



Taxonomy and distribution of the genus *Pterydrias* Reitter and confirmation of its synonymy with *Eorhipidius* Iablokoff-Khnzorian (Coleoptera: Ripiphoridae: Ripidiinae)

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Abstract

Taxonomy and distribution of the genus *Pterydrias* Reitter, 1895 (Coleoptera: Ripiphoridae: Ripidiinae) are revised. Based on examination of the type material, the genus *Pterydrias* is confirmed as a senior synonym of the genus *Eorhipidius* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1986. *Pterydrias debilis* Reitter, 1895 is redescribed and illustrated, and its type locality is corrected to Haifa, Israel. The following new combinations are established: *Pterydrias januschevi* (Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1986) **comb. nov.**, *P. jelineki* (Batelka & Hájek, 2009) **comb. nov.**, *P. loebli* (Batelka & Hájek, 2009) **comb. nov.**, and *P. ruzickai* (Batelka & Hájek, 2009) **comb. nov.** (all from *Eorhipidius*). An identification key to all species is provided and their distributions are mapped.

Key words: Coleoptera, Ripiphoridae, *Pterydrias*, *Eorhipidius*, taxonomy, new synonymy, new combination, distribution, type locality, Israel, Palearctic Region

Introduction

The enigmatic genus *Pterydrias* Reitter, 1895 created by Reitter (1895) for a single new species *P. debilis* Reitter, 1895 was for a long time known solely from its description. The only additional specimens examined and associated with this genus after Reitter's description were those mentioned by Pic (1927). This monotypic taxon was originally placed in Drilidae; later Winkler (1925) arbitrarily assigned *Pterydrias* to Drilidae: Karumiinae (currently treated as a subfamily of Dascillidae). More recently, Batelka (2007) removed *Pterydrias* from "Drilidae" and classified it within Ripiphoridae: Ripidiinae: Eorhipidiini, together with another monotypic genus *Eorhipidius* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1986. The synonymy of both genera has been presumed based on a picture of the unique available male specimen attributed to *Pterydrias* (Batelka 2007); however, it was not possible to prove it without the study of Reitter's type specimen. Having failed to find Reitter's type in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, or in the general collection of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN), we described three new Asian species in the genus *Eorhipidius* (Batelka & Hájek 2009). In that paper, we however extensively discussed the systematic position of *Pterydrias* and confirmed its placement in the family Ripiphoridae, subfamily Ripidiinae, tribe Eorhipidiini. Finally, during our further visit in the MNHN in November 2009, which was again partly focused on solving this problem, we recovered in Pic's collection of Drilidae the type of *Pterydrias debilis*, as well as four additional specimens of this species mentioned by Pic (1927). With this material in hand, we are now able to confirm synonymy of *Pterydrias* with *Eorhipidius* and to update and evaluate our knowledge of the distribution and taxonomy of this genus.