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Synonymical notes on Palaearctic Apionidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea)

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ABSTRACT. The following 22 new synonymies of Palaearctic species of the Apionidae are proposed: *Apion taviense* BAJTENOV & LODOS, 1980 = *Squamapion delagrangi* (DESBROCHERS, 1895); *Apion arcirostre* DESBROCHERS, 1895 = *Squamapion elongatum* (GERMAR, 1817); *Apion tenuirostre* DESBROCHERS, 1895 = *Squamapion leucophaeatum* (WENCKER, 1864); *Apion gladiator* BAJTENOV, 1977 = *Metapion obiectum* (SCHILSKY, 1902); *Apion toelgi* WAGNER, 1914 = *Exapion difficile* (HERBST, 1797); *Apion laportei* HOFFMANN, 1959 = *Apion liebmanni* SCHUBERT, 1957; *Apion ormusense* BAJTENOV & FREMUTH, 1981 = *Perapion marseuli* (WENCKER, 1864); *Apion schaeferi* HOFFMANN, 1960 = *Aizobius robustirostris* (DESBROCHERS, 1870); *Apion turkestanicum* DESBROCHERS, 1892 = *Catapion gemulum* (FAUST, 1885); *Apion mus* DESBROCHERS, 1897 = *Catapion gemulum* (FAUST, 1885); *Apion doriae* DESBROCHERS, 1894 = *Catapion gemulum* (FAUST, 1885); *Apion tauricum* SCHUBERT, 1963 and *Apion schuberti* ALONSO ZARAZAGA, 1986 = *Catapion bruleriei* (DESBROCHERS, 1875); *Apion pedicellare* THOMSON C. G., 1865 = *Betulapion simile* (KIRBY, 1811); *Apion persicum* DESBROCHERS, 1894 = *Apion insidiosum* DESBROCHERS, 1875; *Apion gavoyi* DESBROCHERS, 1904 = *Hemitrichapion lethierryi* (DESBROCHERS, 1870); *Apion foveatum* DESBROCHERS, 1904 = *Hemitrichapion reflexum* (GYLLENHAL, 1833); *Apion cilicicum* SCHUBERT, 1969 = *Oxystoma insignicolle* DESBROCHERS, 1891; *Apion cyprum* BALFOUR-BROWNE, 1944 = *Protapion angusticolle* (GYLLENHAL, 1833); *Apion tereticolle* DESBROCHERS, 1897 = *Protapion angusticolle* (GYLLENHAL, 1833); *Apion mateui mirei* HOFFMANN, 1962 = *Pseudoconapion niloticum* (DESBROCHERS, 1895); *Apion mateui* HOFFMANN, 1963 = *Pseudoconapion niloticum* (DESBROCHERS, 1895). Transfers to other genera resulted in 7 new combinations: *Apion mandli* SCHUBERT, 1957 to *Melanapion*; *Apion liebmanni* SCHUBERT, 1957 to *Pseudoperapion*; *Mesotrichapion insidiosum* (DESBROCHERS, 1875) to *Hemitrichapion* subgenus *Tinocyba*; *Apion derelictum* DESBROCHERS, 1906 to *Hemitrichapion* subgenus *Tinocyba*; *Apion lethierryi* DESBROCHERS, 1870 to *Hemitrichapion* subgenus *Tinocyba*; *Apion insignicolle* DESBROCHERS, 1891 to *Oxystoma*; *Apion griseosetulosum* DESBROCHERS, 1875 to *Pseudoconapion*. Lectotypes are designated for 11 nominal species: *Apion mandli* SCHUBERT, *Apion turkestanicum* DESBROCHERS, *Apion mus* DESBROCHERS, *Apion pedicellare* THOMSON, *Apion insidiosum* DESBROCHERS, *Apion persicum* DESBROCHERS, *Apion derelictum* DESBROCHERS, *Apion lethierryi* DESBROCHERS, *Apion ciliare* DESBROCHERS, *Apion insignicolle* DESBROCHERS, *Apion griseosetulosum* DESBROCHERS.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, Coleoptera, Curculionoidea, Apionidae, Palaearctic, nomenclature, synonyms, lectotype designations.

