

## Some taxonomical notes on North American soldier beetles

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In the present paper some taxonomical acts on North American soldier beetles are proposed: *Malthodes sanbernardensis* K. M. Fender, 1966 justified emendation (*nomen correctum*) since *Malthodes sanbernadensis* K. M. Fender, 1966 is an incorrect original spelling (*Malthodes sanbernardensis* Poole & Gentili, 1996 “incorrect” subsequent spelling); *Silis latistylus* and *Malthodes terraenovae* unjustified emendations not in prevailing usage (*Silis latistyla* Poole & Gentili, 1996 incorrect subsequent spelling); *Pacificanthia curtisi* and its synonym *samouellei*, and *Cantharis westwoodi* are unjustified emendations in prevailing usage and they are deemed to be justified emendations.

Key words: taxonomy, Cantharidae, North America

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### INTRODUCTION

Taxonomy is the starting point of all fundamental or applied biological research, and the correct nomenclature as required by the International Code (ICZN 1999) remains very important. Soldier beetles (family Cantharidae) have certainly had less attention among scientists than other organisms. Therefore, in this work, the taxonomic attention is paid to five North American species: a *Malthodes*, genus represented in North America (Nearctic) with 126-127 species (Poole & Gentili 1996; Ramsdale 2002), a *Silis* represented in North America (Nearctic) with 68 species (Ramsdale 2002), a *Cantharis* with 20 taxa and a *Pacificanthia* which is a small genus present in North America (Nearctic) with only 4 taxa (Poole & Gentili 1996; Kazantsev 2001; Pelletier & Hébert 2014; Steury 2020).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

I studied some North American species of the family Cantharidae (also called soldier beetles) of four widespread genera, and all the pertinent bibliography. The taxonomical acts are based on the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Fourth Edition (ICZN 1999).

### RESULTS

*Malthodes sanbernardensis* K. M. Fender, 1966 **emend. (nom. corr.)**

*Malthodes sanbernadensis* K. M. Fender, 1966: 221(text and figs. 7-8)-222 **incorrect original spelling**

*Malthodes sanbernardensis* Poole & Gentili, 1996: 77, 757 **“incorrect” subsequent spelling** (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.3., 33.5.).

**Note.** This species in the original description is named *Malthodes sanbernadensis* Fender, 1966 (*nomen imperfectum*) with the type locality: “Seven Oaks, San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County, California” (Fender 1966). This original name is evidently incorrect, an inadvertent error (*lapsus calami*), because the second “r” is missing and therefore is emended here in *Malthodes sanbernardensis* **justified emendation** (ICZN 1999: Art. 19.2., 32.2.2., 32.5., 33.2.2., 50.4).

The original name is evidently incorrect also because the same author subsequently described (with the correct name) *Pseudoabsidia sanbernardensis* from the same locality “San Bernardino Co.” (Fender 1972). “Bernardino” is a diminutive, altered variant of “Bernardo”, a personal name of Germanic origin with the root Bern + hard.

The incorrect specific name “*sanbernadensis*” has never been amended, therefore there is no first reviewer and we find only the original spelling (Delkeskamp 1977: 423, 1978: 545 index) except a “correct” *Malthodes sanbernardensis* in Poole & Gentili (1996), which is not in a prevailing usage (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.2.3.1., Art. 33.3.1.). This name, although correct (in the work the authors Poole & Gentili put the original spelling of the names, in this specific case however, they have a *lapsus calami* which by a simple combination becomes “right”), cannot be considered a justified emendation as, according to the Code, it is not an intentional emendation (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.2., Art. 33.2.1), as the authors (Poole & Gentili 1996) specify (many times) not to make any emendations in their work, and report only the already existing emendations (Poole & Gentili 1996: pages 7-10) and because both the original name and the modified spelling are not mentioned (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.2.1.) nor in the work there are two or more names treated in a similar way (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.2.1.).

