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***Cleptes pallipes* Lepeletier synonym of *Cleptes semiauratus* (Linnaeus) and description of *Cleptes striatipleuris* sp. nov. (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae, Cleptinae)**

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Abstract

The interpretation of Linnaeus' name *Sphex semiaurata* Linnaeus, 1761 has been controversial. After type examinations, we conclude that it is identical with the common *Cleptes pallipes* Lepeletier, 1806 and thus re-establish the old synonymy: *Cleptes semiauratus* (Linnaeus, 1761) (= *Cleptes pallipes* Lepeletier, 1806, **syn. reinst.**). We have been unable to find an available name for the species with which it has been confused. In order to be able to designate a suitable type specimen, we prefer to describe it as a new species rather than suggest a replacement name: *Cleptes striatipleuris* Rosa, Forshage, Paukkunen & Soon **sp. nov.** (= *Cleptes semiauratus sensu* Lepeletier, 1806, *nec* Linnaeus, 1761; = *C. splendens sensu* Linsenmaier 1959, *nec* Fabricius, 1798).

Key words: *Cleptes*, new species, synonym

Introduction

Cleptes Latreille, 1802 is the largest genus in the subfamily Cleptinae, the earliest diverging extant lineage of Chrysididae (Kimsey & Bohart 1991), which previously has been commonly treated as a separate family (Cleptidae). The genus includes 100 recognized species, mostly distributed in the Holarctic region (Kimsey & Bohart 1991, Móczár 2009, Wei *et al.* 2013, Arens 2014). Móczár (1962) and Kimsey (1981) divided the genus into eight subgenera, which were later found to be indistinctly defined, particularly when the Asian species were considered. Therefore Kimsey & Bohart (1991) synonymised the subgenera and replaced them with eight species groups. The genus was recently revised by Móczár (1996, 1997a, b, 1998a, b, c, 2000a, b, 2001), who checked almost all the available types and designated some neo- and lectotypes. Thanks to this fundamental work, it has been possible to clarify the chaotic taxonomy of the different species groups.

Sphex semiaurata Linnaeus, 1761, described from Scania (Skåne, Sweden), is the oldest name in the genus *Cleptes*, and the sole species at generic description (Latreille 1802), thus type species by monotypy. Several species were described over the following years in the genus, including *Cleptes pallipes* Lepeletier, 1806 from the surroundings of Paris.

Dahlbom (1854) synonymised *C. pallipes* with *C. semiauratus*, and this interpretation was followed by Mocsáry (1889) and Dalla Torre (1892). Then du Buysson (1891) reinstated *C. pallipes* as a valid species following Lepeletier's (1806) work, while Berland & Bernard (1938) considered *C. pallipes* as a variation of *C. semiauratus*, and Móczár (1949, 2001) supported the validity of *C. pallipes* on the basis of the male genitalia. However, Linsenmaier (1959) treated *C. pallipes* as a synonym of *C. semiauratus* and used the name *C. splendens* (Fabricius,