



On the synonymy of *Dymantis* Stål, 1861 and *Eomyrochea* Linnavuori, 1982 and resulting nomenclatural changes (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae)

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Abstract

The Afrotropical genus-group taxa *Dymantis* Stål, 1861 and *Eomyrochea* Linnavuori, 1982 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Pentatominae: Myrocheini) are confirmed as objective synonyms, both sharing the same type species: *Dymantis subvittata* Stål, 1861. As a result, *Dymantis* (= *Eomyrochea*, **syn. confirm.**) is downgraded to a subgenus of *Myrochea* Amyot and Serville, 1843 and a new genus, *Neodymantis* **gen. nov.**, is established for *Dymantis* sensu Linnavuori (1982) (type species *Halys plana* Fabricius, 1803). The following new combinations are proposed: *Myrochea* (*Dymantis*) *subvittata* (Stål, 1861), **comb. nov.**, *Neodymantis aias* (Linnavuori, 1982), **comb. nov.**, *Neodymantis grisea* (Jensen-Haarup, 1931), **comb. nov.**, *Neodymantis plana* (Fabricius, 1803), **comb. nov.**, and *Neodymantis relata* (Distant, 1898), **comb. nov.** The known distribution of the species involved is reviewed and the following new records are provided: *Neodymantis aias* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *N. plana* from Ghana and Togo.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Pentatomidae, Pentatominae, Myrocheini, objective synonymy, new genus, new combination, Afrotropical Region

Nomenclature

The Afrotropical genus *Dymantis* was described by Stål (1861: 199, 200) originally including three species (*Halys planus* Fabricius, 1803, *Paramecocoris binotatus* Stål, 1855, and *Dymantis subvittata* Stål, 1861), but none of these was cited as type species. Kirkaldy (1909: 182) subsequently designated *D. subvittata* as the type genus. Later Hesse (1925: 18) listed *Halys planus* as the type species of *Dymantis* without any comments; however, this subsequent type species designation is invalid (see ICZN 1999: Articles 69.1, 70.2).

Linnavuori (1982: 70) established *Eomyrochea*, a new subgenus of *Myrochea* Amyot & Serville, 1843, with *Dymantis subvittata* as its type species, considering it a bridge in the gap between *Myrochea* s. str. and *Dymantis*. Linnavuori (1982) further confirmed placement of *Dymantis* in Myrocheini, provided a generic key and a comprehensive diagnosis of the genus, as well as a key and redescriptions of the four included species, one of them described as new. For unknown reasons, Linnavuori (1982) did not list any type species for *Dymantis*.

The fact that both *Eomyrochea* and *Dymantis* share the same type species was noted for the first time by Ahmad & Zahid (2004: 142) in the abstract and introduction of their paper. However, instead of proposing the synonymy of both taxa, they provided only these confused and erroneous statements: ‘*Myrochea* appears to be a monotypic genus and the type genus of the tribe Myrocheini Stål including the genera *Dorpius* [Distant, 1900] and *Stysicoris* [Ahmad & Kamaluddin, 1985] but *Dymantis* with its type species *D. subvittatus* is clearly excluded from this tribe and *Eomyrochea* is synonymised with *Myrochea* as a superfluous and unnecessary subgeneric name.’ and ‘Linnavuori (*op. cit.* [= 1982]) who transferred ... *Dymantis subvittatus* Stål, type species of *Dymantis* and type species of Linnavuori’s new subgenus *Eomyrochea* (thus inadvertently synonymising [*sic!*] the entire genus *Dymantis* Stål with *Myrochea*, which he did not do because he also transferred *Dymantis* (excluding *subvittatus*) into his Myrocheini.’