

**Case 3752 – *Curculio antirrhini* Paykull, 1800 (currently *Rhinusa antirrhini*; Insecta, Coleoptera, CURCULIONOIDEA, CURCULIONIDAE): proposed precedence over *Curculio noctis* Herbst, 1795**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3, 81.2.1 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Curculio antirrhini* Paykull, 1800, a common Palaearctic weevil species currently belonging to the genus *Rhinusa* Stephens, 1829 (CURCULIONOIDEA, CURCULIONIDAE) by giving it precedence over the little-used older name *Curculio noctis* Herbst, 1795 whenever these names are considered synonyms.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONOIDEA; CURCULIONIDAE; *Curculio*; *Rhinusa*; *Rhinusa antirrhini*; *Rhinusa noctis*; weevil; Palaearctic.

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1. *Curculio noctis* was described by Herbst (1795: 269) from specimens collected in Germany without more precise indication. This taxon (respectively classified in the genera *Cionus* and *Gymnetron*) was reported by Germar (1821) and Schoenherr (1838) as a distinct species, but synonymized by Schoenherr (1826) and Brisout de Barneville (1863) with *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800) (formerly *Curculio* and *Gymnetron*), which from 1863 has been considered the valid name of this species although it was described later. It is also the type species of the genus *Rhinusa* Stephens, 1829.

2. In the original description Herbst (1795) noted that the type specimens of *Curculio noctis* belong to Schneider's collection, which unfortunately no longer exists. However, in the historical collections of the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität in Berlin, Caldara (2008) found seven specimens, which can be considered to belong to Herbst's original collection. Following Article 72.4.1.1 of the Code, Caldara (2008) designated one of these specimens as the lectotype of *Curculio noctis* and confirmed that this taxon is synonymous with *Rhinusa antirrhini*.

3. *Curculio antirrhini* Paykull (1800: 257) was described from Sweden without more precise indication. It is a common weevil species widely distributed across Europe. This species was accidentally imported in North America at the beginning of the twentieth

century, where recently it became important in applied entomology when proposed for the biological control of the invasive plant species *Linaria vulgaris* L. (see Hernández-Vera et al., 2010 for references).

4. Since no syntypes of *Curculio antirrhini* Paykull, 1800 were available, following the provisions of Art. 75.3, Caldara (2008) designated a specimen from Singö (Uppland province, Svealand, Sweden) as the neotype of this taxon.

5. *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800) has been cited under this name and this author repeatedly over the past 50 years meeting the requirements of Art. 23.9.1.2, as shown by a list of 25 papers held by the ICZN, and available upon request to the Secretary. Caldara (2008) did not find any use of the name *Curculio noctis* Herbst, 1795 during the 20<sup>th</sup> century meeting the requirements of Art. 23.9.1.1. After receiving favourable opinions of several experts in CURCULIONIDAE—M. A. Alonso-Zarazaga (Madrid), R.T. Thompson (London), L. Behne (Müncheberg), E. Colonnelli (Roma), B.A. Korotyaev (St. Petersburg), and M. Meregalli (Torino)—Caldara (2008) declared *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800) a nomen protectum and *Rhinusa noctis* (Herbst, 1795) a nomen oblitum.

6. However, very recently Alonso-Zarazaga (2016) found that the name *Curculio noctis* Herbst, 1795 (as *Gymnetron noctis*) was used at least twice as a valid name for a species after 1899: in Champion & Chapman (1904) and Léon-Hilaire (1924) and therefore the conditions of Art. 23.9.1.1 are not met. Strict application of the Code would mean that *Rhinusa noctis* (Herbst, 1795) would be the valid name of the species currently known as *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800), which would not promote nomenclatural stability as *R. antirrhini* is in prevailing usage

7. The International Commission of the Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the specific name *antirrhini* Paykull, 1800, as published in the binomen *Curculio antirrhini*, precedence over the name *noctis* Herbst, 1795, as published in the binomen *Curculio noctis*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *antirrhini* Paykull, 1800, as published in the binomen *Curculio antirrhini*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *noctis* Herbst, 1795, as published in the binomen *Curculio noctis* whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms; and
  - (b) *noctis* Herbst, 1795, as published in the binomen *Curculio noctis*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *antirrhini* Paykull, 1800, as published in the binomen *Curculio antirrhini* whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the Bulletin; they should be sent to the Secretariat, ICZN, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, 2 Conservatory Drive, Singapore 117377, Republic of Singapore (e-mail: [iczn@nus.edu.sg](mailto:iczn@nus.edu.sg)).