



Taxonomic revision of *Apteropilo* Lea, 1908 (Coleoptera: Cleridae)

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Abstract

The endemic Australian genus *Apteropilo* Lea is revised and *Pylusopsis* Elston **syn. n.** found to be synonymous with the former. *Apteropilo* is redefined herein to include two previously described species (*A. pictipes* Lea (= *Pylusopsis peckorum* Kolibáč **syn. n.**) and *A. chrysocome* (Elston) **comb. n.**), and four new species (*A. raldae* **sp. n.**, *A. humerofuscus* **sp. n.**, *A. clarinotus* **sp. n.** and *A. volans* **sp. n.**). Species are arranged into three species-groups. A dichotomous key to species is provided and the systematic position of *Apteropilo* within Cleridae briefly discussed.

Key words: Australia, Cleridae, Enopliinae, *Pylusopsis*

Introduction

The family Cleridae comprises approximately 4000 species and just over 300 genera worldwide (based on Gerstmeier 2000). The Australian clerid fauna is around 90% endemic (at the species and genus-level) with close to 360 species described in roughly 40 genera. The taxonomy of Australia Cleridae has not been actively worked for a long time. In the last 50 years three new Australian genera and 15 species have been described in five taxonomic papers (Winkler 1972, 1989, Gerstmeier 1990a, 1991, Kolibáč 2003) and another five papers deal with combinations or synonymy (Kolibáč 1998, Gerstmeier 1990b, 2001, 2002, Solervicens 2007).

Apteropilo Lea and its single flightless species *A. pictipes* Lea, from King Island, Bass Strait, were described by Lea (1908) who, as the generic name suggests, associated it with the clerine genus *Opilo* Latreille. The monotypic *Pylusopsis* Elston (including *P. chrysocome* Elston) was described by Elston (1929) from near Melbourne, Victoria, and assigned to Korynetinae. In a recent revision of the Australian Korynetinae *sensu lato* Kolibáč (2003) described *P. peckorum* Kolibáč from southwest Western Australia.

While visiting the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, I noticed a similarity between Lea's *A. pictipes* holotype specimen and the black and white photograph of *P. peckorum* accompanying Kolibáč's description. Subsequent examination of the primary types of both taxa indicated that *P. peckorum* **syn. n.** is synonymous with *A. pictipes*. As Kolibáč (2003) considered *P. peckorum* congeneric with *P. chrysocome* and as *Apteropilo* is presently assigned to Clerinae (Corporaal 1950), the taxonomic status and systematic position of *Apteropilo* and *Pylusopsis* require clarification.

Materials and methods

This revision is based on examination of 45 adult *Apteropilo*, plus five *Thriocerodes* Wolcott & Dybas and two *Neopylus* Solervicens, borrowed from the following private and institutional collections:

AMS Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
ANIC Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, ACT, Australia