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Phlaeopterus Motschulsky, 1853 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Omaliinae: Anthophagini)—a new genus for the Palaearctic: new combination

ALEXEY V. SHAVRIN¹ & LOGAN MULLEN²

¹Institute of Life Sciences and Technology, Daugavpils University, Vienibas 13, Daugavpils, LV-5401, Latvia.

E-mail: ashavrin@hotmail.com

²University of Alaska Museum, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775, USA. E-mail: ljmullen2@alaska.edu

Abstract

The genus *Phlaeopterus* Motschulsky, 1853, which was previously known only from North America, is recorded for the Palaearctic fauna for the first time: *P. czerskyi* (Shavrín, 2001) **comb. nov.** (East Siberia: Khamar-Daban Mts.) is transferred from the genus *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797, redescribed, and illustrated.

Key words: Palaearctic, *Phlaeopterus*, *Lesteva*, taxonomy, Siberia, new combination

Introduction

The genus *Phlaeopterus* was described without diagnosis by Motschulsky (1853), based on the single species: “*PHLAEOPTERUS fusconiger* Motsch. d'Ounalaschka [Unalaska (Aleut: Nawan-Alaxsxa); the Fox Islands group of the Aleutian Islands in the US state of Alaska]), ainsi que le genre *Elosoma*, reliant les Scaphidiles aux *Pteroloma*, tandis que celui de *Lyrosoma* (*L. opaca* Ménétrié du détroit de Bering) et d'*Adolus* Esch. (*Adolus paliidus*) constituent une transition très naturelle aux *Catops*. *Phlaeopterus fusconiger* a les élytres fortement raccourcies; aux *Lyrosoma* manquent les ailes, quoique les élytres soient complètes”.

Mäklin (1853) transferred *P. fusconiger* to the genus *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 based on the shape of maxillary palpi and frons: “...convenit enim sat bene cum *Lesteva* palporum maxillarum forma et capite inter oculos punctis duobus impresso”. Kraatz (1857) and Fauvel (1871 [=1872], 1875a [=1875b]) confirmed Mäklin's transfer. The genus *Tilea* was described by Fauvel (1878a [=1878b]), based on one species *T. cavicollis* from “Colombie britannique” [British Columbia, Canada]. Fauvel compared *Tilea* with *Lesteva*, distinguishing it by the characteristic shape of maxillary palpi: “...palpes, surtout les maxillaires, allongés et filiformes”. Casey (1885) described *Phloeopterus* [sic!] *longipalpus* from “California: Middle Sierras” and *Phloeopterus* [sic!] *flicornis* from “California: Placer Co. 1 [specimen]” (Casey 1886). Later, Casey (1894) noticed that “...two species previously assigned by me to *Phloeopterus*—an erroneous quotation of *Phlaeopterus* Mots. i.l.—belong in reality to *Tilea*...”; he provided a key for the known Nearctic species and described three new taxa: *T. brevipennis* from “Wyoming”, *T. castanea* from “Colorado” and *T. rufitarsis* from “California: Siskiyou Co.”. Bernhauer & Schubert (1910) treated the genus *Phloeopterus* [sic!] as a synonym of the genus *Tilea*. On the contrary, Scheerpeltz (1933) and Blackwelder (1952) placed the genus *Tilea* as a synonym of *Phloeopterus* [sic!] and *Phlaeopterus* respectively. Hatch (1957) provided a key to twelve species of *Phlaeopterus* occurring in the Pacific Northwest of North America (excluding *P. fusconiger* and *P. flicornis*) and diagnosed in this key seven new species: *P. cascadiensis* from “SW British Columbia, W Washington, W Oregon”, *P. frosti* from “SE British Columbia, W Washington, E Oregon (Cascade Mts.)”, *P. houkae* from “SW British Columbia (Garibaldi Park); NW Washington (Mt. Baker)”, *P. kootenayensis* from “SE British Columbia”, *P. lagrandeuri* from “S British Columbia, W Washington, W Oregon”, *P. loganensis* from “SE British Columbia (Fernie), SE Idaho (Challis Nat. For.), NW Montana (Logan Pass and Grinnell Glacier)” and *P. stacesmithi* from “British Columbia, Barkeville”. Thus, fourteen species of the genus *Phlaeopterus* are known, all from North America, from Alaska and Western Canada to the Western United States (Herman 2001).