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(Coleoptera: Curculionoidea: Eriirhinidae)**

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## A revision of the weevil genus *Procas* Stephens (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea: Eriirhinidae)

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### Table of contents

Abstract .....	4
Introduction .....	4
Methods .....	5
Taxonomy .....	8
<i>Procas</i> Stephens, 1831 .....	9
Key to species of <i>Procas</i> Stephens, 1831 .....	11
<i>Procas granulicollis</i> Walton .....	13
<i>Procas picipes</i> (Marsham) .....	16
<i>Procas picipes picipes</i> (Marsham) .....	17
<i>Procas picipes steveni</i> (Gyllenhal) .....	21
<i>Procas picipes levantinus</i> <b>subsp. n.</b> .....	23
<i>Procas michaelis</i> <b>sp. n.</b> .....	24
<i>Procas armillatus</i> (Fabricius) .....	25
<i>Procas biguttatus</i> Faust .....	29
<i>Procas lecontei</i> Bedel .....	31
Phylogeny .....	32
Species <i>incertae sedis</i> .....	33
<i>Procas rasmus</i> Desbrochers .....	33
<i>Procas sibiricus</i> Pic .....	33
<i>Procas maculatus</i> Pic .....	34
<i>Procas pyrrhodactylus</i> , sensu Stephens, not Marsham .....	34
Nomenclatural changes .....	35
Acknowledgements .....	35
References .....	36

## Abstract

The Holarctic weevil genus *Procas* Stephens, 1831 is revised for the first time. Six species are recognized: four in the western Palaearctic Region, one in the eastern Palaearctic Region and one in the Nearctic Region. One new species, *P. michaelis*, **sp. n.** is described from Spain and one new subspecies, *P. picipes levantinus*, **ssp. n.** is described from the Levant. *P. picipes* (Marsham, 1802), **sp. rev.** and *P. p. steveni* (Gyllenhal, 1835), **ssp. rev.** are released from synonymy with *P. armillatus* (Fabricius, 1801). The species are separated using, among others, characters derived from sternite 8 of the male which is here used at species level for the first time.

Related genera are discussed. *Notodermus* Desbrochers, 1875, **gen. rev.** and *Apachiscelus* Desbrochers, 1875, **gen. rev.** are released from synonymy with *Procas*. *Pseudypera* Voss, 1936, is returned to synonymy with *Notodermus* (**stat. rev.**). *Syrdariellia* Ter-Minassian, 1978 = *Theanellus* Reitter, 1912, **syn. n.** *Hypera siccensis* (Normand, 1951), **comb. n.** (ex *Procas*) = *H. pollux* (Fabricius, 1796), **syn. n.** *Procas cottyi* Perris, 1864 = *P. armillatus* (Fabricius, 1801), **syn. rev.** The following new combinations are made in *Theanellus*: *T. alepensis* (Pic), **comb. n.** (ex *Procas*); *T. alternans* (Faust, 1885), **comb. n.** (ex *Procas*); *T. testaceus* (Bajtenov, 1974), **comb. n.** (ex *Procas*); *T. antoinei* (Hustache, 1932), **comb. n.** (ex *Procas*); *T. fastidiosus* (Pic, 1904b), **comb. n.** (ex *Procas*).

The relationships of the taxa are shown in a simple dendrogram, together with their habitats which vary from very wet to very dry.

**Key words:** Eirrhinidae, *Procas*, taxonomy, morphology, ecology, Holarctic Region

## Introduction

*Procas* is a small holarctic genus which occurs between 27°N (Canary Is) and 66°N (Canada). Some species have very wide ranges while others have very restricted ones. With the possible exception of the British and Spanish species, all seem to be allopatric. Differences between species are slight (Wollaston 1865: 297). Their taxonomy and nomenclature are confused.

Like other erirhinids, most *Procas* species favour moist habitats; those from dry habitats are sometimes caked with mud, so it seems they are adapted to prolonged aestivation rather than to dryness *per se*. Even in temperate habitats the adults are active only in cool conditions and then only at night (Bedel 1884: 113). They are therefore often missed by collectors. Bedel (1879: xviii) gives a good account of their habits which is worth quoting in full (my translation):

At Daya [Algeria] I saw a few. . . at the end of November; on 12<sup>th</sup> December, a fine day following some days of snow and strong winds, we took. . . nearly 80 specimens; in January and February we found only isolated individuals. By day, *Procas* stay deeply buried under stones or cowering under the broad leaves of *Salvia*; to make them come out, one has only to remove the stones in fallow fields from the places they frequent and visit them next day. The local *Procas* will then