There are approximately 900 nominal species and varieties of the weevil family Apionidae described from Palearctic region, but even less than half of them are true species. Many synonyms had been recognized by previous workers on this group, and the nomenclature of majority of European species was cleared up and stabilized, as seen in several recently published local catalogues (e.g. DIECKMANN 1977, GØNGET 1997, COLONNELLI 2003, WANAT & MOKRZYCKI 2005) and the online service Fauna Europaea (2004). Much worse is the situation with knowledge on the fauna of European peripherals and other regions of the Palearctic, and both taxonomic and nomenclatural mess still exists concerning especially the fauna of Iberian Peninsula, Northern Africa, and South-Western Asia. Many species are known only from their usually inadequate original descriptions, the type specimens were not studied since then by further specialists, even those existing in their proper collections and available. In several speciose and taxonomically difficult genera (e.g. *Exapion*, *Lepidapion*, *Protapion*, *Perapion*, *Pseudoprotapion*, most oxystomatine genera, etc.) thorough and comprehensive revisions are required for re-arrangement of nominal species. Ordering actions become urgent since two big projects of weevil cataloguing (digital WTaxa by ALONSO-ZARAZAGA & LYAL, and the Catalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera by LÖBL & SMETANA) are in progress. Hence, I present below the results of my studies of some European collections of the Apionidae, which brought different interpretations and changes of status to several nominal species.

ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

The source collections and type depositories are listed below, preceded by abbreviations used in the text:

BMNH - The Natural History Museum, London, UK;
DEI - Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Münchenberg, Germany;
HNHM - Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary;
IRB - Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium;
MNB - Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany;
MNHN - Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France;
MW - author's coll. (currently in the Museum of Natural History, Wrocław University, Poland);
NMB - Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Switzerland;
NMW - Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria;
ZML - Zoological Museum, Lund University, Sweden;
ZSM - Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich.

Labels of type specimens are quoted in full text, and denoted by subsequent letters: a), b) ...etc. All lectotype designations in this paper are done for appointment of unequivocal taxonomic meaning to the name concerned, and thus for nomenclatural stability.

***Squamapion delagrangei* (DESBROCHERS, 1895)**

Apion delagrangei DESBROCHERS, 1895b: 83. Syntypes 2 ♂♂ 1 ♀ studied (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN).

Apion taviense BAJTENOV & LODOS, 1980: 145, **n. syn.** Types not studied, synonymisation based on original description.

***Squamapion elongatum* (GERMAR, 1817)**

Apion arcirostre DESBROCHERS, 1895: 169, **n. syn.** Holotype ♂: a) Sarepta (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN); dissected, ♀ in original description.

***Squamapion leucophaeatum* (WENCKER, 1864)**

Apion tenuirostre DESBROCHERS, 1895: 169, **n. syn.** Holotype ♂: a) Tunis, b) tenuirostre Desbr. (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN).

Melanapion mandli* (SCHUBERT, 1957), **n. comb.*

Apion mandli SCHUBERT, 1957b: 30. Lectotype ♂ (dissected by MW): a) Werchne-Udinsk, Transbaikal, Mandl, b) *Apion curtirostre* Germ. Penecke det., c) Mandli m. ♂ det. Schubert, d) Mandli m. Holotypus det. F. Schubert, e) Typus (coll. SCHUBERT, NMW) – present designation. Paralectotype ♂: same labels except incorrect allotype indication, dissected and re-mounted by BAJTENOV (NMW).

Poorly known, East Palaearctic species, incorrectly placed by SCHUBERT in subgenus *Perapion*.

***Metapion obtectum* (SCHILSKY, 1902)**

Apion gladiator BAJTENOV, 1977: 15, **n. syn.** The specimens (1 ♂ 3 ♀♀) from Aktash n. Tashkent and Turkestanskiy Khrebet identified by BAJTENOV (coll. DIECKMANN, DEI) were compared with type ♂ of *A. obtectum* SCHILSKY stored in MNB.

***Exapion difficile* (HERBST, 1797)**

Apion toelgi WAGNER, 1914: 25, **n. syn.** Two specimens studied (1 ♂ 1 ♀, coll. SCHUBERT, NMW) bearing standard WAGNER's type labels written with red ink, but both with patria labels: "Belgrader Wald, Turcia 1909, leg. Dr. Fahringer", not agreeing with the statement in WAGNER's description.

The population of *E. difficile* from NW Turkey represents a form with more or less evidently bi-colored elytral vestiture, forming whitish lateral bands, like in the *compactum*-species group.

Pseudoperapion liebmanni* (SCHUBERT, 1957), **n. comb.*

Apion liebmanni SCHUBERT, 1957: 32. Holotype ♂: a) Algérie, Cherchell, b) 15.6.55, W. Liebmann, c) liebmanni m. Holotypus, det. F. Schubert, d) Type (coll. SCHUBERT, NMW).

