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Current status of the names**

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Staphylinidae (Insecta: Coleoptera) of the Biologia Centrali-Americana: Current status of the names

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Abstract

The Biologia Centrali-Americana (1879–1915), an obligate reference for the taxonomy of insects and other organisms from Mexico and Central America, is now available free on the web at <http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/bca/>. However, many included names are now out of date. We provide an updated list of all names of Staphylinidae (including Pselaphidae and Scaphidiidae) cited in the Biologia Centrali-Americana to use as a complement to that work. Of the 1610 staphylinid species-group names originally included, 929 remain as valid names without change, 581 have been previously transferred to other genera, 125 have been treated as junior synonyms, four treated as misidentifications of other names, and one (*Cephaloplectus godmani* Sharp, 1883) has been transferred to the family Ptiliidae. Our study also shows that 38 additional names should be transferred as new combinations to the genera *Achenomorphus* (from *Aderocharis*), *Biocrypta* and *Homaeotarsus* (from *Ochthephilum*), *Neohypnus* (from *Xantholinus*), and *Platydracus* (from *Staphylinus* and *Amichorus*), and seven species previously transferred to *Medon* should be returned to their original genus *Scioporus* as resurrected combinations.

Key words: Biologia Centrali-Americana, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Mexico, Central America, taxonomy

Introduction

The *Biologia Centrali-Americana* is one the greatest works on the natural history of Mexico and Central America. The project, supported by Frederick DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin, first appeared in 1879 with some sections on Mammalia, Aves, and Botany. The entire work was published between 1879–1915, and contains 215 parts of Zoology, 25 of Botany, and 17 of Archaeology, grouped in 63 volumes and accompanied by numerous plates of figures. Seven volumes were published in 17 parts or supplements that treated beetles. Although this is an “old classic work”, it remains a keystone source for taxonomic work on many insect groups. This is certainly the case for beetles.

For many years, availability of the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* was restricted to larger museums and libraries around the world. In Mexico three original copies are known to exist, all of them in institutions in Mexico City and the state of Mexico. Consulting them was difficult, especially for students or researchers outside of Mexico City. Although we lack specific details for Central American countries, we assume the situation is similar.

Recently, as part of joint efforts by the Natural History Museum in London and the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D. C., all contents of the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* have been made available free on the internet at: <http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/bca/>. This achievement provides a useful and indispensable tool for current taxonomic research on beetles from Mexico and Central America. However, the names of taxa described or cited in the *Biologia* are now a century or more out of date, and numerous changes in generic and species concepts during that time are not easily retrieved from a single source. The current status of all of the original geographic localities cited in the *Insecta* volumes was summarized by Selander & Vaurie (1962). As an analogous taxonomic complement for use of the *Biologia* sections dealing with the family Staphylinidae, we here provide a complete list of the current status of all staphylinid names cited in the *Biologia*, to minimize future taxonomic confusion.

Material and methods

All names of Staphylinidae cited in the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* (including the former families Pselaphidae and Scaphidiidae, now treated as staphylinid subfamilies) were entered into an Access database. The relevant sections were in the *Insecta: Coleoptera*, Volumes 1 (part 2) and 2 (part 1), as separate chapters on Staphylinidae (Sharp 1883–1887a), Pselaphidae (Sharp 1887c), and Scaphidiidae (Matthews 1888), with additions in the Supplement to Volume 1 (2) (Sharp 1887b) and in a list of additional taxa