**Haplopus Burmeister, 1838, replacement name for Aplopus Gray, 1835 (Phasmatodea).**

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Abstract

The well-known genus Aplopus Gray, 1835 (Phasmatodea) has been found to be preoccupied by Aplopus Dejean, 1821 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). It is replaced by Haplopus Burmeister, 1838.

Key words

Phasmida, Phasmatodea, Aplopus Dejean, 1821, Aplopus Gray, 1835, Haplopus Burmeister, 1838, Haplopus Schoenherr, 1840.

**Aplopus Gray and Haplopus Burmeister**

Aplopus (Phasmatidae: Cladomorphinae: Cranidiini) is a well known name for a genus of Caribbean stick insects. Its colourful species are popular with enthusiasts. Unfortunately the name has to be replaced. Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (1999) catalogued the weevil genera of the world and listed both spellings used in Phasmatodea, Aplopus and Haplopus, as genera of Coleoptera: Curculionidae. Dejean (1821: 86) introduced Aplopus as a genus of Coleoptera: Curculionidae. He used it as a valid taxon, making it available according to article 11:5 of the ICZN (1999). Both acts antedate Gray’s (1835: 34) introduction of Aplopus as a genus of Phasmatodea. Burmeister (1838: 576) emended Aplopus to Haplopus based on the pronunciation of the greek original (ἀπλός). This was an unjustified emendation then (ICZN, 1999: Article 32: 5), but is an available name (ICZN, 1999: Article 19.1) as a junior objective synonym (ICZN, 1999: Article 33.2.3) of Aplopus Gray, and according to article 50.5 Burmeister is the author of this oldest available synonym. The first reviser was de Haan (1842: 127) who used it as the valid name for the genus (followed by most subsequent authors, with the notable exceptions of Rehn, Hebard and Karny).

Since Aplopus Gray, 1835 is a junior homonym of Aplopus Dejean, 1821 it has to be replaced. Haplopus Burmeister, 1838 is an available synonym and thus becomes the valid name for the genus. Haplopus was also introduced by Schoenherr in 1840, also as a genus in Curculionidae (it has Haplopodus Marshall, 1946 as an available synonym).

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References


