



On the taxonomy of the dityline genera *Diasclera* Reitter, *Dityloidea* Fairmaire and Germain and *Nerdanus* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: Oedemeridae)

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Abstract

New data on the taxonomy of three dityline genera are given. The genera *Dityloidea* Fairmaire and Germain, 1863 with the type species *Dityloidea janthina* Fairmaire and Germain, 1863, and *Nerdanus* Fairmaire, 1897 with the type species *Nerdanus coeruleus* Fairmaire, 1897 are redescribed and illustrated, their classification in the tribe Ditylini is stated and their relationships are discussed. A new subjective synonym: *Diasclera* Reitter, 1913 = *Eumecomera* Arnett, 1951, syn. nov. is proposed. *Diasclera bicolor* (Horn, 1870), comb. nov., *D. cyanipennis* (Horn, 1870), comb. nov. and *D. obscura* (Le Conte, 1854), comb. nov. are transferred to *Diasclera* from the genus *Eumecomera* and their distribution is discussed.

Key words: Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Oedemeridae, Ditylini, *Diasclera*, *Dityloidea*, *Nerdanus*, new synonymy, new combinations, redescription

Introduction

When Švihla (1986) redefined the tribe Ditylini Mulsant, 1858, he included the following genera: *Agasma* Newman, 1850 (Australian region), *Ascleranoncodes* Pic, 1914 (Oriental and Palaearctic regions), *Chrysanthia* Schmidt, 1844 (Palaearctic region), *Diasclera* Reitter, 1913 (Palaearctic region), *Diplectrus* Kirsch, 1866 (Neotropical, Oriental and Palaearctic regions), *Ditylus* Fischer von Waldheim, 1817 (Palaearctic and Nearctic regions), *Eumecomera* Arnett, 1951 (Nearctic region), *Heliocis* Arnett, 1951 (Nearctic region) and *Sisenes* Champion, 1889 (Neotropical and Nearctic regions). Švihla (1998) included two additional genera: *Falsonerdanus* Arnett, 1950 (Oriental region) and *Pseudonerdanus* Pic, 1923 (Oriental region). Arnett (1961) also classified *Ditylonia* Seidlitz, 1899 (Neotropical region) in Ditylini, but its position within the tribe needs to be confirmed. The aim of this paper is to improve the taxonomic knowledge of this oedemerid tribe, by the study of three genera – namely *Diasclera* Reitter, *Dityloidea* Fairmaire and Germain and *Nerdanus* Fairmaire – and the discussion of the value of the genus *Eumecomera* Arnett.

Material and methods

The material examined for this study is deposited in the following collections, with the associated acronyms reported in the text:

MNHN Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France;

NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic.