

***Harpactus* Shuckard, 1837, the valid name for the genus currently called *Dienoplus* Fox, 1894 (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)**

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ABSTRACT. *Harpactus* Shuckard, 1837 (an unjustified emendation of the preoccupied name *Arpactus* Jurine, 1807) is an available name and must be restored as the valid name for the genus now called *Dienoplus* Fox, 1894. The latter name has been incorrectly interpreted as valid by Pate (1937), de Beaumont (1954a) and all subsequent authors.

The nomenclatural history and validity of *Harpactus* Shuckard has not been understood for the last 45 years. As a consequence, the name *Dienoplus* has been incorrectly used for this genus. The history of the two names is reviewed below. I sincerely thank Mr William I. Follett, California Academy of Sciences, and Arnold S. Menke, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for discussing the manuscript and useful suggestions. I also thank Arnold for providing a copy of the original edition of the Règles internationales de la Nomenclature zoologique.

1. Jurine (1807: 192) described the genus *Arpactus*, which is a junior homonym of *Arpactus* Panzer, 1805, and of *Arpactus* Panzer, 1806 (the latter two names are objective synonyms of *Gorytes* Latreille, 1804). Shuckard (1837: 220) designated *Arpactus formosus* Jurine, 1807 as the type-species of *Arpactus* Jurine.

2. When discussing the derivation of the name *Arpactus* Jurine, Shuckard (1837: 221) emended it on linguistic grounds ('it should therefore be written *Harpactus*'). Apparently he did not intend the emendation to be used, since he wrote *Arpactus* in the index, figure legend, classification scheme of Hymenoptera, as well as in the text. Nevertheless, he created an available new name, with its own date and author (Articles 19 and 33(a) (ii)), differing by one letter from *Arpactus* (Article 56(a)).

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Since *Harpactus* is an emendation, it has the same type-species as *Arpactus* Jurine (Article 67(i) (ii)).

3. Dahlbom (1843: 147–151, 1845: 474–475) spelled the name *Harpactes*, but attributed it to Shuckard. As noted by Pate (1937: 29), *Harpactes* may be either a deliberate alteration of Shuckard's name (an emendation), or a consistent misspelling. The absence of any comment on this matter by Dahlbom suggests a misspelling. In any case, *Harpactes* Dahlbom is a junior homonym of *Harpactes* Swainson, 1833 (Aves), and of *Harpactes* Templeton, 1834 (Arachnida). The type-species of *Harpactes* Dahlbom is *Harpactes laevis* Dahlbom [sic] [= *Mutilla laevis* Latreille, 1792], designation by Pate, 1937: 29. *Harpactes formosus* and *laevis* are very similar species and they are universally considered to be congeneric.

4. Following Dahlbom, most authors used the name *Harpactus*, but the spelling *Harpactes* was also common (see Maidl & Klima, 1939: 73, for a list of citations). *Harpactus* was also adopted by Hallett (1939: 17), Guiglia (1941: 164), Paul (1941: 44), Honoré (1942: 43), Guiglia (1943: 71, 1944: 21, 22), Fletcher (1945: 54), Giner Mari (1945: 376), Deleurance (1946a: 63, 1946b: 122), Giner Mari (1947: 26), Balthasar (1948: 142), Guichard & Yarrow (1948: 93), Guiglia (1948: 201), Zavadil & Šnoflák (1948: 74), Chambers (1949: 232), Szulczewski (1950: 108), de Beaumont (1951a: 307), Leininger (1951: 117, also *Harpactes*), de Beaumont

(1953: 109), Głowacki (1953: 519), Guiglia (1953: 11), Nouvel & Ribaut (1953: 178), Balthasar (1954: 270, 272), Bischoff & Stadler (1954: 127), Grandi (1954: 231), Vogrin (1954: 13, 14, 1955: 35), Scobiola-Palade (1960: 166), Faester (1965: 193), Bonelli (1966: 8), Balthasar *et al.* (1967: 172), Niedeł & Deneš (1967: 83) and Zangheri (1969: 1701). On the other hand, *Harpactes* was used by Giner Mari (1943: 174), Móczár (1943: 85), de Andrade (1949: 18), de Beaumont (1950: 400), Leininger (1951: 117, also *Harpactus*), Gussakovskij (1952: 269), Puławski (1954: 101), Guiglia (1957: 145, 1960: 360), Zirngiebl (1957: 181), Scobiola-Palade (1959: 497) and Hüsing & Jäger (1964: 191). Guiglia (1939: 65) and de Beaumont (1951b: 32) spelled the name *Arpactus*, and de Beaumont (1954b): 88) wrote it *Arpactes*.

