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ON THE TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE OF SOME MECININI (Coleoptera, Curculionidae)

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INTRODUCTION

During the study for a revision of the Palearctic species of the weevil genera *Mecinus* Germar, 1817, *Cleopomiarus* Pierce, 1919, and *Rhinusa* Stephens, 1829 (Mecinini, Curculioninae) still in progress, I have examined type series of many taxa belonging to these three genera, including specimens of taxa never examined by authors since their description. This opportunity allowed me to ascertain the taxonomic position of some little-known ancient taxa.

The aim of the present paper is the discussion of some of them, which arise nomenclatural problems also to invoke Article 23.9 involving nomina protecta and nomina oblita, and Article 75.3, involving designation of neotype, of the Internatonal Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999).

ACRONYMS

DEI	Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg (L. Behne, L. Zerche)
HNHM	Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (O. Merkl)
MLUH	Institut für Zoologie, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle (K. Schneider)
MSNM	Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano, Milan (C. Pesarini, F. Rigato)
MZLU	Museum of Zoology, Lund University, Lund (R. Danielsson)
NHRS	Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm (B. Viklund)
ZIN	Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg (B.A. Korotyaev)
ZMHB	Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (J. Frisch, J. Willers)

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Curculio cinctus Rossi, 1790

Curculio cinctus Rossi, 1790: 125. Hellwig & Illiger, 1795: 133.

Curculio cinctus was described from specimens collected in Tuscany (Italy), which are not available, since Rossi's collection no longer exists. Schoenherr (1838) synonymized this taxon with *Mecinus collaris* Germar, 1821, considering this as the valid name for the species although it was described later. Subsequently all authors followed Schoenherr's opinion. Due to unavailability of syntypes, following the provisions of Article 75.3 of ICZN (1999) I decided to designate neotypes for both taxa (see Appendix).

The junior name *collaris* can be mantained, since *Curculio cinctus* is a junior homonym of *Curculio cinctus* Drury, 1782 (now a *Cholus*, according to Alonso-Zarazaga pers. comm.) nec *Curculio cinctus* Geoffroy, 1785 (currently *Coeliodes transversealbofasciatus* Goeze, 1777).

Therefore, the synonymy is as follows:
Mecinus collaris Germar, 1821
= *Curculio cinctus* Rossi, 1790 (non Drury, 1782 nec Geoffroy, 1785)

Curculio curvirostris Rossi, 1790

Curculio curvirostris Rossi, 1790: 117. Hellwig & Illiger, 1795: 125. Brisout, 1863: 652.

Curculio curvirostris was described by Rossi (1790) from specimens collected in Tuscany (Italy). Brisout (1863) seems to be the first who synonymized this taxon with *Rhinusa linariae* (Panzer, 1792) (formerly *Curculio linariae* and *Gymnetron linariae*), considering this the valid name for the species although it was described later. Subsequently all authors followed Brisout's opinion.

Unfortunately syntypes of neither species are available since at the ZMNB (ex coll. J.C.L. Hellwig), where part of Rossi's collection is preserved, there are no type specimens of *Curculio curvirostris* and in the general collection of the ZMNB, where Panzer's collection was deposited, there are no type specimens of *Curculio linariae*. Therefore, following the provisions of Article 75 of the ICZN (1999) I decided to designate neotypes of the two taxa (see Appendix).

The junior name *linariae* can be mantained, since *Curculio curvirostris* Rossi is a junior homonym of *Curculio curvirostris* Fabricius, 1781 and also of *Curculio curvirostris* Herbst, 1784, respectively an Indonesian baridine and a probable synonym of *Exapion fuscirostre* (Fabricius, 1775) (Alonso-Zarazaga, pers. comm.) and therefore the proposed combination is as follows:
Rhinusa linariae (Panzer, 1792) (*Curculio*)
= *Curculio curvirostris* Rossi, 1790 (non Fabricius, 1781 nec Herbst, 1784)

Curculio ellipticus Herbst, 1795

Curculio ellipticus Herbst, 1795, 171.

