

New synonymies in the Palearctic species of *Aphodius* Illiger (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

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Eight new synonymies in the genus *Aphodius* are proposed.

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Recently I had an opportunity to examine the types of some *Aphodius* species, described by V. Balthasar and deposited in the National Museum (Natural History) in Praha. The comparison of these specimens with extensive material from the collection of Zoological Institute (St. Petersburg) and provided by colleagues, including examination of aedeagi, yielded new synonymy.

A. (*Chilothorax*) *melanostictus* W. Schmidt, 1840 = *A. melanostictoides* Balthasar, 1961, **syn. n.**; = *A. elbursicola* Balthasar, 1961, **syn. n.** Type material examined. *A. melanostictoides*: holotype ♂ and paratype ♀ labelled "J. Klapperich, Kandahar – Kuna, 1200 m., 1.3.[19]53, S-Afghanistan". *A. elbursicola*: holotype ♂ labelled "Persia sept., Elburs mts. c. s. Tacht: Suleiman, Sardab-Tal".

A. (*Chilothorax*) *kandaharicus* Balthasar, 1961 = *A. ulcerosus* Balthasar, 1961, **syn. n.** Type material examined. *A. kandaharicus*: holotype ♂ labelled "J. Klapperich, Kandahar – Kuna, 950 m., 21.2.[19]53, S-Afghanistan"; paratype ♀ labelled "J. Klapperich, Umgb. v. Kabul, 1740 m., 20.3.[19]53". *A. ulcerosus*: holotype ♀ labelled "J. Klapperich, Kandahar – Kuna, 950 m., 21.2.[19]53, S-Afghanistan"; paratypes, 2 ♂ and 1 ♀, with the same data, but collected 18.I.1953, 28.I.1953, and 21.II.1953. Both the names were published in one publication. I propose *A. kandaharicus* as the valid name for the species, as it was based on the male type specimen.

A. (*Chilothorax*) *distinctus* (Müller, 1776) = *A. libyanus* Balthasar, 1961, **syn. n.** Type material examined. *A. libyanus*: holotype ♂ labelled "Lybien", "A. (Volinus) libyanus n. sp. Balth. ♂ Holotypus [19]59"; paratype ♂

labelled "Lybien", "A. (Volinus) libyanus n. sp. Balth. ♀ Allotypus [19]59".

A. (*Nobius*) *inclusus* Reitter, 1892 = *A. kulikulanus* Balthasar, 1970, **syn. n.** Type material examined. *A. kulikulanus*: holotype ♀ labelled "Turkestan, Lac. Kulikulan, Glasunov [leg.] 1892", "A. (Mendidius) kulikulanus n. sp. Balth. [19]59 Holotypus".

A. (*Melinopterus*) *punctatosulcatus* Sturm, 1805 = *A. pseudoinclusus* Balthasar, 1963, **syn. n.** Type material examined. *A. pseudoinclusus*: holotype ♀ labelled "Slatoust, Ural, Herm. Frieb.", "A. (Nobius) pseudoinclusus n. sp. ♂ Balth. Holotypus [19]61".

A. (*Aphodaulacus*) *turkestanicus* Heyden, 1881 = *A. stomachosus* Balthasar, 1970, **syn. n.** Type material examined. *A. stomachosus*: holotype ♂ labelled "J. Klapperich, Banda-e-Mir, 3200 m, Hazaradjat, 31.8.52, Zentral-Afghanistan", "A. (Aphodaulacus) stomachosus n. sp. Holotypus [19]59 Balth.".

A. (*Amidorus*) *obscurus* (Fabricius, 1792) = *A. monticustos* Balthasar, 1946, **syn. n.** Type material examined. *A. monticustos*: 2 syntypes ♂ labelled "Nord Caucas, Elborus, 10000", E. Koenig [leg.], "A. (Amidorus) monticustos Dr. V. Balthasar det.", and "TYPUS".

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