

CRYPTORHYNCHUS ILLIGER, 1807, (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA):  
PROPOSED INTERPRETATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS  
Z.N.(S.) 1648

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to such extent as may be necessary to provide a valid basis for the continued use of the generic name *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger, 1807, as outlined herein. The problem involves suppression of one type-species designation and the validation of a second, later designation.

2. The generic name *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger was published in 1807 (*Mag. Insektenk.* 6 : 330) and originally contained three stirps; included in the first stirps was *Rhynchaenus lapathi* (L.), which is currently assigned to the genus *Cryptorhynchus* of the subfamily Cryptorhynchinae; the second stirps contained *Rhynchaenus pericarpus* F., which is currently assigned to the genus *Rhinoncus* Schoenherr (1837) of the subfamily Ceutorhynchinae; the third stirps is of no immediate concern. The stirps mentioned above each contained more than one species.

3. Subsequently in 1810 Latreille (*Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arachn. Ins.* : 450) designated the type-species as *Rhynchaenus pericarpus* F.

4. Subsequently in 1826 Schoenherr in *Curculionidum dispositio methodica* (: 21) designated the type-species of *Cryptorhynchus* as *Curculio lapathi* L., apparently ignoring Latreille's earlier selection of *pericarpus* F. It is in the sense of Schoenherr that the genus is currently recognized and as such forms the basis for the subfamily name Cryptorhynchinae, a group containing 600 genera, 5,500 species, and is the largest subfamily of Curculionidae.

5. In 1917 Pierce in *A manual of dangerous insects* . . . proposed the name *Sternochetus* in such a way that it could be used to replace *Cryptorhynchus* of authors. Buchanan in 1939 (*Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington* 41 : 82) fixed the type of *Sternochetus* as *Curculio mangiferae* F. At present it is not certain that *Sternochetus mangiferae* (F.) is congeneric with *Cryptorhynchus lapathi* (L.).

6. In 1919 Pierce (*Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington* 21 : 25) proposed the name *Cryptorhynchidius* with type-species *Curculio lapathi* L. (not *Cryptorhynchidius* Champion, 1914).

7. Unless action is taken by the International Commission it appears that: (a) the generic name *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger will have to be shifted from the Cryptorhynchinae to the Ceutorhynchinae; (b) it will be necessary to rename the taxon currently designated "*Cryptorhynchus*", a genus containing more than 300 species; and (c) it will be necessary to rename the supergeneric taxa subfamily Cryptorhynchinae, tribe Cryptorhynchini, and subtribe Cryptorhynchina. Any one of the above mentioned actions would cause great confusion in the taxonomy of curculionid beetles.



8. For the reasons set out above it is requested that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

(1) use its plenary powers:

(a) to suppress the designation by Latreille, 1810, of *pericarpus* Fabricius as the type-species of *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger;

(b) to validate the designation by Schoenherr, 1826, of *lapathi* Linnaeus as the type-species of *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger;

(2) place the generic name *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger, 1807 (gender: masculine) type-species, under the plenary powers, by designation by Schoenherr, 1826, *Curculio lapathi* Linnaeus, 1758, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(3) place the specific name *lapathi* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Curculio lapathi* (type-species of *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger, 1807) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

(4) place the family-group name CRYPTORHYNCHINAE (correction of CRYPTORHYNCHIDES) Schoenherr, 1825 (*Isis* (Oken) 1825: col. 585) (type-genus *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger, 1807) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.



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