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Abstract

The World species of the genus *Tachyusa*, Erichson are revised and the genus is redefined. *Tachyusilla* and *Tachyusota* are placed in synonymy with *Tachyusa*. The revised *Tachyusa* includes 53 species, 16 of which are described as new: *T. americanoides* sp. n., *T. bertiae* sp. n., *T. coarctatoides* sp. n., *T. hammondi* sp. n., *T. harbinica* sp. n., *T. krugeri* sp. n., *T. loebli* sp. n., *T. mindoroensis* sp. n., *T. nilensis* sp. n., *T. pseudosulciventris* sp. n., *T. riftensis* sp. n., *T. schawalleri* sp. n., *T. schillhammeri* sp. n., *T. smetanai* sp. n., *T. testacea* sp. n. and *T. turcica* sp. n. The following new synonymies are proposed (each first name being valid): *Tachyusa nitella* Fauvel, 1895 = *Tachyusa jonica* Scheerpeltz, 1958, syn. nov., *T. arida* Casey, 1906 = *T. ohioana* Casey, 1911, syn. n.; *T. elegans* Cameron, 1939 = *T. singalorum* Pace, 1987, syn. n.; *T. nitidula* Mulsant & Rey, 1875 = *T. iberica* Fagel, 1957, syn. n.; *T. obsoleta* Casey, 1906 = *T. pruinosa* Casey, 1906, syn. n., = *T. dakotana* Casey, 1906, syn. n., = *T. subaluatacea* Casey, 1906, syn. n., = *T. parviceps* Casey, 1906, syn. n., = *T. missouriana* Casey, 1906, syn. n., = *T. illini* Casey, 1906, syn. n.; *T. orientis* Bernhauer, 1938 = *T. reitteri* Bernhauer, 1938, syn. n., = *T. chinensis* Pace, 1990, syn. n.; *T. wei* Pace, 1990 = *T. hebeiensis* Pace, 1998, syn. n. The following synonymies are confirmed: *T. americana* Casey, 1906 = *T. meraca* Casey, 1911, = *T. silvatica* Casey, 1911; *T. balteata* Erichson, 1839 = *T. balteata elongata* Kolenati, 1846; *T. cavicollis* LeConte, 1863 = *T. carolinae* Casey, 1906; *T. coarctata* Erichson, 1837 = *T. coarctata cyanea* Kraatz, 1856; *T. faceta* Casey, 1885 = *T. vespertina* Casey, 1906, = *T. vaciva* Casey, 1911; *T. ferialis* Erichson, 1839 = *T. bicolor* Mulsant & Rey, 1875; *T. gracillima* LeConte, 1863 = *T. smithi* Casey, 1906, = *T. virginica* Casey, 1911; *T. nitidula* Mulsant & Rey, 1875 = *T. ventralis* Fauvel, 1898; *T. schuberti* Jacobson, 1909 = *T. bicolor* Schubert, 1906, nom. preoc. A neotype is designated for *Tachyusa nitella* Fauvel, 1895. Both *Tachyusa impressa* Eppelsheim, 1877 and *T. flavolimbata* Eppelsheim, 1877, previously considered junior synonyms of *T. agilis* Baudi, 1869, and *T. concinna* Heer, 1838, previously considered a junior synonym of *T. coarctata* Erichson, 1937, are recognised as valid. All species are briefly described/redescribed and illustrated. An identification key to the World species of *Tachyusa* is provided. A phylogeny of fifty-three species belonging to the genus *Tachyusa* is proposed, based on fifty-six morphological characters. Cladistic analysis revealed the monophyly of the genus with two major clades.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Tachyusa*, new species, new synonyms, new combinations, taxonomy, phylogeny, World

Introduction: Taxonomic history and systematics

In 1837 Erichson described the genus *Tachyusa* to include *Aleochara atra* Gravenhorst, 1806 and five of his new species: *Tachyusa constricta*, *T. coarctata*, *T. scitula*, *T. umbratica* and *T. rubicunda* (the latter subsequently transferred to *Parocyusa* Bernhauer, 1902). Erichson based his diagnosis of *Tachyusa* primarily on the morphology of bifid ligula, the shape of paraglossa, the number of tarsomeres (4-5-5) and the elongate basal article of metatarsus.

Nearly two decades later Kraatz (1856) described two new species (*T. concinna* and *T. cyanea*) and placed the genus *Tachyusa* in his first subdivision of Aleocharini near *Calodera* Mannerheim, 1830 and *Chilopora* Kraatz, 1856.