Apion laportei HOFFMANN, 1959: 169, **n. syn.** Holotype ♂ (coll. HOFFMANN, MNHN) studied.

***Perapion marseuli* (WENCKER, 1864)**

Apion marseuli WENCKER, 1864: 261. A syntype studied: a) Biskra, Marseul, b) Type (coll. WENCKER, MNHN).

Apion ormusense BAJTENOV & FREMUTH, 1981: 248, **n. syn.** Two paratypes examined (MW).

***Aizobius robustirostris* (DESBROCHERS, 1870)**

Apion robustirostre DESBROCHERS, 1870: 184. Holotype ♂: a) Algérie, b) type ♂ (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN).

Apion schaeferi HOFFMANN, 1960: 22, **n. syn.** Holotype not found in HOFFMANN's coll., synonymisation based on several specimens from Portugal identified as *A. schaeferi* by that author and preserved in his coll.

This name was commonly applied in collections to one rare, actually undescribed species from Northwestern Africa, being distinct from true *A. robustirostre* in larger body size and distinctly bluish elytra.

***Catapion gemulum* (FAUST, 1885)**

Apion turkestanicum DESBROCHERS, 1892: 107, **n. syn.** Lectotype ♀: a) Turkestan, Reitter, Leder (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN) – present designation.

Apion mus DESBROCHERS, 1897: 25, **n. syn.** Lectotype ♀: a) Turcmenien, Reitter, Leder, b) Ex Musaeo Desbrochers 1914 (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN) – present designation. Hitherto placed among synonyms of *C. caucasicum* (HOCHHUTH).

Apion doriae DESBROCHERS, 1893: 11, **n. syn.** In coll. DESBROCHERS (MNHN) under the head label “persicum” there are 1 ♂ labelled “Persia settent. 1862-63, coll. G. Doria” and 1 ♀ labelled “Persia merid. 1862-63, coll. G. Doria”, both representing *Catapion gemulum* (FAUST) and ♂ evidently being a syntype of *Apion doriae* DESBR. Similar pair of specimens with identical labels is in coll. HOFFMANN, and ♀ has handwritten by HOFFMANN label “Apion Doriae Dbr.”. Both exs were definitely identified by HOFFMANN as “*A. caucasicum* Hochh.” and stay under the head label “caucasicum Hochh. = Doriae Dbr. = mus Dbr. = acuticlava Dbr” in box no. 169.

In coll. WAGNER (Mus. Frey, ZSM, currently NMB) there are 3 specimens identified as *A. caucasicum* HOCHH., one of them labelled “ex type!” and being that directly compared with the type specimen from HOCHHUTH's coll. housed in Museum Kiev (WAGNER, 1914). All these specimens are conspecific with *C. gemulum* (FAUST). If this synonymy is confirmed, the specific epithet *caucasicum* HOCHHUTH, 1847 would be the oldest, valid name for this species. On the other hand I myself have never seen specimens of *C. gemulum* (FAUST) from Caucasus, and BAJTENOV (1977) distinguished between *caucasicum* and *gemulum* based on some characters of pronotum and aedeagus.

***Catapion bruleriei* (DESBROCHERS, 1875)**

Apion bruleriei DESBROCHERS, 1875: 30. Two ♂♂ syntypes from Beyruth (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN) studied.

Apion tauricum SCHUBERT, 1963: 81, **n. syn.** Holotype ♂: a) Namrun, Anat. m., 11-26.5.[19]60, leg. F. Schubert, b) tauricum m. Holotypus, det. F. Schubert, c) Typus (coll. SCHUBERT, NMW), studied. Additionally in the same coll. 1 ♂ with same data, identified as “allotypus”.

Apion schuberti ALONSO ZARAZAGA, 1986: 198, **n. syn.** (replacement name for *tauricum* SCHUBERT, nec DESBROCHERS, 1902).

***Catapion cyanellum* (DESBROCHERS, 1896)**

Apion cyanellum DESBROCHERS, 1896: 284. ALONSO-ZARAZAGA, 1990: 115 (current placement). Holotype ♂: a) Caucasus, Armen. Geb., Leder, Reitter (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN), examined.
 ? *Apion semicyanescens* DESBROCHERS, 1904b: 54.

