



Clarification of the status of the genus names *Leiodes* Latreille 1796 (Coleoptera), *Liodes* von Heyden 1826 (Acari) and *Neoliodes* Berlese 1888 (Acari)

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Abstract

The genus name *Liodes* and the family name Liodidae have been the cause of much confusion in zoology. The genus name *Liodes* has been used in Acari, Lepidoptera, Opiliones, and Coleoptera, and has often been misused, misspelled, or misunderstood. This paper reviews the history of these names and the related names *Leiodes* and *Neoliodes*, and concludes that (1) the names *Leiodes* Latreille 1796 and Leiodidae Fleming 1821 are available for a genus and family of beetles; (2) the names *Neoliodes* Berlese 1888 and Neolioididae Sellnick 1928 are available for a genus and family of mites; (3) the names *Liodes* and Liodidae are not available for any group of animals, and should not be used.

Key words: *Liodes*, *Leiodes*, Liodidae, Leiodidae, *Neoliodes*, Neolioididae, nomenclature

Introduction

The generic names *Liodes* and *Leiodes*, and the related family names Liodidae and Leiodidae, have had a long and complicated history in zoology. They have been confused with each other and with other names in the Acari, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, and Opiliones. They have been the subject of an extraordinary series of mistakes, emendations, and misunderstandings, which makes a study of the literature on these groups very confusing. In Acari, the names *Liodes* and Liodidae have recently been used by Marshall *et al.* (1987), Fernandez *et al.* (1995), Halliday (1998), Colloff & Halliday (1998), and Mahunka (2006), among others. In Coleoptera, the names *Liodes* and Liodidae have been used by Gottwald (1967), Hlisikovskiy (1972), Emetz (1975), Decelle (1988), and Troukens (2005), among others. Also in Coleoptera, the names *Leiodes* and Leiodidae have been used for the same taxa by many authors including Daffner (1986), Baranowski (1993), Newton (1998), Peck (2000), Park & Ahn (2007), Hochberg *et al.* (2003), Majka & Langor (2008), Marske *et al.* (2009), and Seago & Newton (2009). These names are also in use with variable spelling in a range of on-line catalogues and faunal lists. However, this instability of nomenclature is completely unnecessary. The purpose of this paper is to stabilise the nomenclature of these genera and families, by drawing attention to a simple solution that is already in place.

Historical background in Coleoptera

Within the Coleoptera, the genus *Leiodes* was erected by Latreille (1796, 22) to accommodate a group of what are now called "round fungus beetles". Latreille did not explain the etymology of this name. Subsequently Fleming (1821) proposed the Family Leiodidae to accommodate these and other related staphylinoid beetles. The names Leodinae, for the corresponding subfamily, and Leiodini for the tribe, followed.

The nomenclature of this group was, however, bedevilled with a series of historical confusions and errors (reviewed by Baranowski, 1993). Schmidt (1841) confused *Leiodes* Latreille with *Anisotoma* Panzer 1797, a