CRYPTORHYNCHUS ILLIGER, 1807, (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): PROPOSED INTERPRETATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS Z.N.(S.) 1648
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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to such extent as may be necessary to provide a valid basis for the continued use of the generic name Cryptorhynchus Illiger, 1807, as outlined herein. The problem involves suppression of one type-species designation and the validation of a second, later designation.

2. The generic name Cryptorhynchus Illiger was published in 1807 (Mag. Insektenk. 6: 330) and originally contained three stirps; included in the first stirps was Rhynchaenus lapathi (L.), which is currently assigned to the genus Cryptorhynchus of the subfamily Cryptorhynchinae; the second stirps contained Rhynchaenus pericarpius F., which is currently assigned to the genus Rhinoncus Schoenherr (1837) of the subfamily Ceutorhynchinae; the third stirps is of no immediate concern. The stirps mentioned above each contained more than one species.


4. Subsequently in 1826 Schoenherr in Curculionidum dispositio methodica (: 21) designated the type-species of Cryptorhynchus as Curculio lapathi L., apparently ignoring Latreille’s earlier selection of pericarpius F. It is in the sense of Schoenherr that the genus is currently recognized and as such forms the basis for the subfamily name Cryptorhynchinae, a group containing 600 genera, 5,500 species, and is the largest subfamily of Curculionidae.

5. In 1917 Pierce in A manual of dangerous insects . . . proposed the name Sternochetus in such a way that it could be used to replace Cryptorhynchus of authors. Buchanan in 1939 (Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington 41: 82) fixed the type of Sternochetus as Curculio mangiferae F. At present it is not certain that Sternochetus mangiferae (F.) is congeneric with Cryptorhynchus lapathi (L.).


7. Unless action is taken by the International Commission it appears that: (a) the generic name Cryptorhynchus Illiger will have to be shifted from the Cryptorhynchinae to the Ceutorhynchinae; (b) it will be necessary to rename the taxon currently designated “Cryptorhynchus”, a genus containing more than 300 species; and (c) it will be necessary to rename the supergeneric taxa subfamily Cryptorhynchinae, tribe Cryptorhynchini, and subtribe Cryptorhynchina. Any one of the above mentioned actions would cause great confusion in the taxonomy of curculionid beetles.

8. For the reasons set out above it is requested that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

(1) use its plenary powers:
(a) to suppress the designation by Latreille, 1810, of *pericarpius* Fabr. as the type-species of *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger;
(b) to validate the designation by Schoenherr, 1826, of *lapathi* Linnaeus as the type-species of *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger;

(2) place the generic name *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger, 1807 (gender: masculine) type-species, under the plenary powers, by designation by Schoenherr, 1826, *Curculio lapathi* Linnaeus, 1758, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(3) place the specific name *lapathi* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Curculio lapathi* (type-species of *Cryptorhynchus* Illiger, 1807) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;