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Revision of the Nearctic species of the genus *Iphthiminus* Spilman (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

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Abstract

Nearctic species of *Iphthiminus* Spilman (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) are revised by examining external morphological structures and genital characters. Of the six Nearctic species, only three are considered valid: *Iphthiminus serratus* (Mannerheim 1843), *I. opacus* (Leconte 1866), and *I. lewisii* (Horn 1870). Photographs are taken to highlight structures and a key is created to identify the species. Three names are synonymized: (senior synonym in brackets) *I. sublaevis* (Bland 1865) [= *Nyctobates sublaevis* (Bland 1865)], *I. salebrosus* (Casey 1924) [= *Iphthimus salebrosus* (Casey 1924)] are synonymized under *I. serratus* (Mannerheim 1843) [= *Nyctobates serratus* (Mannerheim 1843)], and *I. laevisimus* (Casey 1890) [= *Iphthimus laevisimus* (Casey 1890)] is synonymized under *Iphthiminus lewisii* (Horn 1870) [= *Iphthimus lewisii* (Horn 1870)]. Lectotypes are designated for *Iphthimus serratus lewisii* Horn 1870 and *Iphthimus opacus* LeConte 1866.

Key words: Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, taxonomy, new synonymy, lectotype designation, natural history, Nearctic

Introduction

The subfamily Stenochiinae, synonymized with Coelometopinae by Bouchard *et al.* (2005) has three tribes: Cnodalonini, Talanini, and Stenochini. The tribe Cnodalonini is large, 13 genera of which occur within the United States (Aalbu *et al.* 2002). Of these, at least three—including *Iphthiminus*—were considered in need of revision by Aalbu *et al.* (2002). The literature on *Iphthiminus* Spilman is very sparse, and most of the species were described more than a century ago. Since that time, *Iphthiminus* has changed genus names (from *Iphthimus* (Truqui 1857), a synonym of *Iphthinus* (Dejean 1837) (Spilman 1973a)), and has had a species removed (*Iphthiminus zopheroides*, now *Oenopion zopheroides*). Spilman (1973a) compiled the rather complex nomenclatural history of this genus and created the new genus name *Iphthiminus*.

Taxonomy of *Iphthiminus*

Before this revision, there were six recognized Nearctic species of *Iphthiminus*: *I. sublaevis* (Bland), *I. laevisimus* (Casey), *I. opacus* (Leconte), *I. serratus* (Mannerheim), *I. lewisii* (Horn), and *I. salebrosus* (Casey) (Poole & Gentili 1996). According to Horn (1870), *I. sublaevis*, *serratus*, and *lewisii* were subspecies of *Iphthiminus serratus* (*I. s. serratus*, *I. s. lewisii*, and *I. s. sublaevis*). No literature was found that gives explicit reason(s) why these subspecies were elevated to species status in recent catalogs. There are also three synonymies listed with *I. serratus*: *I. subligatus*, *I. servilis*, *I. servator* (Walker in Lord 1866, Poole & Gentili 1996). Types of these three Walker species were not examined for the present study (see the “taxonomic notes” section under *I. serratus* for details). *Iphthiminus sublaevis* was originally named *Nyctobates sublaevis*, described by Bland (1865). *Iphthiminus laevisimus* and *I. salebrosus* were described by Thomas L. Casey (1890, 1924), which made these names suspect due to his propensity to describe species without accounting for variation (Capinera 2004).