

***Coelopisthia* Förster versus *Kranophorus* Graham (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae)**

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The type species of *Coelopisthia* Förster, *Pteromalus cephalotes* Walker, was based on a misidentification which led to the synonymy of *Coelopisthia* with *Pteromalus* Swederus and the erection of the genus *Kranophorus* Graham for the species earlier placed under *Coelopisthia*. These actions caused considerable instability as both names have remained in use for the particular taxonomic genus. In order to put an end to this situation the actual species involved in the misidentification, *Pteromalus extentus* Walker, is, in accordance with the new Code, designated as type species of *Coelopisthia*.

COELOPISTHIA Förster

Coelopisthia Förster, 1856: 65. Type species: *Pteromalus extentus* Walker, by subsequent designation below.

Coelopisthus Thomson, 1878: 162. Unjustified emendation of *Coelopisthia* Förster, 1956.

Kranophorus Graham, 1956: 257. Type species: *Pteromalus extentus* Walker, by original designation. Syn. n.

Förster (1856: 65) described his new genus *Coelopisthia* (Chalcidoidea: Pteromalidae) in a key to the genera of Chalcidoidea, but without included species. The original material on which the taxon was based apparently originated from the Aachen district in Germany, as his publications up to 1856 always mentioned this locality (mostly Aachen, rarely Köln, Bonn or Boppard). The combination of characters given by Förster, i.e. enlarged anelli, broad genae and a concave occiput, is still sufficient for the unambiguous recognition of this particular taxonomic taxon (cf. Bouček & Heydon, 1997). Noyes (1998) lists 12 valid species in the genus but recent investigations by Baur (in press) revealed that there are at least 15 Holarctic species.

Thomson (1878: 162) included two species, *Pteromalus cephalotes* Walker, 1836, and his new species *vitripennis*, in *Coelopisthus*, which he treated as a subgenus of *Pteromalus* Swederus. From Thomson's reference in the Swedish footnote (1878: 162) it is evident that *Coelopisthus* was intended as an emendation of *Coelopisthia*. Consequently he used *Coelopisthus* throughout his work (1878: 147, 162, 163, 302). However, neither of the nominal species he included had the back of the head excavated and the anelli enlarged, characters on which *Coelopisthia* was based (Förster, 1856: 65), hence it was clearly Thomson's misidentification. In the case of *P. cephalotes* he noted 'teste

Reinhard' which suggests that he had only second-hand information concerning this species. In the catalogue on world Hymenoptera, Dalla Torre (1898: 156) used again the name *Coelopisthia* Förster but listed the same two nominal species as Thomson (1878), *C. cephalotes* (Walker) and *C. vitripennis* (Thomson), with *Coelopisthus* as a synonym.

In 1904 Ashmead, in his key to the genera of the world Chalcidoidea (1904: 320), formally designated *Pteromalus cephalotes* Walker as the type species of *Coelopisthia* Förster and listed *Coelopisthus* Thomson as a synonym ('nomen novum') of the former (1904: 371). This view was followed by Gahan & Fagan (1923: 38) in their catalogue of the type species of genera of Chalcidoidea where *Coelopisthus* was regarded as an unjustified emendation. Neither Ashmead nor Gahan & Fagan knew the genus and the included species from actual specimens and could not have known that the names were based on misidentification. After Ashmead's designation of the type species, *Coelopisthia* was quoted, until 1956, as the valid name in 21 works by more than 10 different authors.

Graham (1956: 257) was the first to study the species in question from actual specimens and found, when examining Thomson's collection in Lund, that *Pteromalus cephalotes* Walker *sensu* Thomson (1878) was misidentified and actually belonged to the same taxonomic species as the lectotype of *Pteromalus extentus* Walker, 1835. Re-examination of the respective specimens by one of us (HB) confirms Graham's view. He erected for it the new genus *Kranophorus*, with *extentus* as the type species (by original designation). He recognised also that *Pteromalus cephalotes* Walker, 1836, was actually identical with *P. puparum* (Linnaeus, 1758), thus making *Coelopisthia* Förster *sensu* Thomson (= *Coelopisthus* Thomson) a junior subjective synonym of *Pteromalus* Swederus, 1795. Later he (Graham, 1969: 489) designated a lectotype for *P. cephalotes* Walker and synonymised the nominal taxon with *P. puparum* (Linnaeus), the type species of the genus *Pteromalus* Swederus. Thus the true *Coelopisthia* Förster became *Kranophorus* Graham.

Unfortunately, the erection of *Kranophorus* complicated the situation as *Coelopisthia* has remained in use by most authors, be it from recognition that *Kranophorus* was the same as *Coelopisthia* (in its original sense), or different as introduced by the two American books (Ashmead, 1904; Gahan & Fagan, 1923). A list of works which was made available to the *International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* in connection with the present work is most revealing in this respect. Of 40 publications which appeared since the establishment of *Kranophorus*, only 10 treated the latter name as valid, whereas in all other cases *Coelopisthia* was used. Moreover, Peck (1963: 665), Askew (1980: 1), and Yang (1996: 202) argued for the preservation of the customary usage of the name *Coelopisthia* by designation of *Pteromalus extentus* as the type species. Although the recent CD-ROM catalogue of world Chalcidoidea by Noyes (1998, which uses *Kranophorus* as the valid name) might be expected to have a strong influence on the application of names, the situation is far from resolved. With regard to the two most recent keys to the genera of Pteromalidae of the Palearctic (Bouček & Rasplus, 1991) and Nearctic regions (Bouček & Heydon, 1997) respectively, in which *Coelopisthia* is treated as valid, the use of both names is likely to continue.

To achieve stability in the application of these names we declare, in accordance with Article 70.3 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Fourth Edition, 1999), that *Pteromalus extentus* Walker, 1835, misidentified as *Pteromalus cephalotes* Walker, 1836, in the original designation by Ashmead (1904), is here designated as the type species of *Coelopisthia* Förster, 1856. Consequently, *Kranophorus* Graham, 1956, becomes a junior objective synonym of *Coelopisthia*. The latter name has been used in 61 publications by about 50 authors during its long history of more than 140 years and has been applied almost exclusively to one taxonomic taxon (*cf.* Noyes, 1998). The above fixation of its type species appears thus convenient to bring the continued and almost simultaneous use of two names for one genus to an end.

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