



## Battle of two replacement names for the genus *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae)

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Kolbe (1899) established the new subgenus *Metagonia* to accommodate four species of African Melolonthinae in the genus *Apogonia* Kirby, 1819: *Apogonia platypyge* Kolbe, 1899; *A. platypus* Kolbe, 1899; *A. pusilla* Laporte, 1840; and *A. mediocris* Kolbe, 1891. However, he did not designate a type species. Moser (1918) elevated the subgenus *Metagonia* Kolbe to the genus rank. This genus-group name was then used regularly in taxonomic papers dealing with the genus *Apogonia* and its relatives (e.g., Dalla Torre 1912; Burgeon 1945; Frey 1974, 1976). In his catalogue of Old World Diplotaxini, Bezdek (2004) subsequently designated *A. mediocris* as the type species of the genus *Metagonia* Kolbe and listed ten species belonging to this genus. However, Kolbe and all subsequent authors overlooked that the genus-group name *Metagonia* Kolbe was already preoccupied by *Metagonia* Simon, 1893, which was proposed for the Brazilian pholcid spider *M. bifida* Simon, 1893 (see Huber 2000 for more details).

Because there was no available and potentially valid synonym for *Metagonia* Kolbe, Lacroix (2008) proposed a new replacement name for it—*Metapogonia*. Nearly simultaneously, Özdikmen & Demir (2008) published another genus-group replacement name *Bezdekia* for *Metagonia* Kolbe. According to Principle of Priority (Article 23 of ICZN 1999), *Metapogonia* Lacroix, 2008 (published in April 4, as adopted from the original publication) is valid and regarded a senior objective synonym of *Bezdekia* Özdikmen and Demir, 2008 (published in June 24, see Santiago-Blay 2008). Moreover, *Bezdekia* Özdikmen and Demir is a primary junior homonym of *Bezdekia* Warchalowski, 2005 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae).

### Summary of nomenclatural changes

#### *Metapogonia* Lacroix, 2008

= *Metagonia* Kolbe, 1899 (nec Simon, 1893)

= *Bezdekia* Özdikmen and Demir, 2008 **syn. nov.** (nec Warchalowski, 2005)

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