



Nomenclatural changes within West Indian Acanthocinini (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Lamiinae)

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The genus *Styloleptus* Dillon, 1956 belongs in the Acanthocinini, one of the largest tribes within the subfamily Lamiinae. This tribe has been plagued by a myriad of taxonomic problems due to the cryptic and extremely variable morphology. There are currently 22 species within the genus *Styloleptus* and they are mainly restricted to the West Indies (Monné & Bezark, 2010) with all of them occurring there except one that is found only in Central America (Belize). Two other species reach the US mainland. One of them, *S. biustus* LeConte, 1852, is the type-species.

Dillon (1956) first described this genus for the two species found in the United States, not knowing where the highest diversity of the genus resided. *Styloleptus* is characterized by the broad, lateral pronotal tubercle placed generally at basal third, the pronotal disk without distinct tubercles, the subdepressed pronotum, and the head with a convex frons. Many species from the West Indies had already been described in other genera, but it was Gilmour (1963) who transferred them into *Styloleptus* and described two more species. He also erected the genus *Antilleptostylus* citing the following as differing features: “elytra without costae and with a centrobasal setose tubercle and the prosternal process about three-quarters as broad as procoxal cavity, not about a quarter to a third.” Thorough examination of numerous specimens of several different genera within Acanthocinini (including *Leptostylopsis* Dillon, 1956, *Leptostylus* LeConte, 1852, *Styloleptus*, and *Antilleptostylus*) has been done looking into the validity of the prosternal width (among other characters) to distinguish between closely related genera. The differences noted by Gilmour of *Antilleptostylus* from *Styloleptus* are simply variation rather than of generic significance. Smaller specimens sometimes lack distinct costae and the centrobasal tubercle (a tuft rather than a tubercle) can sometimes be prominent or represented by only a dark spot. The variation seen in the prosternal processes is not sufficiently dissimilar to be a generic difference, and is mostly associated with gender. Females usually have a broader prosternal process and males usually have a broader procoxal cavity since they commonly have more robust legs. I conclude that the slight differences seen between species and sexes is quite variable and that the definition of a genus, at least of those examined here, should not rest on such a labile character.

Some species now found within *Styloleptus* were formerly placed within *Leptostylus* or the closely allied genus *Leptostylopsis*, but these two genera have distinctly tuberculate pronotal disks and they have the lateral pronotal tubercles placed more at the middle of the sides. One such species, *L. gundlachi* Fisher, was placed into *Leptostylopsis* by Gilmour (1963) and subsequently transferred into *Styloleptus* by Chalumeau & Touroult (2005). An examination of specimens of *L. gundlachi* does, in fact, reveal the pronotum to possess distinct broad discal tubercles, thereby excluding it from the genus *Styloleptus*.

The purpose of this note is to propose a new synonym for the genus *Styloleptus* and resolve the taxonomic problem surrounding *L. gundlachi* Fisher. A key to the species of *Styloleptus* will be provided at a later time pending conclusion of a revisionary work. The following acronyms are used in this paper: American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, USA (AMNH); Julio and Charyn Micheli Private Collection, Ponce, PR, USA (JAMC); Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (MCZC); and National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA (USNM).

***Leptostylopsis gundlachi* (Fisher, 1925) REINSTATED**

Leptostylus gundlachi Fisher, 1925: 2. Type locality: Puerto Rico, Aibonito. (AMNH).

Leptostylus oakleyi Fisher, 1935b: 54. Type locality: Puerto Rico, Bayamón. (USNM); Micheli & Micheli, 2004:30.