Type species designations for Sphenoptera Dejean and Rhaphidochila Jakovlev (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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The genus Sphenoptera was established by Dejean (1833) and originally included 36 nominal species at least 20 species names nomen nud; no type species was designated. Though the first description of this genus was published by Solier (1833) in the same year, Dejean's Catalogue was published earlier (Madge, 1988; Bellamy, 1998). The authorship of Sphenoptera has been traditionally credited to Solier. Buprestis lapidaria Brulle was subsequently designated as the type species of Sphenoptera Solier by Volkovitsh & Kalashian (1994). This type designation is invalid because the species was included in the genus by Solier but not by Dejean. For this reason, we designate Buprestis antiqua Illiger, 1803 as type species of Sphenoptera Dejean. This species, originally included in the genus by Dejean is one of the best known and widely distributed Sphenoptera species.

Volkovitsh & Kalashian (1994) discussed the taxonomy and nomenclature of the Jakovlev's subgenera of Sphenoptera and placed Rhaphidochila Jak., but the type species of the former was not designated. Jakovlev (1900) attributed 2 species to Rhaphidochila: S. nox Jak. and S. coerulea Jak., the first is known as a single specimen, the second is represented by specimens from several localities in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. For this reason, we designate Sphenoptera coerulea Jakovlev, 1898 as type species of Rhaphidochila Jakovlev, 1900 (junior synonym of the subgenus Cyphostetha Jakovlev, 1893).

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References


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