

***Calchas* Birula, 1899, a valid name, not a homonym of *Calchas* Klug, 1850 (Scorpionida, Iuridae and Coleoptera, Melyridae)**

V. Y. Fet

Syunt Khassardagh State Reserve,
Kara Kala,
745162, U.S.S.R.

and

R. B. Madge

C.A.B. International Institute of Entomology,
c/o British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

Francke (1985: 3, 6, 11) proposed the generic name *Paraiurus* as a *nomen novum* for *Calchas* Birula, 1899: XV [Scorpionida], not *Calchas* Klug, 1850: 15 [Coleoptera]. The homonymy was apparently discovered in Neave (1939) where both names are recorded without comment. *Calchas* Klug is also recorded in Sherborn (1924), again without comment, but is not in Scudder (1882) and not in Lucas (1920). In Schulze *et al.* (1927) it is cited as "*Calchas* [Nom. nud.] F. Klug . . . 1850 Col. *incert. sedis*". This last interpretation of the name fits well with the facts in Klug's original paper where there is no description or diagnosis — the name simply occurs in the combination "*Calchas humeralis* Nob." [i.e. Klug] for a beetle from Colombia. However, we have now found that *Calchas* Klug is not a *nomen nudum* but only an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Chalcas* Fairmaire, 1847, a genus of large, showy melyrid beetles from South America.

The genus *Chalcas* was recognised and named, but never published, by the French coleopterist P. F. M. A. Dejean. It was first mentioned in a note by Buquet (1839), who recorded the Dejean origin of the name, and was first characterised by Blanchard (1845), to whom it is usually attributed. But the latter used the French vernacular in citing the genus on both page 53 (where it is misspelled as *Chalchas*) and page 60 and cannot be credited with the authorship. This must go to Fairmaire (1847) who redescribed the genus and added nine species, which he briefly characterised. The seventh of these was "*C. HUMERALIS*. Klug, inéd." from Colombia. We believe that it was this species that Klug in 1850 misspelled as *Calchas humeralis*. The great similarity in the generic names, *Chalcas* and *Calchas*, and the identity of the specific names,

humeralis, the stated authors, Klug, and the countries of origin, Colombia, all suggest this. In addition, the position of *Calchas humeralis* in Klug's paper agrees with it being a melyrid for it immediately follows three other members of the family, *Dasytes antis* Perty, *Dasytes variegatus* Germar, and *Melyris viridis* Fabricius.

From the above it is clear that under Article 33(c) of the Code *Calchas* Klug, 1850, is an incorrect subsequent spelling and not available. Consequently, *Calchas* Birula, 1899, is not a junior homonym and does not need to be replaced. *Paraiurus* Francke, 1985, is a junior objective synonym of the latter and is no longer valid.

Calchas Birula contains but one species, *C. nordmanni* Birula, 1899. This is known only from Turkey, which now includes those localities for the species formerly in Russian Transcaucasia. It should also be noted that the bibliographic citation of this genus by Francke (1985) is incorrect. His reference is to the full description of *Calchas* that Birula published in 1900. Birula's 1899 paper contains only a brief diagnosis of the genus.

References

- BIRULA, A. 1899: A new scorpion species of the Russian fauna [in Russian, diagnosis in Latin]. *Ezheg.zool.Muz.* 4: XIV-XV.
- BIRULA, A. 1900: Miscellanea scorpionologica. IV. Zur Synonymie der russischen Scorpione [Schluss.]. *Ezheg.zool.Muz.* 5: 248-256.
- BLANCHARD, E. 1845: *Histoire des Insectes*. Paris. Firmin Didot Frères. 2: 1-524, plates 11-20.
- BUQUET, L. 1839: [Untitled note] *Annls Soc.ent.Fr.* 7: LXVIII.
- FAIRMAIRE, L. 1847: Description du genre *Chalcas*. *Revue zool.* 1847: 408-409.
- FRANCKE, O. F. 1985: Conspectus genericus scorpionorum 1758-1982 (Arachnida: Scorpiones). *Occ.Pap.Mus.Texas Tech Univ.* 98: 1-32.
- KLUG, J. C. F. 1850: *Verzeichniss verkäuflicher Doubletten der entomol. Sammlung der Koniglichen Universität Berlin*. Berlin. 20 pp.
- LUCAS, R. 1920: *Catalogus Alphabeticus Generum et Subgenerum Coleopterorum Orbis Terrarum Totius*. Pars I. Berlin. Nicolaische Verlag. xxxi + 1-696 pp.
- NEAVE, S. A. 1939: *Nomenclator Zoologicus*. London. Zoological Society of London. 1: xiv + 1957.
- SCHULZE, F. E., KÜKENTHAL, W., HEIDER, K. & HESSE, R. 1927 (1927-29): *Nomenclator Animalium Generum et Subgenerum*. Berlin. Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. 2: 477-1298.
- SCUDDER, S. H. 1882: *Nomenclator Zoologicus*. *Bull.U.S.natn.Mus.* 19: xix + (1) + 1-376; (1) + 1-340.
- SHERBORN, C. D. 1924: *Index Animalium*. 1801-1850. London. British Museum. 5: 945-1196.