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List of unavailable infrasubspecific names originally published in *Oberea* Dejean, 1835, with nomenclatural notes on the genus (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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Abstract

A list of 153 infrasubspecific and therefore unavailable names originally introduced in *Oberea* Dejean, 1835, is given. All were so far considered by previous authors to have been made available by Breuning in his 1960's global key of the genus. Two of them (*Oberea maculithorax* v. *pulla* Matsushita, 1933 and *Oberea suturalis* v. *flaveola* Breuning 1960) refer to taxa in *Obereopsis* Chevrolat, 1855; and *Leuconitocris* Breuning, 1950, respectively.

Key words: Morphs, variations, Breuning, *Leuconitocris*, *Oberea*, *Obereopsis*

Introduction

Availability or unavailability of trinomina is addressed by Article 45.6 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999). In our opinion, this article contains so many convolutions and subordinate possible exceptions that readers are quickly puzzled. This issue is, however, very important as availability of a trinomen implies the necessity to examine its relevant name-bearing type when performing taxonomic revisions of the group. Many problems would have been avoided if that article would have been written under an angle favoring unavailability of trinomina in case of doubts regarding its intended usage by the original author, rather than the opposite. The recent reformulation of this article under the form of a dichotomous key (Lingafelter & Nears 2013) is certainly a very significant improvement of the situation.

The genus *Oberea*, Dejean, 1835, contains a large number of trinomina assorted with the abbreviations “ab.”, “v.” and “m.” originally intended to be applied unambiguously to infrasubspecific entities, and therefore deemed unavailable according to ICZN 1999 Article 45.6. Many of them have been considered so far to have been made available subsequently by the world synoptic tables for the genus published by Breuning in 1960, in which all trinomina are keyed without any mention of their intended subspecific or infrasubspecific status, resulting in very confused nomenclature and taxonomy in the group.

However it appears that all subsequent authors overlooked the key fact that Breuning's 1960 synoptic table of *Oberea* should not be considered as a publication in itself, but as an integral part of his “Révision systématique des espèces du genre *Oberea* Mulsant du globe” published as a triptic (Breuning 1960b : synoptic tables from page 1 to page 59; Breuning 1961 : descriptions from page 61 to page 140 ; Breuning 1962: descriptions from page 141 to 232 + summary + errata + index), as explicitly stated in the last paragraph of the summary just following page 232 of the third and last part published in 1962. And as the subspecific (“ssp.”) and infrasubspecific (“v.” or “m.”) rank of the trinomina are indeed well-specified in the 1961 and 1962 descriptive parts, all the “bare trinomina” of the 1960 part have to be interpreted accordingly, i.e., available when denoted with “ssp.” and unavailable when denoted with “v.” or “m.”.

We studied the entire original literature on *Oberea* and found out that, in addition to the infrasubspecific names introduced in the above mentioned Breuning's triptic (1960b, 1961 & 1962), additional *Oberea* names previously introduced unambiguously for infrasubspecific entities by Pic (1914, 1915, 1939), Matsushita (1933), Marcu