

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Author, date, and type species of *Adoretus* (Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae)

Adoretus, type genus of the tribe Adoretini Burmeister, 1844, is a speciose genus of Old World Rutelinae. It contains several pests and invasive species such as the Chinese Rose Beetle, *Adoretus sinicus* Burmeister, which has become abundant in Hawaii (Siemann and Rogers 2003). The genus usually is assigned to the author [Laporte] Comte de Castelnau who, in 1840 (p. 142), published a description of '*Adoretus* Esch.'. Eschscholtz's manuscript name *Adoretus* had been in circulation for several years before it was cited as a synonym of *Trigonostoma* Dejean by Dejean (1833: 157). *Trigonostoma* Dejean (1833) is preoccupied by the mollusc name *Trigonostoma* de Blainville (1825) and since Machatschke's type species designation in 1972 it has been treated as an objective junior synonym of *Adoroleptus* Brenske, 1893 (Machatschke 1972). *Adoretus*, however, although cited as a synonym, is made available by the later treatment as valid name in Castelnau (1840), but has to be attributed to Dejean with the date 1833 according to Art. 11.6.1 and 50.7. of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999). Moreover, according to Art. 67.12.1 of the Code, one of the available species names included by Dejean in *Trigonostoma* has to be chosen as the type species for *Adoretus* because those were the species-group names first directly associated with *Adoretus*. Arrow (1917: 296) designated the West African *Adoretus hirtellus* Castelnau as the type species of *Adoretus*. This has been adopted by the majority of authors despite the confusing fact that, following the current classification (Machatschke 1972), *A. hirtellus* (a junior subjective synonym of *A. umbrosus* Fabricius, 1792) belongs to the subgenus *Chaetadoretus* Ohaus which consequently would become a junior subjective synonym of *Adoretus*. Thus the taxon presently considered the nominotypical subgenus of *Adoretus* would require a new name. Fortunately, *A. hirtellus* is not one of the species originally included in *Adoretus* Dejean, rendering Arrow's type species designation invalid. Medvedev (1949: 313) designated another type species for *Adoretus*: *Melolontha nigrifrons* Steven, 1809. Since this species from Russia and Central Asia was originally included by Dejean, Medvedev's designation is valid. The type species belongs to the subgenus *Adoretus* s.str. causing no foreseeable confusion.

The correct nomenclature is:

Adoretus Dejean, 1833: 157 (Type species, *Melolontha nigrifrons* Steven, 1809, by subsequent designation of Medvedev 1949: 313).

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