

Case 3509***Cetonia squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833 (currently *Aethiessa squamosa*; Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.5 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Cetonia squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833 (currently *Aethiessa squamosa*, CETONIIDAE, endemic in Sicily), threatened by the senior homonym *Cetonia squamosa* Lefebvre, 1827 (currently *Protaetia (Netocia) squamosa*, also CETONIIDAE, endemic in southern Italy including Sicily). Both names are in current use, but are placed in different genera and are unlikely ever to be treated as congeneric. In order to conserve the current usage of the name it is proposed that *C. squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833 (which does not have junior synonyms) be conserved by ruling that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior homonym of *C. squamosa* Lefebvre, 1827.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; CETONIIDAE; *Protaetia squamosa*; *Aethiessa squamosa*; flower chafers; Southern Italy; Sicily; North Africa.

1. Lefebvre (1827, p. 103) described *Cetonia squamosa*, a flower chafer (Coleoptera, SCARABAEOIDEA, CETONIIDAE) from Sicily. Reitter (1891, p. 65) transferred *Cetonia squamosa* to the genus *Potosia* Mulsant & Rey, 1870 but since then nobody has included that species in *Cetonia*, although its generic assignment has changed several times. It has been placed in the genus *Potosia* (Ragusa, 1893; Reitter, 1898; Mikšić, 1961), in the genus *Netocia* A. Costa, 1852 (Luigioni, 1929; Baraud, 1977; 1992; Carpaneto & Piattella, 1995; Sparacio, 1995; 2009; Dutto, 2005; Lapiana & Sparacio, 2006), or in *Protaetia* Burmeister, 1842 (Mikšić, 1987; Smetana, 2006), sometimes in the subgenus *Potosia* or *Netocia*. The latest catalogue (Smetana, 2006) lists it as *Protaetia (Netocia) squamosa*. The species is a southern Italian endemic, occurring from Abruzzo southwards to Sicily; it has only two synonyms: *tincta* Germar, 1838 (type location Sicily) and *crassicollis* (Burmeister, 1842), (type location Calabria). The latter has recently been considered to be a subspecies of *P. squamosa* (Lefebvre, 1827) by Sparacio (2009).

2. Gory & Percheron (1833) described *Cetonia squamosa* (pp. 60, 232), a flower chafer (Coleoptera, SCARABAEOIDEA, CETONIIDAE) from Sicily (the type locality indicated in the 'Tableau diagnostique' on page 60 is 'Sicile', but on page 232 it is mistakenly reported as 'Teneriffe', Canary Islands). However, the label of the holotype in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Geneva contains the following information: 'var. *squamosa* Lefeb. G. et P. – floralis Muls – Sicilia – Gory type – col. Melly'. Burmeister (1842, p. 405), when erecting the genus *Aethiessa*, moved *C. squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833 to that genus. Since then *A. squamosa* has been

considered either as a species (Gory & Percheron, 1833, pp. 60–232; Burmeister, 1842, p. 405; Sparacio, 2009, p. 158), or a variety, subspecies or junior synonym of *Aethiessa floralis* (Fabricius, 1787, p. 31), a widespread species occurring from Spain eastwards to Egypt and type species of *Aethiessa* Burmeister, 1842. A lectotype for *A. floralis* from Morocco was designated by Dutto & Keith (2008). In the following literature the use of the name *squamosa* as a variety or an aberration should be mostly interpreted as denoting either a subspecific taxon or, in connection with other similar forms (e.g. *elongata*), to a group of closely related species: *Aethiessa floralis* var. *squamosa* – Ragusa, 1893, p. 269; Reitter, 1898, p. 34; Mikšić, 1987, p. 114; *Aethiessa floralis* ab. *squamosa* – Winkler, 1924, p. 1121; Luigioni, 1929, p. 416; Brasavola De Massa, 1939, p. 158; Baguena Corella, 1967 p. 476; Baraud, 1977 p. 326; Baraud, 1985, pp. 595; Baraud, 1992, p. 781; *Aethiessa floralis* – Mikšić, 1961 p. 15; Carpaneto & Piattella, 1995, p. 16; Sparacio, 1995, p. 221; Lapiana & Sparacio, 2006, p. 227; Smetana, 2006, p. 283; *Aethiessa floralis* forma *squamosa* – Dutto, 2005, pp. 88–89.

3. The primary homonymy between *C. squamosa* Lefevre and *C. squamosa* Gory & Percheron has never been recognised, probably because the two nominal species have never been considered to be congeneric since their description. Ragusa (1893, p. 269) and also Reitter (1898, pp. 34, 74) recorded both *Aethiessa floralis* var. *squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833 and *Potosia squamosa* Lefebvre, 1827. All other authors have classed the two taxa according to their taxonomic opinion, but always in two different genera (*Aethiessa* and *Netocia* – Luigioni, 1929, pp. 416, 419; Baraud, 1977, pp. 326, 339; du Chatenet, 1986, pp. 433, 437; Baraud, 1992, pp. 781, 806; Sparacio, 1995, pp. 221, 222; Carpaneto & Piattella, 1995, pp. 16, 17; Micó e Galante, 2002, pp. 64, 72; Dutto, 2005, pp. 88–89, 148; Lapiana & Sparacio, 2006, pp. 277, 280; Sparacio, 2009, pp. 158, 162; *Aethiessa* and *Potosia* – Winkler, 1924, pp. 1121, 1127; Panin, 1957, pp. 275–281, 276–286; Kocher, 1958, pp. 74, 75; Mikšić, 1961, pp. 15, 16; Baguena Corella, 1967, pp. 472, 476; Sapuppo, 2002, pp. 253, 256; *Aethiessa* and *Protoetia* – Mikšić, 1987, pp. 114, 316; Baraud, 1985, pp. 595, 603; Smetana, 2006, pp. 283, 293).

4. The two taxa are currently placed in genera that are well separated morphologically and phylogenetically and it is unlikely that they will be treated as congeneric in the future. The junior homonym *C. squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833 has no available synonyms and therefore cannot be replaced with a pre-existing name. Nomenclatural stability in this case would be best achieved by conserving both names in their present usages, rather than by requiring the proposal of a new replacement name for the junior homonym.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the name *squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833, as published in the binomen *Cetonia squamosa*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *squamosa* Lefebvre, 1827, as published in the binomen *Cetonia squamosa*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *squamosa* Lefebvre, 1827, as published in the binomen *Cetonia squamosa*;
 - (b) *squamosa* Gory & Percheron, 1833, as published in the binomen *Cetonia squamosa*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *squamosa* Lefebvre, 1827, as published in the binomen *Cetonia squamosa*, as ruled in (1) above.

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