

**Confirmation of the synonymy of *Rhyzostylops*  
with *Blattivorus* and the description of the male of  
*Blattivorus inquirendus*  
(Coleoptera: Ripiphoridae: Ripidiinae)**

Jan BATELKA

Nad Vodovodem 16, CZ-100 00 Praha 10, Czech Republic; e-mail: janbat@centrum.cz

**Abstract.** Based on the examination of a winged male collected in central Italy and associated with the holotype (larviform female) of *Rhyzostylops inquirendus* Silvestri, 1906, the latter species is transferred to the genus *Blattivorus* Chobaut, 1891 and the synonymy of *Rhyzostylops* Silvestri, 1906 and *Blattivorus* is confirmed. The male of *Blattivorus inquirendus* (Silvestri, 1906), comb. nov. is described. A key to the European genera of Ripidiinae is provided.

**Key words.** Coleoptera, Ripiphoridae, Rhipidiinae, *Blattivorus*, *Rhyzostylops*, new synonymy, new combination, Palaearctic Region, Italy

### Introduction

The monotypic genus *Rhyzostylops* Silvestri, 1906 belonging to the subfamily Ripidiinae was described by SILVESTRI (1906) from a unique larviform female collected in Bevagna (Umbria, central Italy). The description of *R. inquirendus* Silvestri, 1906 also contains details of the eggs and the first larval instar. The validity of the genus *Rhyzostylops* was questioned by RIEK (1955: 73) who regarded the specimen as a final larval instar of the genus *Ripidius* Thunberg, 1806. However, ŠVÁCHA (1994: 616) rebutted arguments mentioned by RIEK (1955) and concluded that the holotype is without doubt an adult. ŠVÁCHA (1994) also considered *Rhyzostylops* as a possible synonym of the genus *Blattivorus* Chobaut, 1891 of which only males were known. To prove his opinion, the hitherto unknown male of *Rhyzostylops* was essential. A ripidiine male specimen recently collected about 150 km west of Bevagna, which I have associated because of its sympatrical occurrence in central Italy with the female holotype of *Rhyzostylops inquirendus*, confirms the synonymy proposed by ŠVÁCHA (1994). The male of *Blattivorus inquirendus* (Silvestri, 1906) comb. nov. is described herein.