

THE TAXONOMIC POSITION OF *LAGRIOIDA* WITH A PROPOSED NEW TRIBE OF THE EURYGENIINAE (COL., ANTHICIDAE)¹

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Dr. R. A. Crowson (1955), has arranged the families of the Coleoptera in a phylogenetic system of classification and set a good example to be followed in those cases where this remains to be done. In a recent paper he (Crowson, 1965) has admirably explained the theoretical basis of his classification. Within the cucujoid section Heteromera, which is now an established natural group (*vide* Abdullah, 1964 and 1965 b), Crowson (1955: 113) states: 'The taxonomic position of many existing genera is quite problematic—examples which spring to mind are *Lagrioida*, *Petria*, *Steropes*, *Stenotrachelus*, *Mycetoma*, *Ischyomius*.' One of us has now revised the species of *Steropes* and showed that this is a primitive group of the Anthicidae (Steropinae, Steropini) which serves to link the Anthicidae with the Meloidae (Protomeloinae, Protomeloini) through *Protomeloe* Abdullah (*vide* Abdullah, 1965 a and c; 1966 and in press).

We are mainly concerned with *Lagrioida* in this paper and believe that this genus should be placed in the Anthicidae (*sensu lato*) in the subfamily Eurygeniinae as defined by one of us (Abdullah, in press). Unlike the Cononotidae (Cononotinae, Pythidae *auctt.*) the middle coxal cavities are open here (*i.e.* the meso- and metasterna do not meet because of the mesepimera) and the penultimate tarsal segment is strongly lobed. As noted by Crowson (1955: 126) *Lagrioida* could not be included in the Lagriidae where the first three visible abdominal sternites are connate, the front coxal cavities are visibly (*i.e.* externally) closed behind and the metendosternite is not hylecoetoid. The only unusual (and we believe a derivative) feature is the presence of connate abdominal sternites. The first two visible sternites are connate in *Lagrioida* as in the Aderidae or Cononotidae. Unlike the Aderidae, however, the front coxal cavities are not open internally and the metendosternite is not of the byturid type, and many other important characters are different. The inclusion of *Lagrioida* in the Anthicidae and Eurygeniinae would mean that we have to modify their definitions so as to incorporate the character: abdomen with all visible sternites free or with the first two connate.

Within the Eurygeniinae, *Lagrioida* Fairmaire merits a distinct tribe distinguished by the first two visible abdominal sternites which are always connate. We, therefore, propose a new tribal name, **Lagrioidini**.

KEY TO THE TRIBES OF EURYGENIINAE

- 1.—Abdomen with all visible sternites free 2
- Abdomen with first two visible sternites connate Lagrioidini
- 2.—Front coxal cavities externally open behind 3
- Front coxal cavities externally closed behind Ictistygmini
- 3.—Galea palp-like Mitraelabrini
- Galea short, not palp-like Eurygeniini

The type-genus of Lagrioidini is *Lagrioida* and the species are distributed in New Zealand and temperate South America.

¹ Senior author's paper number 45 on the Coleoptera.

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Leistus rufomarginatus Dufts. (Col., Carabidae) in Essex.—The recorded distribution of *Leistus rufomarginatus* Dufts. in Britain has been summarized recently by R. A. Crowson (1968, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **103** (1967): 160). Records for a further division can be added as the species turned up in three widely separated localities in South Essex in 1967. A single male was taken under the loose bark of a beech stump at Danbury on October 2nd, a female under a stone in an overgrown chalk-pit at Grays on October 8th and a male under a log in Scrub Hill Wood, Brentwood, on November 12th, the last mentioned specimen being taken by Mr. P. Whitton. No *L. rufomarginatus* were found when collecting in similar habitats in previous years so it may be a recent arrival in Essex, although, by now, apparently well established.—P. M. HAMMOND, 211 Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, Essex: April 9th, 1968.

REVIEW

'WEEVILS OF THE SUBFAMILY CLEONINAE OF THE FAUNA OF THE USSR.—Tribe Lixini (Zhuki-dolgonosiki Podsemeistva Cleoninae Fauni SSSR, Triba Lixini).' By M. E. TER-MINASSIAN. 27.8 x 17 cm., pp. 1-141. Leningrad (publishing house 'Nauka'). 1967. Price 1 rouble 4 kopeks.

The Cleoninae, of which the Lixini constitute about a half, form a well marked and natural division of the Curculionidae, and one richly represented in the Palaearctic region. Almost 200 species of Lixini are dealt with in the present volume, about a third of the world fauna; only seven of them have been recorded in Britain. A number of the species are more or less injurious to cultivated plants in eastern Europe and Central Asia, and it is no doubt because of this that the group has been favoured by the production of this splendid monograph. Dr. Ter-Minassian has followed the best classical models in her work, which provides well constructed and illustrated keys, full and careful descriptions of the individual species, a comprehensive bibliography running to 4 full pages of close and small print, a number of excellent habitus pictures of whole beetles, and numerous illustrations of wing-venation, rostrums, legs, male genitalia etc. Information is given on the habits of the species where known, and more than 30 pages of general introduction include quite full accounts of adult structure, habits, distribution, and phylogeny in the group. The only thing which is lacking which one might hope to see in an ideal monograph is a systematic treatment of the earlier developmental stages. The work of Scherf (1964) reviewed previously in this Magazine (1966, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **101** (1965): xi) deals with larvae of 5 of the 9 genera included by Ter Minassian and about 20 species, but does not provide full structural characterisations of the larval types.

The volume is well produced, with a stiff board cover, and very reasonably priced even at the official exchange rate; it will no doubt find a place on the shelves of all serious specialists on Curculionidae; even those with no knowledge of the Russian language should find the pictures worth the money.—R. A. Crowson.