

Zeitschrift: Mitteilungen der Schweizerischen Entomologischen Gesellschaft =
Bulletin de la Société Entomologique Suisse = Journal of the Swiss
Entomological Society

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Entomologische Gesellschaft

Band: 73 (2000)

Heft: 3-4

Artikel: Bryaxis glabricollis (Schmidt-Goebel), an unavailable name of a
common European species (Coleoptera : Staphylinidae : Pselaphinae)

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-402779>

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Bryaxis glabricollis (SCHMIDT-GOEBEL), an unavailable name of a common European species (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae)

IVAN LÖBL¹

Bryaxis glabricollis (SCHMIDT-GOEBEL) is an unavailable name of a common European pselaphine. The valid name of this species is *Bryaxis simplex* (BAUDI DI SELVE). The history of this case is discussed and synonymies are given. *Bryaxis simplex* MOTSCHULSKY is transferred to *Reichenbachia*.

Keywords: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, Europe, nomenclature

INTRODUCTION

The name *Bryaxis glabricollis* (SCHMIDT-GOEBEL) is currently considered to be valid and is applied to a common species (e.g., BESUCHET, 1974; POGGI, 1977) recorded from Central Europe, Poland, France, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia, Romania, Byelorussia, and the Ukraine. Although this species is polymorphic, it can be easily distinguished from other Central European congeners by its external characters, especially by the body-length of 1.7–1.9 mm, the very finely punctate pronotum, and the broad tenth antennomeres (Besuchet, 1974). In addition, its aedeagus is distinctive by the narrow parameres and the characteristic shape of the rods in the internal sac (see, e.g., STOLZ, 1924; JEANNEL, 1950; KARAMAN, 1957; BINAGHI, 1973). Specimens with these characters were usually assigned either to *B. glabricollis* (SCHMIDT-GOEBEL) or to *B. crassicornis* (MOTSCHULSKY). While this species is well-defined by its morphological characters, it has been continuously misnamed by all authors.

DISCUSSION

The history of this case began in 1816 when REICHENBACH described and illustrated *Pselaphus glabricollis*, which is presently placed in *Bryaxis*, and was placed as junior subjective synonym of *B. clavicornis* (PANZER, 1809) since the work of AUBÉ (1844). Before this, both names, *clavicornis* (PANZER) and *glabricollis* (REICHENBACH) were transferred by LEACH (1817) to his new genus *Arcopagus*. AUBÉ (1833) and SCHMIDT-GOEBEL (1836) placed *Arcopagus* LEACH, 1817 as the junior synonym of *Bythinus* LEACH, 1817, and presented redescriptions of both, *clavicornis* (PANZER) and *glabricollis* (REICHENBACH), respectively. The characters of the male antennae, which are often species specific in this group, are different for both species covered in SCHMIDT-GOEBEL (1836). Obviously, two different species were represented in his treatment of *glabricollis* and *clavicornis*.

The species treated by modern authors as *B. glabricollis* (SCHMIDT-GOEBEL) was previously referred to as *crassicornis* MOTSCHULSKY, 1835 by the older workers on European pselaphines (e.g., AUBÉ, 1844; REITTER, 1881; RAFFRAY, 1911;

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JEANNEL, 1950). MACHULKA (1933) demonstrated that *Bythinus crassicornis* MOTSCHULSKY is a Caucasian species, and that it does not occur in Central Europe. He proposed to use the name *B. glabricollis* SCHMIDT-GOEBEL for the Central European species.

Curiously, MACHULKA (1933) and subsequent workers overlooked the fact that whatever SCHMIDT-GOEBEL named as *glabricollis*, he is not the author of this name, and even if he had been the author, the name is preoccupied in the genera *Pselaphus* HERBST, 1792 and *Bryaxis* KUGELLAN, 1794 (the latter being the senior synonym of *Arcopagus* LEACH) by the older name *glabricollis* REICHENBACH. JEANNEL (1950) and KARAMAN (1957) ignored MACHULKA's 1933 paper and continued to use *crassicornis* MOTSCHULSKY for *glabricollis* sensu MACHULKA, while other authors followed MACHULKA. This confusion is evident in BURAKOWSKI *et al.* (1978), where *Bryaxis glabricollis* (REICHENBACH) was used as the valid name for *B. glabricollis* sensu auct. and *B. crassicornis* sensu auct.

Presently, several synonyms of *B. glabricollis* sensu auct. (nec REICHENBACH, 1816) are recognized. The oldest is *Bythinus simplex* BAUDI DI SELVE (1869) which STOLZ (1924) treated as a subspecies of «*crassicornis* MOTSCH.», and which is currently used for a male form of «*B. crassicornis*» (e.g., JEANNEL, 1950; KARAMAN, 1957) or «*B. glabricollis*» (CASTELINI, 1971; POGGI, 1977).

The name *simplex* is preoccupied in *Bryaxis* by *B. simplex* MOTSCHULSKY, 1851. MOTSCHULSKY used *Bryaxis* for a large assemblage of Brachyglutini, as did most authors of the 19th century (e.g., DE SAULCY, 1876), of which many today are members of *Reichenbachia* LEACH, 1826, *Brachygluta* THOMSON, 1859, *Rybaxis* DE SAULCY, 1876, and *Trissemus* JEANNEL, 1949. MOTSCHULSKY mentioned in his description of *simplex* that the pronotum has large lateral foveae. Thus, he gave strong evidence that his species belongs to *Reichenbachia* or *Trissemus*. As the latter is likely a junior synonym of the former (pers. obs., pers. com. of D. S. CHANDLER), *Bryaxis simplex* MOTSCHULSKY is here transferred formally to *Reichenbachia*. This action prevents secondary homonymy of *simplex* BAUDI DI SELVE and *simplex* MOTSCHULSKY. Another potential secondary homonym, *Bryaxis simplex* WATERHOUSE, 1862, was replaced by *Bryaxis waterhousei* RYE, 1881, and is presently in *Brachygluta*. According to ICZN (1999), Article 59.2, such secondary homonyms do not invalidate *Bryaxis simplex* BAUDI DI SELVE.

The nomenclatorial acts, and the status of the involved names and species, may be summarized as follows:

***Reichenbachia simplex* (MOTSCHULSKY, 1851) comb. nov. from *Bryaxis*.**

Distribution: "Ind. or."

***Bryaxis crassicornis* (MOTSCHULSKY, 1835) [nec *Bryaxis*, *Bythinus* or *Arcopagus crassicornis* auct.]**

Bythinus elephas REITTER, 1880

Distribution: Armenia, Georgia.

***Bryaxis clavicornis* (PANZER, 1809)**

Pselaphus clavicornis PANZER, 1809

Pselaphus glabricollis REICHENBACH, 1816

Bythinus loevicollis FAIRMAIRE, 1857

Bythinus nigrinus MULSANT & REY, 1861

Bythinus inflatipes REITTER, 1882

Bythinus saulcyi CROISSANDEAU, 1891

Distribution: Throughout most of Europe; absent from the Mediterranean area.

***Bryaxis simplex* (BAUDI DI SELVE, 1869)**

Bythinus simplex BAUDI DI SELVE, 1869

Bythinus (or *Bryaxis*, or *Arcopagus*) *glabricollis* auct. [nec *Pselaphus glabricollis* REICHENBACH, 1816]

Bythinus valombrosus REITTER, 1913

Bythinus guranyii CSIKI, 1915

Bythinus dudichi REITTER, 1918

Bythinus glabricollis var. *grandis* STOLZ, 1926

Bythinus signatus MACHULKA, 1938

Distribution: Widely distributed in Europe; absent from the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, and most of the Mediterranean countries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank D. S. CHANDLER (Durham) and B. MERZ (Geneva) for comments on the manuscript.

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(received February 22, 2000; accepted April 4, 2000)