The name *Onthotrogus* had not been used since its proposal in 1859 until Paulian (1986, p. 214) proposed this synonymy '*Onthotrogus* Motschulsky, 1859 espèce-type *Scarabaeus auratus*, Fabricius, 1801 par monotypie = *Proagoderus* Lansberge 1883 espèce-type *Onthophagus* (*Proagoderus*) *ritsemae* Lansberge 1883, par monotypie'. Paulian noted that the current Code does not authorize the automatic rejection of 'nomina oblita'.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Onthotrogus* Motschulsky, 1859 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Proagoderus* Lansberge, 1883 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Onthophagus* (*Proagoderus*) *ritsemae* Lansberge, 1883;

- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *ritsemae* Lansberge, 1883, as published in the binomen *Onthophagus* (*Proagoderus*) *ritsemae* (specific name of the type species of *Proagoderus* Lansberge, 1883);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Onthotrogus* Motschulsky, 1859, as suppressed in (1) above.

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