



A taxonomic revision and revalidation of *Nycterilampus* Montrouzier (Coleoptera: Elateridae, Agrypninae)

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Abstract

Nycterilampus Montrouzier, 1860, from Oceania, is removed from junior synonymy with *Tetrigus* Candèze, 1857, and is redescribed and revalidated. The genus includes two species, *N. lifuanus* Montrouzier, 1860, and *N. velutinus* Fleutiaux, 1891 both from New Caledonia. A comparative study of the morphological characters of males and females, including the reproductive organs of the *Nycterilampus* species and *Tetrigus parallelus* Candèze, 1857 (type-species) is presented. A key to *Nycterilampus* species and their separation from *Tetrigus parallelus* is given.

Key words: Australian Region, New Caledonia, Hemirhipini, Ludiinae, *Nycterilampus*, *Tetrigus*

Introduction

Nycterilampus was characterized by Montrouzier (1860) based on *N. lifuanus* from Lifu Island. Fleutiaux (1891) transferred *Ochosternus gigas* Candèze, 1881 from New Caledonia to *Nycterilampus*, redescribed it, added *N. velutinus* to the genus, and provided a key to the three species. Following Candèze (1881) he also placed *Nycterilampus* in “Ludiidae”. In 1904 Fauvel accepted *N. lifuanus* and *N. velutinus* as valid species but considered *N. gigas* a synonym of *N. lifuanus*; he also placed the genus in the tribe Ludiini. In the 1927 Schenkling’s catalog the two former species were considered valid and the genus was still placed in the Ludiinae.

In the checklist of the elaterids from Oceania Van Zwaluwenburg (1932) synonymized *Nycterilampus* with *Tetrigus* Candèze, 1857. Fleutiaux (1947) characterized the genus *Tetrigus* and agreed with Van Zwaluwenburg (*l. c.*) about his synonymy, redescribed the type species of *Tetrigus* (*T. parallelus* Candèze, 1857) and placed it in the Hemirhipinae. Casari-Chen (1993) listed 21 species, redescribed *T. parallelus* based on the type specimen, removed *Tetrigus* from the Hemirhipini and considered it as a genus of the Agrypninae (= Pyrophorinae) pointing out that it could be an intermediary group between Hemirhipini and Pyrophorini.

We studied identified specimens of *N. lifuanus*, *N. gigas* and the types of *N. velutinus*, and accepted that *N. gigas* is a synonymy of *N. lifuanus*. The data for *Tetrigus parallelus* was taken from Casari-Chen (1993). These species share the Agrypninae synapomorphies (Calder *et al.*, 1993): presence of one seta arising basally from the outer flat portion of each tarsal claw (Fig.16) and hind wing without wedge cell (Fig. 17).

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