Curculio ellipticus was described from specimens from Europe without more precise indications. Schoenherr (1838, p. 772) synonymized this taxon with *Cleopomiarus graminis* (Gyllenhal, 1813) (formerly *Rhynchaenus* and *Miarus*), considering this as the valid name for the species although it was described later. Subsequently all authors followed Schoenherr's opinion. It is noteworthy that Schoenherr again synonymized *Curculio ellipticus* also with *Miarus campanulae* (Linnaeus, 1758) (formerly *Curculio*) (p. 774) although dubitatively, and a variety of *Curculio ellipticus* with *Rhinusa neta* (Germar, 1821) (formerly *Cionus netus* and *Gymnetron netum*).

In the general collection of the ZMHB, where Herbst's collection was inserted, I have found six syntypes (five males and one female) of *Curculio ellipticus*. One of them is labelled "54726 [printed] / graminis Sch., Rh. gramin. Gyll., Curc. ellipticus Hbt*, Rh. cinerascens Grav. / Campanulae n., Rhynchaen. Camp. sub Curc. ellipticus Ht.*, Rh. cinerascens Gr. [handwritten]", whereas the others are labelled only "Hist.-Coll., Nr. 54726 [handwitten]". According to Article 72.4.1.1 of ICZN (1999). I here designate the first specimen (a male) as the lectotype of *Curculio ellipticus*.

Although younger, the name *graminis* can be mantained, since *Curculio ellipticus* meets the requirements of Article 23.9.1.1 and *Cleopomiarus graminis* meets those of Article 23.9.1.2 of ICZN (1999) by quoting the following references: Abbazzi & Osella 1992; Abbazzi et al. 1994; Angelov 1967; Angelov 1974; Bercio & Folwaczny 1979;

Caldara 2001; Caldara 2005; Caldara & Pesarini 1977; Caldara & Pesarini 1980; Colonnelli 2003; Egorov et al. 1996; Endrödi 1970; Hansen M. 1996; Hansen V. 1964; Kangas 1980; Koch 1992; Lohse & Tischler 1983; Pelletier 2005; Silfverberg 1979; Smreczyński 1976; Strejček 2001; Telnov 2004, Tempère & Péricart 1989; Vahtera & Muona 2006; Wanat & Mocrzycki 2005.

Therefore I propose as follows:

Cleopomiarus graminis (Gyllenhal, 1813) (*Rhynchaenus)* **nomen protectum**

= *Curculio ellipticus* Herbst, 1795 **nomen oblitum**

Curculio noctis Herbst, 1795

Curculio noctis Herbst, 1795: 269.
Cionus noctis (Herbst). Germar, 1821: 311.
Gymnetron noctis (Herbst). Schoenherr, 1826: 319; 1838: 761. Brisout, 1863: 657.

Curculio noctis was described from specimens collected in Germany. This taxon (as *Cionus* and *Gymnetron*) was reported by Germar (1821) and Schoenherr (1838) as a distinct species, but synonymized by Schoenherr (1826) and Brisout (1863) with *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800) (formerly *Curculio* and *Gymnetron*), which subsequently to 1862 has always been considered the valid name of this species although it was described later (it is also the type species of the genus *Rhinusa*).

In the original description Herbst (1795) noticed that the type specimens belong to Schneider's collection, which unfortunately no longer exists. However, at the ZMHB I have found seven specimens, which can be considered to belong to Herbst's original collection. All of them bear a label with the number "54702". One male is also labelled: "C. noctis Hbt* / type". According to Article 72.4.1.1 of ICZN (1999). I here designate this specimen as the lectotype of *Curculio noctis* because I believe that at least this specimen belong to the types series. I can confirm that this taxon is synonymous with *Rhinusa antirrhini*. However, since no syntypes of this latter species are available, following the provisions of Article 75.3 of ICZN (1999) I decided to designate a neotype of this taxon. (see Appendix).

