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THE PROPER NAME FOR THE TRIBE CALOSPASTINI AND A CORRECTION OF GENERIC SYNONYMY (Meloidae)

By RICHARD B. SELANDER¹

In connection with the publication at this time of a correction of erroneous synonymy in the tribe Calospastini, it is desirable to take up the problem of the proper name for the tribe.

In 1862, LeConte (p. 274) proposed the name *Eupomphae* for a "Group" in the subtribe Lyttini (genuini) containing only the genus *Eupompha*. Another group, *Phodagae*, was proposed on the same page for the genus *Phodaga*, *Eupomphae* having ine priority. Wellman (1910, p. 221) introduced four additional names for "groups" of genera now included in the Calospastini: *Cordylospastides*, *Calospastides*, *Gynaecomelodides*, and *Cysteodemides*. These groups were originally proposed in the order listed here.

Van Dyke (1928, p. 400) brought together the genera *Calospasta*, *Tegrodera*, *Eupompha*, *Phodaga*, *Pleuropasta*, *Cordylospasta*, *Brachy-spasta*, *Gynaecomeloe*, *Cysteodemus*, *Megetra*, and *Negalius* under the tribal name Calospastini. In 1952, Dillon (p. 373) erected the tribe Tegroderini for *Tegrodera*, *Phodaga*, *Eupompha*, *Pleuropasta*, and *Negalius*.

Selander (1954, pp. 11-12) reaffirmed Van Dyke's definition of the tribe Calospastini and sank *Eupompha* as a junior synonym of *Calospasta*. Dr. Lawrence S. Dillon (*in litt.*) has called my attention to the fact that *Eupompha* has priority over *Calospasta*. Consequently, the synonymy must be reversed. The CORRECTED SYNONYMY is as follows:

Eupompha LeConte, 1858, p. 21

= *Calospasta* LeConte, 1862, p. 273

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NAT.
HIST.

Provisions 43 to 58 of the "Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature," adopted by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology (1953, pp. 32-37), deal with the names of categories between the generic and ordinal levels, *i.e.*, family-group names. According to Provision 46 (p. 33), family-group names are coordinate for purposes of priority, regardless of the category in which they were originally proposed. Provision 53 (1) (p. 36) states that a family-group name dates from its first usage, regardless of the termination employed, "provided that it is clear that the term concerned was used to denote a suprageneric category and was not employed merely as a plural noun or adjective." Provision 54 (1) (a) (p. 36) states that a family-group name is not to be changed when the type genus is found to be a junior synonym.

The problem of the correct name for the tribe centers first on the question of whether Eupomphae and Phodagae of LeConte are available under Provision 53 (1). If they are, it would seem appropriate to select Eupomphini, rather than Phodagini, as the tribal name. In the event that they are not considered available, the status of the group names of Wellman must be considered. If these are available, the name Calospastini could be retained, dating from Wellman rather than Van Dyke. Under Provision 54 (1) (a), the name Calospastini need not be changed because of the synonymy proposed above. If Wellman's group names lack availability, the name Calospastini, dating from Van Dyke, it is to be retained.

In the opinion of Mr. C. W. Sabrosky, whose advice was solicited in this problem, and myself, the "Group" names of LeConte (1862) are available as family-group names. As Mr. Sabrosky has pointed out (*in litt.*), the formal organization of the publication and the fact that some of the groups proposed in the same work contain more than one genus make it evident the names were introduced as formal group names and not merely as plural nouns. Also, the groups Phodagae, Eupomphae, and two others were referred to as "natural groups" (*op. cit.*, p. 272). Similarly, there can be little doubt that the group names of Wellman (1910) are also available. In view of the above discussion, the following synonymy is proposed:

EUPOMPHINI (LeConte, 1862)

=Phodagae LeConte, 1862

=Cordylospastides Wellman, 1910

=Calospastides Wellman, 1910

=Gynaecomelodides Wellman, 1910

=Cysteodemides Wellman, 1910

=Colospastini [*sic*] Van Dyke, 1928

=Tegroderini Dillon, 1952

=Calospastini, auct.

Provision 45 (p. 33) of the "Copenhagen Decisions" outlines a procedure whereby current usage of a family-group name may be maintained if in conflict with the strict application of priority, but I do not believe it is necessary to invoke this procedure in the present case.

I want to thank Dr. Dillon for informing me of my error concerning the generic synonymy and allowing me to publish the correction. I am grateful to Mr. Sabrosky for his generous assistance with the problem of tribal nomenclature.

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News

MRS. PATRICIA VAURIE, The American Museum of Natural History, is completing a paper on the North American beetles in the genus *Trox*.

DR. CARL T. PARSONS, Burlington, Vermont, is revising the family Lagriidae for North America and is also continuing his studies in the family Nitidulidae.

The University of Washington has recently purchased KENNETH M. FENDER'S collection of Coleoptera, exclusive of the Lycidae, Lampyridae, Phengodidae and Cantharidae, for the use of Prof. Mel-

ville Hatch in his study of the Coleoptera of the Pacific Northwest. The collection consists of over 22,000 specimens of mounted beetles plus a greater number of unmounted ones. It is richest in material from the vicinity of McMinnville, Oregon, and is, in general, the best collection of Oregon Coleoptera in existence. It adds greatly to the University's already important collection of northwestern beetles.

Mr. Fender announces that he will start another general Oregon beetle collection.—M. H. HATCH.



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