Another slightly damaged male specimen is stored in REITTER's coll. (HNHM), and identified as holotype of *Apion cyanellum* DESBR. It bears similar printed label as the holotype, and additionally a handwritten by E. REITTER (as compared with the example in HORN et al. 1990) label "A. cyanellum Desbr. n. sp. Typ", but it represents different species currently classified as *Hemitrichapion lethierryi* (DESBROCHERS). The original description was based on a single specimen, and agrees well with the MNHN specimen, while some morphological characters of the HNHM specimen disagree; hence the former is here considered to be the holotype.

The type specimen represents Central Asian species of *Catapion* closely related to *C. schneideri* (TOURNIER), but distinct in slightly larger body, missing subocular tooth in head's profile, stronger curved rostrum longer in female. It is often identified in collections as *C. semicyanescens* (DESBR.), the type of which has not been found by me in MNHN.

***Betulapion simile* (KIRBY, 1811)**

Apion pedicellare THOMSON C. G., 1865: 78, n. syn. Lectotype ♀: no. 246, label illegible (ZML) – present designation. Since BEDEL (1888) erroneously considered as synonym of *Pseudoperapion brevirostre* (HERBST), omitted from further catalogues of the Apionidae.

***Hemitrichapion (Tinocyba) insidiosum* (DESBROCHERS, 1875), n. comb.**

Apion insidiosum DESBROCHERS, 1875: 28. Lectotype ♂: a) Damas, b) ♂, c) Ex musaeo Desbrochers 1914 [all left legs lacking, dissected] (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN) – present designation. Paralectotypes (2 ♀♀): same data as the lectotype [head lacking] (1 ♀, coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN); a) insidiosum m. ♀ Syrie, b) 60 Db, c) Desbroch. 3 frs, d) [pink square], e) red – histor. Exmpl., vielleicht Type [by DIECKMANN?] (1 ♀, coll. v. HEYDEN, DEI).

Apion persicum DESBROCHERS, 1893: 11, n. syn. Lectotype ♂: a) persicum m. Perse, b) persicum Dsb., Persia, Desbroch 3 frs, c) coll. L. v. Heyden, d) Syntypus (coll. v. HEYDEN, DEI) – present designation. In coll. DESBROCHERS (box no. 7, MNHN) there is only a head label "persicum" and information about one specimen loaned (over 30 years ago) to BAJTENOV. See also a note under *A. doriae*, a synonym of *Catapion gemulum* (FAUST).

The species was earlier placed by LEGALOV (2001: 675) in the genus *Mesotrichapion*, here it is transferred to *Hemitrichapion*.

***Hemitrichapion (Tinocyba) derelictum* (DESBROCHERS, 1907), n. comb.**

Apion derelictum DESBROCHERS, 1907: 85. Lectotype ♂: a) armenie russe, b) A. derelictum Db. (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN) – present designation. In the same paper on p. 90 DESBROCHERS described another *Apion derelictum* from Romania, a junior homonym rejected by DIECKMANN (1973), apparently representing a different species of possibly *Ischnopterapion* (WAGNER, 1909).

H. derelictum is largely sympatric with and closely related to *H. insidiosum*, differing externally in much better developed body vestiture and slightly shorter rostrum.

***Hemitrichapion (Tinocyba) lethierryi* (DESBROCHERS, 1870), n. comb.**

Apion lethierryi DESBROCHERS, 1870: 188. Lectotype ♂: a) Algérie (coll. Desbrochers, MNHN) – present designation. Paralectotype 1 ♀: a) *Apion lethierryi*, b) Cotype v. *Apion lethierryi* Dbrs., c) Algeria ex coll. Dbrs. (coll. WAGNER, ZSM, currently NMB). Moreover, in coll. DESBROCHERS 1 ♂ labelled: a) Mehadia, b) ♂, c) *Lethierryi*, d) type (MNHN), conspecific with the lectotype but not being type specimen.

Apion gavoyi DESBROCHERS, 1904b: 53, n. syn. Types not found in DESBROCHERS coll., but numerous specimens from France were available for comparison, including one “cotype” from DESBROCHERS found in coll. WAGNER (ZSM, currently NMB).

The species is widely distributed in Mediterranean, and reaching Caucasus to the East.

***Hemitrichapion reflexum* (GYLLENHAL, 1833)**

Apion foveatum DESBROCHERS, 1904b: 55, n. syn. Holotype ♂: a) Caucasus, Mtzchet 79, Leder (Reitter), b) foveatum [handwritten], c) Museum Paris (coll. A. HOFFMANN, MNHN).