The junior name *antirrhini* can be mantained since *Curculio noctis* meets the requirements of Article 23.9.1.1 and *Rhinusa antirrhini*

meets those of Article 23.9.1.2 of ICZN (1999) by quoting the following references: Abbazzi & Osella 1992; Abbazzi et al. 1994; Angelov 1967; Angelov 1975; Bercio & Folwaczny 1979; Caldara 2001; Cmoluch 1992; Cmoluch et al. 1992; Colonnelli 2003; Endrödi 1970; Fremuth 1972; Hansen M. 1996; Hansen V. 1964; Koch 1992; Lohse & Tischler 1983; Pelletier 2005, Silfverberg 1979, Smreczyński 1976; Strejček 1996a; Strejček 1996b; Strejček 2001; Telnov 2004; Tempère & Péricart 1989; Tischler 1985; Wanat & Mocrzycki 2005.

Therefore, I propose as follows:
Rhinusa antirrhini (Paykull, 1800) (*Curculio*) **nomen protectum**.
= *Curculio noctis* Herbst, 1795 **nomen oblitum**.

Cionus thapsicola Germar, 1821

Cionus thapsicola Germar, 1821: 313.

This species was described from specimens collected in Bavaria (Germany) on *Verbascum* sp. (from which the name of the taxon) from Philipp Wilbrand Jacob Müller's collection and this author is quoted as the proposer of the name of this species at the end of the original description.

Germar (1821) compared his new taxon with *Curculio antirrhini* Paykull, 1800 (as *Cionus*), misinterpreting Paykull's species. Actually, *Cionus antirrhini* sensu Germar is synonymous with *Rhinusa tetra* (Fabricius, 1792) (formerly *Curculio teter* and *Gymnetron tetrum*). Incidentally, in the original description Germar includes the following sentences: "rostro thoracis longitudine, versus apice perparum angustius, laeve", "thorax ut in precedente [*R. tetra*], paullo latior" and "femora modice incrassata, mutica". *Rhinusa thapsicola* was unknown to Schoenherr (1838), but Boheman (1845) gave a brief description of Germar's taxon (as *Gymnetron*) in Latin, observing that this species is very similar to *R. antirrhini* sensu Germar, but it is not clear whether he based it on Germar's original description or types. On the basis of the original description and of specimens from Germany identified as *Gymnetron thapsicola* (Germar) by French colleagues, Brisout (1863) was the first who gave a definite, although subjective, taxonomic concept of this species, noticing however that in it the rostrum is distinctly shorter in male than in female, in which sex the

rostrum is distinctly longer than the pronotum, and the mesofemora and metafemora bear a distinct tooth. Subsequently all authors who studied Mecinini (Desbrochers, 1893b; Reitter, 1908; Hustache, 1931; Hoffmann, 1958; Smreczyński, 1976; Lohse & Tischler, 1983) followed Brisout's opinion.

In Germar's collection, as also reported by Plötz (1869), under the label *"thapsicola"* there is only a female specimen bearing a small square brown label and another label with "Gymnetron netum auct. female, K. Daniel det.". It is in fact a female of *Rhinusa neta* (Germar, 1821) (formerly *Cionus netus* and *Gymnetron netum*), which however does not correspond to the original description due to the femora with a small tooth and a differently shaped rostrum. Therefore, as reported by Germar, the types were in Müller's collection, which unfortunately no longer exists (Behne pers. comm.).

After a careful reading of the original description, I concluded that it is not consistent also with Brisout's concept of the species and that *Cionus thapsicola* is synonymous with female of *Rhinusa tetra* as I could also observe in some ancient German collections. Therefore, following the provisions of Article 75 of the ICZN (1999) I decided to designate a specimen of *Rhinusa tetra* as neotype of *Cionus thapsicola* (see Appendix). Moreover, it is noteworthy that only *Rhinusa tetra* lives on *Verbascum*, whereas both *Rhinusa neta* and *Rhinusa thapsicola* sensu auctorum live on *Linaria*.

