

**Replacement name for a subgenus of *Scarabaeus* Linné, and remarks
on *Scarabaeus isidis* (Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae: Scarabaeini)**

**Změna podrodového jména v rodě *Scarabaeus* Linné a poznámky
k druhu *Scarabaeus isidis* (Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae: Scarabaeini)**

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Abstract. *Escarabaeus* nom. nov. is proposed to replace *Mesoscarabaeus* Zidek et Pokorný, 2008, which is a junior homonym of *Mesoscarabaeus* Hong, 1982. *Scarabaeus isidis* (Castelnau, 1840) is newly recorded from Niger, Djibouti, Yemen and Oman, the latter two falling within the limits of the Palaearctic region.

Tristão Branco (Porto, Portugal) has made us aware that our subgeneric name *Mesoscarabaeus* Zidek et Pokorný, 2008 is a junior homonym of *Mesoscarabaeus* Hong, 1982, a Chinese scarabaeid genus of Mesozoic age (Hong 1982, Edwards et al. 1996). We therefore propose that our preoccupied name be replaced with *Escarabaeus* nom. nov., the Latin preposition “E” (“ex” before vowels) meaning out of, on account of, from, off, or in accordance with. The subgenus currently includes two small groups of species (Zidek & Pokorný 2008), the *cristatus* group [*S. andrewesi* (Felsche, 1907), *S. bannuensis* Janssens, 1940, *S. cristatus* Fabricius, 1775 and *S. satyrus* (Boheman, 1860)] and the *brahminus* group [*S. brahminus* (Castelnau, 1840), *S. furcatus* (Castelnau, 1840) and *S. sennaariensis* (Castelnau, 1840)], but the number of assigned taxa will undoubtedly increase as certain Afrotropical species become better known.

Scarabaeus isidis (Castelnau, 1840) belongs together with *S. gangeticus* (Castelnau, 1840), *S. goryi* (Castelnau, 1840) and *S. jalof* (Castelnau, 1840) to the *gangeticus* group of the nominotypical subgenus. This group is easily distinguished from other species of *Scarabaeus* s. str. by having well defined denticles at the base of two (or sometimes three) protibial teeth. *S. isidis* has so far been regarded as a northern Afrotropical species recorded from Chad, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Somalia and Tanzania (Strassen 1967, Ferreira 1972, Cambefort 1972), for which reason it does not appear in our review of Palaearctic *Scarabaeus* (Zidek & Pokorný 2008). Our study of material housed at the National Museum, Prague, and in private collections shows that:

1) Species of the *gangeticus* group are due to their close mutual similarity often incorrectly identified, which results in distortions of their geographic distributions.

2) *Scarabaeus isidis* occurs, apart from the above named countries, also in Niger, Djibouti, Yemen and Oman (new country records). The latter two countries fall within the limits set by the Palaearctic Catalogue (Löbl & Smetana 2006), and *S. isidis* thus is a transitional species present in both biogeographic regions.

Paulian (1980) listed *Scarabaeus gangeticus* as present in Saudi Arabia, but he did not provide any localities and stated only that it is “a widely distributed Indo-African species cited for Arabia”. Since *S. gangeticus* cannot possibly be regarded as an African species, Paulian’s reference must be viewed as referring to the *gangeticus* group, which does have Indo-African distribution. If any species of this group occurs in Saudi Arabia, then in all likelihood it is *S. isidis*, whose presence is documented for the neighbouring Oman and Yemen.

Abbreviations. NMPC – Národní muzeum, Praha, Czech Republic; SJPC – Stanislav Jákl collection, Praha, Czech Republic; SPPC – Svatopluk Pokorný collection, Praha, Czech Republic.

Material examined. **Chad:** Kanem distr., N’Gouri, viii.1958, P. Renaud leg., 3 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (NMPC); **Djibouti:** Dr. Martin leg., 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ (NMPC); **Ethiopia:** Hora Salla, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (NMPC); Maraquo, 1 ♀ (NMPC); Shoa, v.1989, K. Werner leg., 2 ♀♀ (SPPC); **Niger:** Maradi, vii.1981, 2 ♀♀ (SPPC); **Oman:** Dzhopar prov., Takwa, 270–300 m, 20.–22.ix.2003, St. Jákl leg., 6 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (SJPC); Dzhopar prov., Tawi Atair, 650–900 m, 23.–25.ix.2003, St. Jákl leg., 4 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀ (SJPC); Wadi Nashib, Nashib env., 250 m, 25.–26.ix.2003, St. Jákl leg., 5 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀ (SJPC); **Somalia:** Baidoa, x.–xii.1936, E. Faa’di Bruno leg., 1 ♂ (NMPC); **Yemen:** Sokna (Tihama), 20.viii.1965, G. Scortecci leg., 3 ♀♀ (NMPC).

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SOUHRN

Je navrženo nové jméno *Escarabaeus* namísto původního *Mesoscarabaeus* Zídek et Pokorný, 2008, které je mladším homonymem *Mesoscarabaeus* Hong, 1982. *Scarabaeus isidis* (Castelnau, 1840) je nově uváděn z Nigeru, Džibutska, Jemenu a Ománu, přičemž poslední dvě lokality spadají do limitů palearktické oblasti.