*Silis (Silis) latestyla* Green, 1966

*Silis (Silis) latestyla* Green, 1966: 464 (key), 497 (plus caption of figs.), (496 Fig. 43)

*Silis latistylus* Delkeskamp, 1977: 277 (emend.) nec *latestyla*, Delkeskamp, 1978: 524 (*latestyla*), 525 (*latistylus*)

*Silis latistyla* (Delkeskamp, 1977) Poole & Gentili, 1996: 80 **incorrect subsequent spelling**

**Note.** *Silis latistylus* is an evident **unjustified emendation** (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.2.3.) since the emendation of the letter “i” instead of “e” and the gender agreement are not correct (ICZN 1999: Art. 32.5.1.) and it is not in prevailing usage. In the works of Poole & Gentili (1996) and Delkeskamp (1978) both the names “*latestyla*” and “*latistylus* (*latistyla* sic! in Poole & Gentili)” are present.

*Malthodes terranovae* K. M. Fender, 1964

*Malthodes terranovae* K. M. Fender, 1964: 19 (Fig. 5, Fig. 10), 23

*Malthodes terraenovae* Delkeskamp, 1977: 423 (emend.) nec *terranovae*; *Malthodes terranovae* Delkeskamp, 1978: 551

**Note.** *Malthodes terraenovae* is an unjustified emendation (ICZN 1999) since Terranova (also if the type locality is “Terra Nova National Park”) could be written as a single word. In Poole & Gentili (1996) both the names “*terranovae*” and “*terraenovae*” are present, in Delkeskamp (1978) is present the name “*terranovae*” and in McNamara (1991) and Bousquet et al. (2013) only the emendation “*terraenovae*”. Thus, this latter name cannot currently be considered, clearly and without doubt, in prevailing usage. *Malthodes terraenovae* is here considered an **unjustified emendation**.

*Pacificanthia curtisi* (Kirby in Richardson, 1837)

*Telephorus Curtisii* Kirby in Richardson,

1837: 247, x (specific name)

*Cantharis Curtisi* Delkeskamp, 1939: 50;

*Cantharis curtisi* Delkeskamp, 1977:

131 (emend.) nec *curtisii*, Delkeskamp,

1978: 509

= *Telephorus Samouellii* Kirby in Richardson, 1837: 246, x (specific name)

*Cantharis Samouellei* Delkeskamp, 1939:

50; *Cantharis samouellei* Delkeskamp,

1977: 131 (emend.) nec *samouellii*,

Delkeskamp, 1978: 545

**Note.** The taxon *samouellei* is a synonym of *Pacificanthis curtisi* (Delkeskamp 1939, 1977). Both *Pacificanthis curtisi* and the synonym *samouellei* are unjustified emendations (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.4.: *curtisii*; Art. 32.5.: *samouellei*) but they are in prevailing usage (Delkeskamp 1978; McNamara 1991; Gazette Officielle du Québec 2006: only *curtisii*; Bousquet et al. 2013: only *curtisii*; Pelletier & Hébert 2014: only *curtisii*) and they **deemed to be justified emendations** (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.2.3.1.). In Poole & Gentili (1996) instead, both the names of the two taxa are present.

*Cantharis westwoodi* (Kirby in Richardson, 1837)

*Telephorus Westwoodii* Kirby in Richardson, 1837: 246, x (specific name)

*Cantharis Westwoodi* Delkeskamp, 1939:

50; *Cantharis westwoodi* Delkeskamp,

1977: 133 (emend.) nec *westwoodii*,

Delkeskamp, 1978: 556

**Note.** *C. westwoodi* is an unjustified emendation (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.4.) but it is in prevailing usage (McNamara 1991; Delkeskamp 1978; Bousquet et al. 2013) and it is **deemed to be a justified emendation** (ICZN 1999: Art. 33.2.3.1.). In Poole & Gentili (1996) both the names “*westwoodi*” and “*westwoodii*” are present.

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