Presently only one taxon, *Rhinusa eversmanni* (Rosenschöld, 1838) (formerly *Gymnetron*), is considered as a synonym of *Rhinusa thapsicola* sensu auctorum (non Germar) (Péricart, 1973). With regard to the type specimens Rosenschöld (1838) writes: "Patria: Bukhara, Dom. Eversmann, Prof. in Kasan Russiae, qui Domino Faldermann hoc ut et plura alia insecta misit. A Dom. Faldermann ad describendum amice communicatus". In the general collection of the ZIN, where part of Feldermann's collection was inserted, there are no syntypes of *Gymnetron eversmanni* (Korotyaev, pers. comm.). However, in Schoenherr's collection (NHRS) I examined a female of this taxon, which is labelled: "Buchara, Faldermann / A-288 Gymnetron thapsicola Germar, J. Péricart det. 1972" and corresponds very well to the original description. According to Article 72.4.1.1 of ICZN (1999) I here designate this specimen as the lectotype of *Gymnetron eversmanni* because I believe that this specimen could be considered as belonging to the type series, and can confirm Péricart's opinion.

Therefore I propose as follows:
Rhinusa tetra (Fabricius, 1792) (*Curculio*) = *Cionus thapsicola* Germar, 1821 **n. syn.**
Rhinusa eversmanni (Rosenschöld, 1838) (*Gymnetron*) = *Rhinusa thapsicola* sensu auctorum (non Germar, 1821).

Gymnetron florum Rübsaamen, 1895

Gymnetron florum Rübsaamen, 1895: 480. Darboux & Houard, 1901: 441. Houard, 1909: 876.

The description of this species was based on a single specimen found in a gall developed on a plant of *Linaria genistifolia* (L.) Miller collected at Michailowo in Transcaucasia (now Georgia). This species is quoted in two papers dealing with gall-producing insects (Darboux & Houard 1901; Houard 1909), but no author considered its taxonomic position.

I examined this specimen (a male, holotype by monotypy), which is labelled: "66139 / Type / Michailowo, Transcaucas., [Boris] Fedtschenko / florum Rübs." (NHMB). On the same pin is a part of a plant with a gall. It is a specimen of the species currently named *Rhinusa smreczynskii* (Fremuth, 1972) (formerly *Gymnetron*), of which I examined some paratypes (type locality: Warna, Bulgaria) in the DEI and the HNHM. In this case both the conditions of Article 23.9.1 are not met and therefore the following synonymy is proposed:
Rhinusa florum (Rübsaamen, 1895) (*Gymnetron*) = *Gymnetron smreczynskii* Fremuth, 1972 **n. syn.**

Mecinus barbarus Gyllenhal, 1838

Mecinus barbarus Gyllenhal, 1838: 778. De Stefani-Perez, 1904: 125; 1906: 139. Reitter, 1908: 14. Houard, 1909: 893.

Mecinus barbarus was described from female specimens from Paykull's collection collected at Algiers (Algeria). This taxon remained unknown to Desbrochers (1893a,b,c) and also to Reitter (1908), who however placed it in his key on the basis of the original description. De Stefani-Perez (1904, 1906) and Houard (1909) reported this species as forming galls on *Plantago*.

At the NHMS I examined a female syntype of *Mecinus barbarus*, which is labelled: "female / Mus. Payk. / Typus / W. Acad, 3.46" (lectotype here designated). I could verify that this species is identical to the species currently named *Mecinus longiusculus* Boheman, 1845, of which I examined a female syntype labelled "female / 1092 Chevr. Corsica / Coll. Chevr. / Typus" (NHRS; lectotype here designated). In this case both the conditions of Article 23.9.1 are not met and therefore *Mecinus longiusculus* becomes a junior synonym of *Mecinus barbarus*, as well as all the taxa considered as synonyms of *Mecinus longiusculus*. I propose the following synonymies:
Mecinus barbarus Gyllenhal, 1838 = *Mecinus longiusculus* Boheman, 1845 **n. syn.**; = *Mecinus teretiusculus* Boheman, 1845 **n. syn.**; = *Mecinus filiformis* Aubé, 1850 **n. syn.**

APPENDIX

Designation of neotypes

In accordance with Article 75 of ICZN (1999) I here designate the following neotypes:

Curculio antirrhini Paykull: a male labelled: "Upland [Sweden], [leg.] E. Wirén [printed] / [under the same label] Singö, 21/7.1941 [handwritten] / Neotype, Curculio antirrhini Paykull, des. R. Caldara 2008 [printed]". The specimen is 2.42 mm long (rostrum excluded), well preserved and set on a white rectangular card. It is deposited in the MZLU. The type locality becomes now: Singö (Uppland province, Svealand, Sweden).

