



***Platyonitis oberthueri* Janssens, 1942 and *Epionitis tarsatus* Balthasar, 1942 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae: Onitini) — synonymy confirmed**

ALEŠ BEZDĚK¹ & FRANTIŠEK X. J. SLÁDEČEK²

¹ Biology Centre ASCR, Institute of Entomology, Branišovská 31, CZ-370 05 České Budějovice, Czech Republic.

E-mail: bezdek@entu.cas.cz

² Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, Branišovská 31, CZ-370 05 České Budějovice, Czech Republic.

E-mail: franzsladeczek@gmail.com

The genus *Epionitis* Balthasar, 1942 and species *Epionitis tarsatus* Balthasar, 1942, were described from a single female from “Ost-Afrika, Ussambara” [= NE Tanzania] (Balthasar 1942). Earlier the same year, Janssens (1942) established the new genus *Platyonitis* for *P. oberthueri* Janssens, 1942 based on two specimens (holotype male and paratype female) from “Manica” [= Manica, Mozambique]. Krikken (1974) synonymized both these names based on study of Janssens’s types and Balthasar’s description. However, he was not able to study the holotype of *E. tarsatus*, so he could not fully confirm the synonymy of both type species. Krikken (1974) stated on p. 202: “Several descriptive details of *E. tarsatus*, based on a single female, are strongly indicative of a synonymy, but since no information on the characteristic shape of the middle femora is given by Balthasar, I prefer to postpone my final decision on the matter”.

During the preparation of the catalogue of primary types of Scarabaeoidea deposited in the collection of the National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic (e.g., Bezděk & Hájek 2009), we studied the holotype of *E. tarsatus*. Its comparison with the female paratype of *P. oberthueri*, as well as with additional specimens of this species from southern Kenya, allows us to fully confirm Krikken’s (1974) assumption and establish above-mentioned synonymy. Moreover, the corrected original spelling of *P. oberthueri* is selected here by the action of First Reviser and inconsistencies between the published type locality and the type locality labels of *P. oberthueri* are briefly discussed.

The following codes (after Arnett *et al.* 1993) identify the collections housing the material examined (curator’s names are in parentheses):

FSCC—František Sládeček collection, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

ISNB—Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium (Alain Drumont)

MNHN—Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (Antoine Mantilleri)

NMPC—National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek)

For specimen labels, our remarks are found in square brackets: [p] – preceding data are printed, [hw] – preceding data are handwritten. Separate labels are indicated by a double slash “//” and lines within each label are separated by a slash “/”.

***Platyonitis oberthueri* Janssens, 1942**

(Figs. 1–5)

Platyonitis Oberthüri Janssens, 1942: 9 (published in January).

Platyonitis Oberthuri Janssens, 1942: 8.

Platyonitis oberthüri: Ferreira 1962: 76; Ferreira 1972: 460; Ferreira 1976: 177.

Platyonitis oberthuri: Krikken 1974: 201; Zunino 1974: 35; Zunino 1975: 47; Krikken 1977: 163; Davis *et al.* 2008: 176.

Epionitis tarsatus Balthasar, 1942: 196 (published in December), **new synonymy**.