***Hemitrichapion andalusiacum* (DESBROCHERS, 1889)**

Apion ciliare DESBROCHERS, 1889: CCXVI. Lectotype ♂: a) Mont Edough Desbrochers 1889, b) ♂, c) ciliare (coll. DESBROCHERS, MNHN) – present designation. Paralectotypes: same data (2 ♂♂, MNHN); a) Alger, b) ciliare Desbr. typus, c) Syntype, coll. Fauvel (1 ♀ + 1 damaged specimen, IRB). Synonymisation by DESBROCHERS (1891b: 43).

***Oxystoma insignicolle* (DESBROCHERS, 1891), n. comb. & stat.**

Apion insignicolle DESBROCHERS, 1891: LVI. Lectotype ♂: a) ♂, b) in *Orobis flexicaulis*, c) 1 [green square], d) n.sp. sec. Desbr., e) c. Eppelsh., Steind. d., f) insignicolle Dbrs., H. Wagner det. (NMW) – present designation. Paralectotypes: 1 ♀: a) ♀, b) Taurus, e) & f) as in the lectotype; 1 ♂: a) Taurus, in *Orobis flexicaulis*, b) 759a *Oxystoma insignicolle* Dsbr., f) as in the lectotype; 1 ex. with head missing: a) & b) Taurus, in *Orobis flexicaulis*, f) as in the lectotype [additionally a pod and one seed are pinned under this specimen]. All type specimens teneral and deformed (NMW).

Apion cilicicum SCHUBERT, 1969: 103, n. syn. Holotype ♂: a) Namrun, Asm., 10-12.6.65, leg.F. Schubert, b) cilicicum m Holotypus, det. F. Schubert, c) Type, and paratypes 2 ♀♀ (coll. SCHUBERT, NMW) studied.

The species was hitherto misinterpreted as a synonym of *O. craccae* (LINNAEUS), from which it clearly differs in narrower body and structure of rostrum. The male has rostrum more similar to that in *O. dimidiatum* (DESBROCHERS), while female has thin, parallelsided prorostrum like *O. fausti* (DESBROCHERS), but in profile metarostrum is more prominent ventrally.

***Protapion angusticolle* (GYLLENHAL, 1833)**

Apion cyprum BALFOUR-BROWNE, 1944: 153, n. syn. The paratypes (2 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀) from Limassol, Episcopi and Akrotiri Bay (BMNH) studied.

Apion tereticolle DESBROCHERS, 1897: 22, **n. syn.** Holotype ♀: a) Syrien, Kaiffa, Reitter, b) *Apion tereticollis* Dbr. Frel. 1896 [handwritten], c) comp. cum Type, différe a assimile ♀[Hoffmann's handwr.], d) Holotypus (coll. HOFFMANN, MNHN).

***Pseudoconapion griseosetulosum* (DESBROCHERS, 1875), n. comb.**

Apion griseo-setulosum DESBROCHERS, 1875: 29. Lectotype ♂: a) Egypte (coll. DESBROCHERS, standing under wrong head label "griseosetosulum", MNHN) – present designation.

Pseudoconapion mirei: WANAT, 1990, nec HOFFMANN, 1962.

One of few members of Paleotropical genus *Pseudoconapion* entering Palaearctic peripherals in Egypt and southern Arabian Peninsula, widespread in Africa through the savannah and desert zones south of the Sahara. Based on the apparently misidentified by GYÖRFFY Egyptian specimens from HNHN, the species was erroneously considered by DIECKMANN (1989) to be a member of the *seniculus* – species group of *Catapion*.

***Pseudoconapion niloticum* (DESBROCHERS, 1895)**

Apion niloticum DESBROCHERS, 1895b: 83. Lectotype ♂: a) niloticum Frel. 95. m. Egypte Pic, b) Egypte, ex M. Pic, c) Museum Paris 1968 (coll. HOFFMANN, MNHN) – designated by BAJTENOV (1981: 641), studied. Paralectotypes 2 ♀♀ ex coll. Pic (MNB), studied.

Pseudoconapion niloticum: WANAT, 1990.

Apion mateui mirei HOFFMANN, 1962: 436, **n. syn.** Holotype ♂ (Chad: Tibesti Mts: Totous) and 3 paratypes (coll. HOFFMANN, MNHN), studied.

Apion mateui HOFFMANN, 1963b: 218, 1964: 1216, **n. syn.** Holotype ♂ (Chad: Mare de Bagada) and all 6 paratypes (coll. HOFFMANN, MNHN), studied.

Like *P. griseosetosulum*, the species is known from Egypt and Yemen, apart from several African countries lying in the dry savannah zone.

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