

A replacement name for *Buprestis scalaris* Gory & Laporte (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Abstract

Diadoxus regius nomen novum is proposed as a replacement name for *Buprestis scalaris* Gory & Laporte, 1838 which is a junior primary homonym of *B. scalaris* Boisduval, 1835. *Buprestis scalaris* Gory & Laporte has its nomenclatural history discussed and is designated type species of the genus *Diadoxus* Saunders, 1868. *Diadoxus regius* is figured.

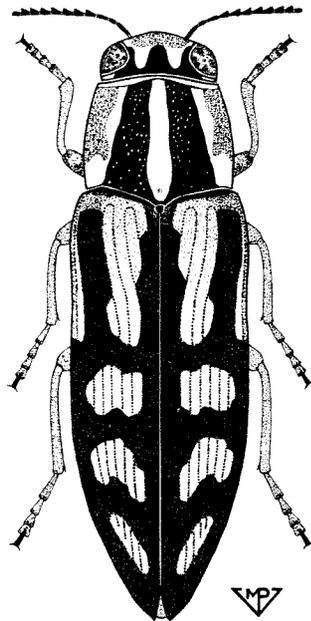
Gory & Laporte (1838:141) described and illustrated (Pl. 35, figure 193) *Buprestis scalaris* from an indeterminate number of specimens from "Nouvelle-Hollande," in the collection of Mr. Children ("Du cabinet de M. Children"). Horn & Kahle (1935:42) indicate the John George Children collection was auctioned by J.C. Stevens of London, but the present location of the syntype/s is unknown. Saunders (1868:4-5) transferred *B. scalaris* Gory & Laporte and *Stigmodera erythrura* White, 1846 to the genus *Diadoxus*, when he defined/diagnosed the latter through redescription of these two species. Since a type species for *Diadoxus* has not been formally designated, I take this opportunity to designate *Buprestis scalaris* Gory & Laporte, 1838 as type species of *Diadoxus* Saunders, 1868.

Apparently, Gory & Laporte (1838) forgot that Boisduval (1835: 89-90) had previously described a different Australian species as *Buprestis scalaris*, based on an indeterminate number of specimens from "Nouvelle-Hollande" in the collections of Messrs Dejean and Gory. The *B. scalaris* Boisduval female lectotype is located in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, based on the holotype designation by Barker (1986:9). Boisduval certainly considered his description as a generic reassignment (and possibly as a redescription), since he clearly attributed the authorship of this taxon to Dejean (1833:79) by listing the latter's catalogue name, *Polychroma scalaris*, as a synonym. However, Dejean's name is a nomen nudum. *Buprestis scalaris* Boisduval was first transferred to *Stigmodera* (*Castiarina*) by Gory & Laporte (1837:40) who listed it as a synonym under the unavailable name *Stigmodera crucigera* Hope, [1836] even though the former species name would have had priority had the latter been validly described. Thus *B. scalaris* Boisduval has priority over *B. scalaris* Gory & Laporte.

The two known 'synonyms' of *B. scalaris* Gory & Laporte, that also must be considered as potential replacement names, are *Anthaxia erichsoni* Hope, [1836] and *Diadoxus scalaris* var. *blackburni* Obenberger, 1923. *Anthaxia erichsoni* Hope was 'described' in the pamphlet on Australian Buprestidae circulated by the Rev. F.W. Hope

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in 1836. Hemming & Noakes (1958) note that this pamphlet was declared unavailable for the purposes of nomenclature by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, through publication of Opinion 234 in 1954. Thus *A. erichsoni* was first published as a junior synonym of *Diadoxus scalaris* (Gory & Laporte) by Saunders (1868) and is unavailable under the current International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Article 11e). Obenberger (1923:72) described *D. scalaris* var. *blackburni* for some colour pattern variants from "Queensland", based on an indeterminate number of specimens ("some few specimens of my collection") now housed in the National Museum, Prague, Czechoslovakia. Under the current International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Article 45g), the status of 'varietal' names, as the third name in a trinomen, is open to interpretation. Obenberger (1923) described subspecies as well as varieties, thus clearly differentiating the ranking of these terms. Subsequent citations by Obenberger and other authors did not find *D. scalaris* var. *blackburni* treated as a subspecies. Also, Obenberger did not state, in any of his numerous publications during his long career, that he considered the terms 'variety' and 'subspecies' interchangeable. Therefore, I consider '*blackburni* Obenberger' to be infrasubspecific, under Article 45g



— 5 mm —

Figure 1 Dorsal view of *Diadoxus regius* Peterson.

(ii, 1) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, and unavailable for the purposes of nomenclature.

Since *B. scalaris* Gory & Laporte is a junior primary homonym of *B. scalaris* Boisduval, and none of the supposed synonyms of the former are available for the purposes of nomenclature, I propose the following replacement name: *Diadoxus regius* nomen novum for *Buprestis scalaris* Gory & Laporte, 1838.

Diadoxus regius (Figure 1) is named thus, for being the largest and most spectacular of the described *Diadoxus* taxa. This species occurs in all Australian mainland states.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Brenda Coulson (Perth) for typing the manuscript.

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