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ABSTRACT

The following checklist includes 2,955 species-group names and 553 genus-group names of weevils occurring in the Papuan region. Major islands treated are: Aru, Biak, Bougainville, Manus, Mysol, New Guinea, Salawatti, Trobriand, Waigeo, Woodlark, and Yapen Islands and the islands of the Admiralty, Bismarck, d'Entrecasteaux, and Louisaide Archipelagoes. Maps of the region with historically important collection localities are provided. Entomological expeditions to the region and collections containing significant weevil material are summarized. All available family-group, genus-group and species-group names are arranged alphabetically for all families of Curculionoidea known from the region. All currently accepted species epithet are annotated with taxonomic references, notes on published distributions, past taxonomic changes, infrasubspecific names, and species-group synonymies. The following nomenclatural changes are proposed: the monotypic genus *Neplaxa* Casey is a **new synonym** of *Pantoxystus* Pascoe; its type species *Neplaxa illustratus* Casey is a **new synonym** of *Pantoxystus rubricollis* (Boisduval). Two subgenera of *Neosynaptops*, *Neosynaptopsis* Legalov and *Pseudosynaptos* Legalov are **new synonymies** of *Euops* (*Neosynaptops*) Voss **revised status**. Type-species are designated for **25** genera, changes of rank or status are proposed for **19** taxa, and **88 new combinations** are listed in "Nomenclatural changes."

Key words: checklist, Coleoptera, Curculionoidea, **new combinations**, **new synonymies**, new type-species designations, Papua New Guinea, Papuan region, weevils, West Papua

INTRODUCTION

Weevils are among the most important insect herbivores and their species diversity world-wide is well documented, particularly in the tropics (Anderson, 1993; 1995; Farrell, 1998; Basset & Novotny, 1999). This remarkable diversity is acutely apparent to any student of the Papuan insect fauna. In 1994, noted weevil specialist, E. C. Zimmerman wrote, "New Guinea reveals its geologic youth with an island biota in an exuberant state of explosive speciation." The Papuan region, comprised of New Guinea and many satellite islands, hosts a fascinating weevil assemblage with 2,824 species and 131 subspecies described in 521 genera and 32 subgenera. Yet, weevils remain a poorly understood element of the Papuan biota. Life history and biology is all but unknown for most species save a handful of economically important pests. Insect collections throughout the world contain many specimens that cannot be referred to any described species. The majority of Papuan weevil genera are monotypic or contain few species. In most cases, this situation is a reflection of our ignorance rather than an accurate depiction of species diversity. For genera where a concerted effort has been made to study the taxonomy, the increase in the number of known species can be quite dramatic (e.g. Gressitt, 1966, 1967, 1970, & 1977 on *Gymnopholus*; Gressitt, 1966 on *Pantorhytes*; Thompson 1977 & 2006 on *Apirocalus* and 1996 on *Phaenomerus*; Riedel, 1999, 2000, 2001a, 2001b, 2002, & 2006 on *Euops*). Recent works have added new records even at the family and subfamily levels, including the first reports of the families Caridae (see Wanat, 2001) and Nemonychidae (see Kuschel in Zimmerman, 1994a) and the curculionid subfamily Ceuthorhynchinae (see Colonnelli, 1979).

While a great deal of taxonomic work is needed, a review of existing literature is necessary to facilitate future studies of the fauna. Access to taxonomic information on Papuan weevils is impeded by the present state of the literature; much of which is antiquated and rare. Many incorrect citations of original descriptive works have been encountered, which hinder attempts to locate these critical documents. The purpose of this checklist is to make Papuan weevils more accessible for research by updating the incomplete and outdated regional checklists and catalogs currently available and to reconcile all available taxa with recent changes to