Clarification of the status of the genus names Leiodes Latreille 1796 (Coleoptera), Liodes von Heyden 1826 (Acari) and Neoliodes Berlese 1888 (Acari)

R.B. HALLIDAY1 & C.G. MAJKA2
1CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, GPO Box 1700, Canberra, ACT, Australia 2601. E-mail: Bruce.Halliday@csiro.au
2Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6, Canada. E-mail: c.majka@ns.sympatico.ca

Abstract

The genus name Liodes and the family name Liodidae have been the cause of much confusion in zoology. The genus name Liodes has been used in Acari, Lepidoptera, Opiliones, and Coleoptera, and has often been misused, misspelled, or misunderstood. This paper reviews the history of these names and the related names Leiodes and Neoliodes, and concludes that (1) the names Leiodes Latreille 1796 and Leiodidae Fleming 1821 are available for a genus and family of beetles; (2) the names Neoliodes Berlese 1888 and Neoliodidae Sellnick 1928 are available for a genus and family of mites; (3) the names Liodes and Liodidae are not available for any group of animals, and should not be used.

Key words: Liodes, Leiodes, Liodidae, Leiodidae, Neoliodes, Neolioididae, nomenclature

Introduction

The generic names Liodes and Leiodes, and the related family names Liodidae and Leiodidae, have had a long and complicated history in zoology. They have been confused with each other and with other names in the Acari, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, and Opiliones. They have been the subject of an extraordinary series of mistakes, emendations, and misunderstandings, which makes a study of the literature on these groups very confusing. In Acari, the names Liodes and Liodidae have recently been used by Marshall et al. (1987), Fernandez et al. (1995), Halliday (1998), Colloff & Halliday (1998), and Mahunka (2006), among others. In Coleoptera, the names Leiodes and Leiodidae have been used by Gottwald (1967), Hliskovsky (1972), Emetz (1975), Decelle (1988), and Troukens (2005), among others. Also in Coleoptera, the names Leiodes and Leiodidae have been used for the same taxa by many authors including Daffner (1986), Baranowski (1993), Newton (1998), Peck (2000), Park & Ahn (2007), Hochberg et al. (2003), Majka & Langor (2008), Marske et al. (2009), and Seago & Newton (2009). These names are also in use with variable spelling in a range of online catalogues and faunal lists. However, this instability of nomenclature is completely unnecessary. The purpose of this paper is to stabilise the nomenclature of these genera and families, by drawing attention to a simple solution that is already in place.

Historical background in Coleoptera

Within the Coleoptera, the genus Leiodes was erected by Latreille (1796, 22) to accommodate a group of what are now called "round fungus beetles". Latreille did not explain the etymology of this name. Subsequently Fleming (1821) proposed the Family Leiodidae to accommodate these and other related staphylinoid beetles. The names Leodinae, for the corresponding subfamily, and Leiodini for the tribe, followed.

The nomenclature of this group was, however, bedevilled with a series of historical confusions and errors (reviewed by Baranowski, 1993). Schmidt (1841) confused Leiodes Latreille with Anisotoma Panzer 1797, a