Case 2772

Chrysobothris Eschscholtz, 1829 and Dicerca Eschscholtz, 1829 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation as the correct original spellings

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the buprestid generic names Chrysobothris and Dicerca Eschscholtz, 1829. The names originally appeared as Chrysobotris and Dicerea, but those spellings have not been used.

1. The spellings Chrysobothris and Dicerca were published by Eschscholtz (1829, p. 9). Since the names appear only once, it is impossible to verify from the original paper that misspellings were involved. However, Dr. M.G. Volkovitsh (in litt.) reports that Dr. G. Ljubaritskij has examined the original collection of Eschscholtz in the Zoological Museum of Moscow and the spellings Dicerca and Chrysobothris were used on the labels.

2. The spelling Chrysobothris (meaning ‘gold pits’) has been used by all authors from the time of Solier (1833, p. 310) to the present, except Westwood ([1838], p. 24) who used the original spelling Chrysobotris.

3. In the case of Dicerca, this spelling has been used by all authors from Faldermann (1835, p. 143), Spinola (1837, p. 102) and Mannerheim (1837, p. 53) to the present, except Westwood ([1838], p. 24) who used the spelling Dicerea; the Commission Secretariat has a list of 31 references. Leraut (1983, p. 6) drew attention to Eschscholtz’s ‘lapsus calami’ in recording the genus name Dicerca, a name that makes no sense (the Greek roots dis = two and cercos = tail, by alluding to the elytral prolongations, make the correct spelling Dicerca). He pointed out that although most authors had used Dicerca . ‘Lacordaire, 1835’ this is an unjustified emendation of Dicerca Eschscholtz and only the earlier name should be used, in accordance with the Code. He also suggested that the corresponding tribe should be DICEREINI and not DICERCINI as used at present.

4. Westwood ([1838], p. 24) designated Buprestis chrysostigma Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 409) as the type species of Chrysobothris (spelt Chrysobotris) Eschscholtz, 1829, and Buprestis aenea Linnaeus, 1761 (p. 213) as the type species of Dicerca (spelt Dicerea) Eschscholtz, 1829. The type species designations in Westwood’s Synopsis of the genera of British insects were accepted as valid in Opinion 71 (January 1922). The dates of publication of the work were set out in Direction 63 (June 1957).

5. Chrysobothris and Dicerca are the type genera of CHRYSOBOTHRINI Gory & Laporte, [1839] and DICERCINI (‘Dicercites’) Kerremans, 1893 (p. 107).

In November 1991 an independent application for the conservation of the spelling of Dicerca was received from Herr Hans Mühle (Pfarrestrasse 10, D-8063 Pfaffenhofen/Glonn, Germany).
6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the correct original spellings of the generic names Chrysobotris Eschscholtz, 1829 and Dicerea Eschscholtz, 1829 are Chrysobothis and Dicerea respectively;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) Chrysobothis Eschscholtz, 1829 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Westwood ([1838]) Buprestis chrysostigma Linnaeus, 1758;
   (b) Dicerea Eschscholtz, 1829 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Westwood ([1838]) Buprestis aenea Linnaeus, 1761;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) chrysostigma Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen Buprestis chrysostigma (specific name of the type species of Chrysobothis Eschscholtz, 1829);
   (b) aenea Linnaeus, 1761, as published in the binomen Buprestis aenea (specific name of the type species of Dicerea Eschscholtz, 1829);

(4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) Chrysobothis Eschscholtz, 1829 (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of Chrysobothis Eschscholtz, 1829);
   (b) Dicerea Eschscholtz, 1829 (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of Dicerea Eschscholtz, 1829).

References


