

Taxonomic changes in Eastern Mediterranean *Malachius* (Coleoptera: Malachiidae)

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Abstract. *Clanoptilus* (*Hypoptilus*) *erythropterus* (Erichson, 1840) comb. nov. is transferred from the genus *Malachius* Fabricius, 1775. *Malachius carnifex* Erichson, 1840 syn. nov. is regarded as a junior subjective synonym of *M. rubidus* Erichson, 1840. *Malachius stolatus* stat. restit. is established as a valid name for *M. carnifex* auctorum, nec ERICHSON (1840), and *M. bilyi* Švihla, 1987 syn. nov. is regarded as its junior subjective synonym. *Malachius suturalis* Motschulsky, 1854 stat. restit. is removed from synonymy of *M. carnifex* and regarded as a valid species. Lectotypes are designated for *M. carnifex*, *M. erythropterus* and *M. rubidus*. New distributional data are presented for *C. erythropterus* (Iran, Turkey), *M. rubidus* (Montenegro, Serbia) and *M. stolatus* (Libya).

Key words. Coleoptera, Malachiidae, *Clanoptilus*, *Malachius*, taxonomy, new synonyms, new combination, Palaearctic Region

Introduction

The Malachiidae represent a large group in the superfamily Cleroidea. The family numbers over 1,400 taxa of species rank in the Palaearctic Region (cf. MAYOR 2007). The first large study on the family Malachiidae was published by ERICHSON (1840). The following revisions by PEYRON (1877) and ABEILLE DE PERRIN (1891) summarized the knowledge published at that time, increased the number of known species and added data on their distribution. However, all three authors retained the original wide concept of the genus *Malachius* Fabricius, 1775. This state, inconsistent with modern taxonomy, remained valid until EVERS (1985) revalidated some already described genera, created some new genus-group taxa, established new species synonymies, and published keys to the species for genera originally classified in *Malachius* sensu lato. Unfortunately, his concepts of the generic classification are doubtful as some genus-group taxa were based on characters that are transitional or occur in multiple genera (e.g. *Cordylepherus* Evers, 1985, *Hypoptilus* Mulsant & Rey, 1867 and *Haplomalachius* Evers, 1985).