Curculio cinctus Rossi: a female labelled "Foligno, 29.VIII.1931, [leg.] C. Menozzi [printed] / Neotype, Curculio cinctus Rossi, des. R. Caldara 2008 [printed]"". The specimen is 3.06 mm long (rostrum excluded), well preserved and set on a white rectangular card. It is deposited in the MSNM. The type locality becomes now: Foligno (Perugia province, Umbria, Italy).

Curculio curvirostris Rossi: a male labelled: "Formello, prov. Roma, 27.V.1939, [leg.] Garavaglia [handwritten] / Neotype, Curculio

curvirostris Rossi, des. R. Caldara 2008 [printed]". The specimen is 3.03 mm long (rostrum excluded), with broad scales at base of pronotum, mesothoracic epimeres and mesothoracic and methathoracic episterna whitish ochraceous in colour, well preserved and set on a white rectangular card. It is deposited in the MSNM. The type locality becomes now: Formello (Rome province, Latium, Italy).

Curculio linariae Panzer: a male labelled: " Ebersw. [Eberswalde] [printed] / male [handwritten] / Neotype, Curculio linariae Panzer, des. R. Caldara 2008 [printed]".The specimen is 2.75 mm long (rostrum excluded), well preserved and set on a white triangular card. It is deposited in the ZMHB. The type locality becomes now: Eberswalde (Brandeburg, Germany).

Cionus thapsicola Germar: a female labelled: "Germany, Brandenburg, Neutornow, 4-6-1999. H. Hendriksen [handwritten] / Neotype, Cionus thapsicola Germar, des. R. Caldara 2008 [printed]". The specimen is 3.20 mm long (rostrum excluded), weel preserved and set on a white rectangular label. It is deposited in the MLUH. The type locality becomes now: Neutornow (Brandeburg, Germany).

Mecinus collaris Germar: a male labelled "[very small pink square label] / 54625 / collaris Germ., Berol. [Berlin] / Neotype, Mecinus collaris Germar, des. R. Caldara 2008 [printed]". The specimen is 3.13 mm long (rostrum excluded), with few broad scales at base of pronotum, with these scales and those bearing mesothoracic epimeres and mesothoracic and methathoracic episterna whitish to light ochraceous in colour, pinned on the right elytron but well preserved. It is deposited in the ZMHB. The type locality becomes now: Berlin (Germany).

