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Revision of the *longiusculus*-group of the genus *Hydroporus* Clairville, 1806 (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae)

HELENA V. SHAVERDO

International Research Institute for Entomology, Natural History Museum Vienna, Burgring 7, A–1010 Vienna, Austria. E-mail: shaverdo@mail.ru

Abstract

The taxonomic position and synonymy of *Hydroporus longiusculus* Gemminger and Harold and *H. pervicinus* Fall are discussed and re-descriptions are provided. *Hydroporus hirtellus* LeConte **syn.n.,** *H. perplexus* Sharp **syn.n.**, and *H. utahensis* Gordon **syn.n.** are found to be junior synonyms of *H. longiusculus*. *Hydroporus hirsutus* Gordon **syn.n.** and *H. similaris* Fall **syn.n.** are found to be junior synonyms of *H. pervicinus*. Both species are the only members of the *longiusculus*-group. *Hydroporus simplex* Gordon, previously attributed to the *longiusculus*-group, is transferred to the *nigellus*-group. A lectotype is designated for *H. perplexus* Sharp. The location of the primary types of *H. longiusculus* remains unknown. Morphological variability of *H. longiusculus* and *H. pervicinus* is discussed and illustrated. Geographical distributions of these two species are mapped and some notes on their ecology are presented. Based on extreme morphological similarity to *H. tenebrosus* LeConte, *H. subpubescens* LeConte is transferred to the *nigellus*-group; thus, the *subpubescens*-group is omitted.

Key words: Insecta, Coleoptera, Dytiscidae, *Hydroporus*, *longiusculus*-group, new synonymy, lectotype designation, ecology, first records, distribution, Nearctic Region

Introduction

According to Nilsson (2001, 2003) the *longiusculus*-group consists of two Nearctic species: *H. longiusculus* Gemminger and Harold and *H. simplex* Gordon. During my study of numerous *Hydroporus* specimens from different collections in USA and Canada as well as type material of some species, I determined that *H. simplex* did not share some important characters of the *longiusculus*-group and had to be excluded from it. Also *H. pervicinus* Fall, *H. hirsutus* Gordon, and *H. utahensis* Gordon from the *nigellus*-group, as well as *H. hirtellus* LeConte and *H. similaris* Fall from the *subpubescens*-groups, showed much similarity to *H. longiusculus*. Furthermore, the valid species status of *H. hirsutus*, *H.*

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