

3.0007 Comments About Easton's Revision of the Nearctic *Meligethes* (Nitidulidae)¹

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A. M. Easton (1955) performed a valuable service through his studies of the North American segment of the genus *Meligethes* Stephens. While only eight species are involved, the resemblance of some to certain of the more common members of the Palearctic fauna, and the naming of others without giving sufficient consideration to species described from the Palearctic, had resulted in a welter of names, three unnamed species and much confusion. We are indebted to Dr. Easton for bringing order out of this chaos.

The purpose of this note is to refer to a matter of nomenclature; to point out that although two of the more common species, *M. dauricus* Motschulsky, and *M. simplipes* Easton, are rather similar in appearance, they are widely separated geographically; and, most important, to call attention to Easton's excellent work.

The change in name to which attention needs to be directed is the result of Easton (1955) having placed *dauricus* Mots. as a subspecies of *rufimanus* Lec. In a later paper (Easton 1959), he referred to *rufimanus* as a synonym of *dauricus*, but this change seems to have been overlooked by many coleopterists. Motschulsky described *dauricus* in 1849 and *rufimanus* was not described until eight years later (Le Conte, 1857). Thus it would appear that, for this species, the name *dauricus* has priority.

M. dauricus Mots. is known in North America only from the western part of the United States and portions of Mexico. *M. simplipes* Easton is known only from Ontario, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. Easton (1955) indicates that *dauricus* is related to the Palearctic species *M. aeneus* Fab., while he (1947) places *simplipes* close to the Palearctic *M. viridescens* Fab. and *M. augustatus* Kust. Both *dauricus* and *simplipes* are quite variable and there is convergence in all of the taxonomic characters described by Easton to distinguish them, so that a small percentage can be separated only through consideration of geography.

The members of this genus known from North America, together with their known distribution are:

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canadensis Easton—Alaska, Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, California, Utah and Colorado.

cleominis Easton—British Columbia to Manitoba and south to Arizona.

dauricus Motschulsky—a Holartic species, in North America present in western Canada, western United States, adjacent Mexico and east to Kansas and Nebraska.

nigrescens Stephens—a Holartic species, in North America ranging from Yukon to Oregon and Ontario in the west, and from Massachusetts to Maryland and Indiana in the east.

simplipes Easton—Ontario and eastern United States to Ohio and Tennessee.

saevus LeConte—Manitoba to Iowa and Kansas.

atratus Olivier—a Palearctic species, but a single specimen has been reported from British Columbia.

pinguis Horn—the unique type is from Newfoundland.

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- DESCRIPTORS: Coleoptera; Nitidulidae; *Meligethes*; classification.

3.0005 A new species of *Psephenus* from Arizona (Coleoptera, Psephenidae).

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Recent unpublished work by Chad Murvosh and Paul Spangler indicates that *Psephenus calaveras* Blaisdell 1923, *P. lanei* Blaisdell 1923, *P. falli* Casey 1893, and *P. veluticollis* Casey 1893 are all synonymous with *P. haldemani* Horn 1870. Thus, at present, the Genus *Psephenus* Haldeman 1853 is represented in the United States by only three recognized species: *P. herricki* (DeKay) 1844 in the eastern states, *P. haldemani* in California, Oregon, Idaho, and western Wyoming, and *P. texanus* Brown and Arrington 1967 in southwestern Texas.

A population of *Psephenus* occurs in central Arizona which represents a new species. I hereby name it in honor of Chad M. Murvosh, who has seen larval specimens and who will probably be the next person to publish on this species.

Psephenus murvoshi Brown, NEW SPECIES

Holotype male—Length 3.2 mm, greatest width 1.6 mm (Fig. 1). Oblong-oval, moderately depressed, densely pubescent; shining above, head nigro-piceous except for testaceous area



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