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SUMMARY

In accordance with the Code, ten actions are taken to preserve nomenclatural stability of names of taxa currently belonging to Mecinini. Following the provisions of ICZN Article 23.9.1, *Cleopomiarus graminis* (Gyllenhal, 1813) (formerly *Rhynchaenus*) is made a **nomen protectum** and *Curculio ellipticus* Herbst, 1795 is made a **nomen oblitum;** *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800) (formerly *Curculio*) is made a **nomen protectum** and *Curculio noctis* Herbst, 1795 is made a **nomen oblitum**; Having met the conditions of ICZN Article 75.3 the neotypes of the following taxa are designated: *Curculio antirrhini* Paykull, 1800, *Curculio cinctus* Rossi, 1790, *Curculio curvirostris* Rossi, 1790, *Curculio linariae* Panzer, 1792, *Cionus thapsicola* Germar, 1821, *Mecinus collaris* Germar, 1821. Lectotypes of *Curculio ellipticus* Herbst, 1795, *Gymnetron eversmanni* Rosenschöld, 1838, *Mecinus barbarus* Gyllenhal, 1838, and *Mecinus longiusculus* Boheman, 1845 are also designated. *Rhinusa linariae* (Panzer, 1792) (formerly *Curculio*) remains the valid name of the taxon since *Curculio curvirostris* Rossi, 1790 (non Fabricius, 1781 nec Herbst, 1784) is unavailable; *Mecinus collaris* Germar, 1821 remains the valid name of the taxon since *Curculio cinctus* Rossi, 1790 (non Drury, 1782 nec Geoffroy, 1785) is unavailable. The following new synonymies are proposed: *Mecinus barbarus* Gyllenhal, 1838 = *Mecinus longiusculus* Boheman, 1845 **n. syn.**, = *Mecinus teretiusculus* Boheman, 1845 **n. syn.**, = *Mecinus filiformis* Aubé, 1850 **n. syn.**; *Rhinusa florum* (Rübsaamen, 1895) = *Gymnetron smreczynskii* Fremuth, 1972 **n. syn.**; *Rhinusa tetra* (Fabricius, 1792) = *Cionus thapsicola* Germar, 1821 **n. syn.** *Rhinusa eversmanni* (Rosenschöld, 1838) is the name proposed for *Rhinusa thapsicola* sensu auctorum (non Germar, 1821).

RIASSUNTO

Sulla tassonomia e la nomenclatura di alcuni Mecinini (Coleoptera, Curculionidae).

In accordo con le disposizioni del Codice Internazionale di Nomenclatura Zoologica, vengono proposte dieci azioni allo scopo di salvaguardare la stabilità della nomenclatura attuale di alcune specie della tribù Mecinini. Seguendo le indicazioni dell'Articolo 23.9.1, *Cleopomiarus graminis* (Gyllenhal, 1813) (originariamente *Rhynchaenus*) è considerato **nomen protectum** e *Curculio ellipticus* Herbst, 1795 è considetato **nomen oblitum;** *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800) (originariamente *Curculio*) è considetato **nomen protectum** e *Curculio noctis* Herbst, 1795 è considerato **nomen oblitum.** Essendo presenti le condizioni richieste dall'Articolo 75.3, vengono designati i neotipi dei seguenti taxa: *Curculio antirrhini* Paykull, 1800, *Curculio cinctus* Rossi, 1790, *Curculio curvirostris* Rossi, 1790, *Curculio linariae* Panzer, 1792, *Cionus thapsicola* Germar, 1821, *Mecinus collaris* Germar, 1821. Sono inoltre stabiliti i lectotipi di: *Curculio ellipticus* Herbst, 1795, *Gymnetron eversmanni* Rosenschöld, 1838, *Mecinus barbarus* Gyllenhal, 1838 e *Mecinus longiusculus* Boheman, 1845. *Rhinusa linariae* (Panzer, 1792) (originariamente *Curculio*) rimane il nome valido del taxon dato che *Curculio curvirostris* Rossi, 1790 (non Fabricius, 1781 nec Herbst, 1784) non è utilizzabile; *Mecinus collaris* Germar, 1821 rimane il nome valido del taxon dato che *Curculio cinctus* Rossi, 1790 (non Drury, 1782 nec Geoffroy, 1785) non è utilizzabile. Sono infine proposte le seguenti nuove sinonimie: *Mecinus barbarus* Gyllenhal, 1838 = *Mecinus longiusculus* Boheman, 1845 **n. syn.**, = *Mecinus teretiusculus* Boheman, 1845 **n. syn.**, = *Mecinus filiformis* Aubé, 1850 **n. syn.**; *Rhinusa florum* (Rübsaamen, 1895) = *Gymnetron smreczynskii* Fremuth, 1972 **n. syn.**; *Rhinusa tetra* (Fabricius, 1792) = *Cionus thapsicola* Germar, 1821 **n. syn.** *Rhinusa eversmanni* (Rosenschöld, 1838) è il nome proposto per *Rhinusa thapsicola* sensu auctorum (non Germar, 1821).

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