

Case 3783 – *Orchestes* Illiger, 1798 (Insecta, Coleoptera, CURCULIONOIDEA, CURCULIONIDAE): proposed precedence over *Salius* Schrank, 1798

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Abstract. The purpose of this application under Article 23.9.3 of the Code is to conserve the name *Orchestes* Illiger, 1798 (CURCULIONOIDEA, CURCULIONIDAE), a large and well-known weevil genus, by giving it precedence over the little-used older name *Salius* Schrank, 1798 whenever these names are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONOIDEA; CURCULIONIDAE; *Orchestes*; *Salius*; weevil.

1. The genus-group name *Orchestes* Illiger (1798: 498), type species *Orchestes signifer* Creutzer, 1799 by subsequent monotypy in Creutzer (1799: 125), a subjective junior synonym of *Curculio hortorum* Fabricius (1792: 446), is universally used for the largest group of jumping weevils well known as “flea weevils” or “leaf-mining weevils” at least for the last 30 years.

2. For many years this genus had been synonymized with *Rhynchaenus* [Clairville] (1798: pl. iv), type species *Rhynchaenus xylostei* [Clairville] (1798: 70) by subsequent designation by Crotch (1870: 50) and considered sometimes as senior synonym and sometimes as junior synonym due to the controversial date of publication of the two original descriptions.

3. More recently, *Rhynchaenus* and *Orchestes* were considered as different genera after a phylogenetic study based on morphological characters of adults (Kojima & Morimoto, 1996). These conclusions were accepted by all workers and subsequently these two genera have always been treated as separate genera.

4. Presently the genus *Orchestes* includes five subgenera with a total of about 80 valid taxa, 65 of which are assembled in the nominal subgenus. Most species are Palearctic, whereas a few are Nearctic, Oriental and Australian.

5. The life-style of *Orchestes* has attracted a vast number of studies. In fact, larvae of many common and widespread species belonging to this genus, as well as many other RHAMPHINI, generally mine in young leaves of broad-leaved trees belonging to various families, e.g. Adoxaceae, Betulaceae, Caprifoliaceae, Fagaceae, Salicaceae and Ulmaceae, feeding on the parenchyma in winding tunnels and often causing serious damage by defoliation.

6. The genus-group name *Salius* Schrank (1798: 360), type species *Curculio fagi* Linnaeus (1758: 381) by subsequent designation (Anderson, 1989: 219) was created for seven common European species of “flea weevils”. This name was ignored by many authors or placed in synonymy with *Rhynchaenus* by others.

7. After the designation of the type species of *Salius* by Anderson (1989), it was realized that *Curculio fagi* was also the type-species of the genus-group name *Euthoron* Thomson (1859: 141), which was generally considered as subgenus of *Rhynchaenus* or *Orchestes* following its description. Therefore, Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (1999: 81) resurrected the name *Salius* as a subgenus of *Orchestes*, considering the name *Euthoron* as its junior synonym.

8. The opinion by Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (1999) was not followed subsequently since the almost contemporaneous conclusions by Kojima & Morimoto (1996), who considered *Euthoron*—and therefore also *Salius*, although not specified by these last authors—as synonymous with *Orchestes* (*Orchestes*), were generally accepted.

9. Alonso-Zarazaga & Krell (2011) dated Illiger’s (1798) work where *Orchestes* was made available on 19 September 1798, while Bousquet (2016: 488) dated Schrank’s *Erste Abtheilung* of his *Fauna Boica, Erste Band* on 26 May 1798 while the *Zweyte Abtheilung* where *Salius* was published had no exact date except the year 1798, thus being mandatorily dated as of 31 December 1798. This work is recorded in the *Allgemeines Verzeichniss der Bücher, welche in der Frankfurter und Leipziger Ostermesse des 1798 Jahres entweder ganz neu gedruckt, oder sonst verbessert, wieder aufgelegt worden sind, auch inskünftige noch herauskommen sollen*, p. 153. The Easter Fair started on 29 April 1798 (Evenhuis, 2014). This date is prior to the one Bousquet gave for the *Erste Abtheilung*, so we suspect both parts were already available on 29 April. Bousquet (2017: 95) indicated that the *Erste Band, Erste Abtheilung* was mentioned to be sold in the *Ostermesse* 1797, started 19 April 1797, but the *Vorrede* is dated 20 July 1797, so it is not possible that this first volume appeared in the *Ostermesse* 1797. These dates imply that *Salius* has precedence over *Orchestes* and it is the valid name for this large genus.

10. Strict application of the Code would be undesirable and would result in considerable nomenclatural confusion. In fact, the name *Orchestes* is well known to gardeners for damage caused by species of this genus to several common trees such as the elm by the “elm flea” *O. alni* (Linnaeus, 1758), and the apple, quince, winged elm, hawthorn and hazelnut by the “apple flea” *O. pallicornis* Say, 1831 (Cranshaw & Shetlar, 2017), as well as to forest managers e.g. for damages to beeches by *O. fagi* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Gossner et al., 2014; Mangels et al., 2015).

11. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the generic name *Orchestes* Illiger, 1798 precedence over the name *Salius* Schrank, 1798, whenever these two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to emend the entry for the generic name *Orchestes* Illiger, 1798, type species: *Orchestes signifer* Creutzer, 1799, in the Official List of Generic Names

in Zoology to endorse that the name *Orchestes* Illiger, 1798 is to be given precedence over the name *Salius* Schrank, 1798, whenever these two names are considered to be synonyms;

- (3) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Salius* Schrank, 1798 (gender: masculine), type species: *Curculio fagi* Linnaeus, 1758 by subsequent designation by Anderson 1989, with the endorsement that it is not to be given precedence over the name *Orchestes* Illiger, 1798, whenever these 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).