5. Fox (1894: 548) described the genus *Dienoplus* (type-species: *Dienoplus pictipes* Fox, 1894: 549, by monotypy). *Dienoplus* was synonymized with *Gorytes* Latreille by Kohl (1897), with *Harpactus*, Jurine [sic] by Ashmead (1899) and Maidl & Klima (1939: 73), and tentatively assigned to *Oryttus* Spinola, 1836, as a subgenus by Pate (1937: 22). Subsequent authors unanimously agree that *Harpactus* and *Dienoplus* are two names for the same genus-group taxon.

6. Pate (1937: 29) regarded *Harpactus* as an invalid senior synonym of *Dienoplus*. He did not discuss this synonym directly, but his opinion can be clearly deduced from his citation of the type-species of *Harpactus*: the valid name of this species, according to Pate, is *Oryttus* ? (*Dienoplus*) *laevis* (Latreille). It should be remembered that, following Handlirsch (1888: 473), Pate (1937) regarded *Harpactus formosus* (the type-species of the genus) as a junior synonym of *laevis* (de Beaumont, 1945: 473, demonstrated that they are actually distinct species). Pate's (1937) interpretation of *Harpactus* as an invalid senior synonym of *Dienoplus* was arbitrary and not supported by any of the Articles of the then valid Règles internationales de la Nomenclature zoologique (1905). The Recommendation following the Article 36 of the Règles is clear: 'It is well to avoid the introduction of new generic names which differ from the generic names already in use only in termination or in a slight variation in spelling

which might lead to confusion. But when once introduced such names are not to be rejected on this account.'

7. Benson, Ferrière & Richards (1947) applied to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to preserve the name *Harpactus* Shuckard. These authors incorrectly assumed that since '*Arpactus* Jurine, 1807 is invalid ... the emended form *Harpactus* is therefore also invalid'. Their opinion was not based on any of the Articles contained in the Règles, as noted under 6 above, and is also contrary to Articles 19, 33(a) (ii) and 56(a) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature now in effect. The Commission did not take any action and the petition was finally cancelled (China, 1963) and never reopened.

8. Krombein (1951: 988, 1958: 193) used the name *Dienoplus* rather than *Harpactus*, but he did not discuss his choice. On the other hand, de Beaumont (1954a) declared that *Harpactus* 'n'est qu'une modification du nom proposé par Panzer [sic]' and therefore invalid, and he regarded *Dienoplus* Fox as the valid name for *Harpactus* Shuckard. He was wrong for the same reasons as Pate (1937) and Benson *et al.* (1947).

9. Pate's (1937) and de Beaumont's (1954a) erroneous interpretation has been followed by all subsequent authors, including Bejári (1957: 100), Noskiewicz & Pulawski (1960: 25, 97), Tsuneki (1963: 2), de Beaumont (1964: 50), Oehlke (1970: 692), Balthasar (1972: 320), Lomholdt (1975: 199), Bohart & Menke (1976: 52, 495), Krombein (1979: 1692), Pulawski (1978: 200, 1979: 475), Bohart (1980: 63), Richards (1980: 81) and Dolfuss (1983: 22).

10. The use of *Dienoplus* Fox, 1894 as the valid name for *Harpactus* Shuckard, 1837 is contrary to the Code and thus illegal. Consequently, *Dienoplus* must be relegated to the status of a junior synonym of *Harpactus*, and the latter name must be restored as the proper name for the genus. In no way can *Harpactus* be suppressed as an unused senior synonym: although it has not been used for 15 years, the minimum required by Article 79(b) (amended 1974) is 50. Furthermore, the third edition of the Code, expected in 1984, does not contain any provision that might effect the fate of *Harpactus*.

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