



Type species designation for the genus *Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz, 1830 (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)

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The Principle of Typification, defined by Chapter 13 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (I.C.Z.N., 1999), from here on referred as “Code”, determines in Article 61.1. that each nominal taxon in the family, genus or species groups has actually or potentially a name-bearing type whose fixation provides the objective standard of reference for the application of the name it bears.

The Chapter 15 of the Code provides the framework concerning types in the genus group, its Article 67.2. specifying that a nominal species is only eligible to be fixed as the type species of a nominal genus or subgenus if it is an originally included nominal species, i.e., if it was included in the newly established nominal genus or subgenus, having been cited in the original publication by an available name (including citation by an incorrect spelling) of a species or subspecies, or having been cited there as the deliberate application of a previous misidentification (Article 67.2.1.).

Typification status of the genus *Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz, 1830

When describing the genus *Rhagonycha*, Eschscholtz (1830) included in this taxon a set of seven nominal species (see below), but did not designate a type species. Subsequently, the genus *Rhagonycha* was typified on five occasions: by Westwood (1838), who designated *Cantharis melanura* Linnaeus, 1758 (mentioned as “*Canth. melanurus*”) as type species, by Laporte (1840), who selected as type species *Telephorus alpinus* “Linnaeus” (correctly of Paykull, 1798), by Hope (1840) who (under *Rhagonychus*, an incorrect subsequent spelling) designated as type species *Telephorus alpinus* “Linnaeus” too, by Desmarest (1860), who invalidly selected as type species *Telephorus obscura* [sic!] (Linnaeus, 1758), a species originally not included, and by Delkeskamp (1977), who designated *Cantharis fulva* Scopoli, 1763 (simply mentioned as “*fulva* Scop.”). The publication date of the relevant fascicle of Westwood’s “Synopsis”, comprising the pages 17–32, is July 1838 (I.C.Z.N., 1957).

Despite the fact that in the recently published volume 4 of the Catalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera, in which the family Cantharidae is dealt with (Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007), the type species of *Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz, 1830 is mentioned as “*Cantharis fulva* Scopoli, 1763” (without any comments as to who typified it and in what circumstances), an analysis of the typification status of the genus *Rhagonycha*, based on the interpretation of the seven species mentioned by Eschscholtz (1830), lead us to consider that neither of the designations mentioned above is valid and, as a result, that the genus is currently not typified.

Species originally included in the genus *Rhagonycha*

The interpretation of the species mentioned by Eschscholtz (1830) when describing the genus *Rhagonycha*, required to ascertain which ones can be considered as originally included nominal species under Article 67.2., is as follows:

“*Cantharis melanura* L.”: The taxonomic species related to Eschscholtz’s (1830) citation is currently *Nacerderdes melanura* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Oedemeridae). Its citation in *Rhagonycha* constitutes a misidentification which is not