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**Revision in part of the genus *Nebrioporus* Régimbart, 1906,
with emphasis on the *N. laeviventris*-group
(Coleoptera: Dytiscidae)**

MARIO TOLEDO



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Abstract

The genus *Nebrioporus* Régimbart, 1906 is reviewed and partially revised. The historical subgeneric divisions have not been subscribed to here because they fail to reflect the natural grouping within the genus. Instead, *Nebrioporus* has been divided into eight species-groups recognised and described with character analysis and keys for their identification. The *N. laeviventris*-group, comprising 4 subgroups and 13 species, has been revised. The *N. depressus*-group, the most speciose within the genus, is redefined and dealt with in detail with keys for the identification of the species and morphological illustrations accompanying the taxonomic discussion for selected species. The *N. sansii*-group, as here defined, is also keyed and illustrated and the species *N. lynesii* (J. Balfour-Browne, 1947) is revised and inserted into this group. Revisional notes are provided also for the following species: *Nebrioporus canariensis* (Bedel, 1881), *N. capensis* (Omer-Cooper, 1953), *N. dubius* (Aubé, 1838b), *N. kiliani* (Peyerimhoff, 1929), *N. kilimandjarensis* (Régimbart, 1906), *N. seriatus* (Sharp, 1882), *N. simplicipes* (Sharp, 1884), *N. solivagus* (Omer-Cooper, 1965), *N. vagrans* (Omer-Cooper, 1953). All revised species are provided with a short redescription, illustration of diagnostic characters and distributional analysis. For several species new distributional records are given. Illustrations of habitus and male characters are provided also for species not discussed in the text. A comprehensive checklist of the genus *Nebrioporus* is given, with synonyms. Two new species are described: *N. amicorum* sp.n. from Crete and *N. sagartus* sp.n. from Iran, both belonging to the *N. laeviventris*-group, the former described from material previously determined as *Nebrioporus stearinus* (Kolenati, 1854). *Nebrioporus seriatus* (Sharp, 1882) is found to be a member of the *abyssinicus*-group and inserted into previous identification keys. *Nebrioporus suavis* (Sharp, 1882) is here considered as a western subspecies of *N. stearinus* (**new status** as *Nebrioporus stearinus suavis* (Sharp)). **New synonyms:** *Zimmermannius* Guignot, 1941 = *Nebrioporus* Régimbart, 1906; *Hydroporus walkeri* Branden, 1885 = *Hydroporus crotchi* Preudhomme de Borre, 1871; *Hydroporus variegatus* Aubé, 1838a = *Hydroporus stearinus* Kolenati, 1845; *Deronectes turca* Seidlitz, 1887 = *Hydroporus stearinus* Kolenati, 1845; *Potamonectes sulphuricola* Zaitzev, 1951 = *Hydroporus airumilus* Kolenati, 1845. **Lectotypes** are designated for: *Hydroporus clarkii* Wollaston, 1862; *Deronectes simplicipes* Sharp, 1884; *Deronectes anchoralis* Sharp, 1884; *Hydroporus kiliani* Peyerimhoff, 1929; *Deronectes seriatus* Sharp, 1882; *Deronectes arabicus* Sharp, 1882; *Deronectes islamiticus* Sharp, 1882; *Deronectes princeps* Sharp, 1882; *Hydroporus stearinus* Kolenati, 1845; *Deronectes suavis* Sharp, 1882; *Hydroporus crotchi* Preudhomme de Borre, 1871; *Hydroporus insignis* Klug, 1833; *Hydroporus semiclusus* Walker, 1871; *Deronectes hostilis* Sharp, 1884; and *Hydroporus melanogrammus* Régimbart, 1899.

Key words: Coleoptera, Dytiscidae, *Nebrioporus*, new species, lectotype, new synonymies, new status, key to species.

Introduction

Nebrioporus Régimbart, 1906 is a relatively large hydroporine genus of small-medium sized, variegated, carnivorous water beetles. Most of the known species occupy the Palaearctic, but the genus is also known from North America and sub-Saharan Africa. Occurring from sea level to high mountain ranges they are primarily rheophilic, living amongst gravel in stream pools and stream beds, slow flowing meanders in rivers, streams and springs. Some species are found in muddy ditches with aquatic vegetation, or in oligotrophic lakes, with some species living in saline or hypersaline streams and ponds (*N. ceresyi*-group). Widely distributed, this genus has generally attracted diverse and geographically disparate taxonomic attention, partly attributable to the frequent incidence of misidentification, due to intrageneric morphological similarities. Despite this, there have been no extensive revisions since Sharp (1882) -within his concept of *Deronectes*- and, later, Zimmermann (1933). In recent years significant partial revisions utilising modern criteria have been published (Shirt & Angus 1992; Nilsson 1992; Angus *et al.* 1992; Hendrich & Mazzoldi 1995; Fery *et al.* 1996; Toledo 1998), several describing new taxa (for a short history of this genus see Nilsson & Angus 1992: 277 and Toledo 1998: 69). Compilations of the known species of *Nebrioporus* have been provided by Nilsson & Angus (1992) and more recently by Nilsson (2001), where 61 valid species were listed under two subgenera. This revision, focusing on the large *Nebrioporus laeviventris* species group, proposes solutions to some long standing taxonomic questions (*sensu* Nilsson & Angus 1992) in addition to detailed description of some of the lesser known species.