(Indobolbus Nikolajev, 1979) and would further disturb nomenclatural stability. Contrary to the opinion of Krell et al., Kirby did not declare ‘explicitly that he used exclusively B. quadridens to describe the genus’. Kirby (1821) stated that ‘details of Bolboceras were taken from B. quadridens’ in reference, we think, to the detailed drawings of the mouthparts of B. quadridens that accompany the dorsal habitus drawing of Bolboceras australasiae Kirby. The image that accompanies Kirby’s description shows a dorsal habitus of B. australasiae with the mouthparts of both B. australasiae and B. quadridens surrounding the image. Thus, Kirby’s statement does not unequivocally establish the type species for Bolboceras, and there is ample ambiguity regarding Kirby’s ‘intention’ (as Krell et al. assert) that Scarabaeus quadridens Fabricius, 1781 is the type for the genus. Curtis (1829, p. 259) unequivocally established the type species of Bolboceras Kirby as Scarabaeus mobilicornis Fabricius (by subsequent designation).

In summary, Krell et al. do not demonstrate stability or universality in the usage of Odontes Samouelle. Their proposal to the Commission to designate Scarabaeus quadridens Fabricius, 1781 as the type species for Bolboceras Kirby further destabilizes usage because the type species has already been clearly designated (Scarabaeus mobilicornis Fabricius, 1775). Their proposal for precedence of Odontes Samouelle over Bolboceras Kirby further confounds nomenclatural stability because of confusion with the junior homonym, Odontes Agassiz, 1835, and the name Odontes Dejean. Nomenclatural stability and universality would be achieved by conserving the usage of Bolboceras Kirby, a name that has been prevalent for over 180 years. We stick by the proposals made to the Commission in our application.

Additional references


Comments on the proposed conservation of Lius Deyrolle, 1865 (Insecta, Coleoptera) (Case 3194; see BZN 60: 132-134)

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I support this application.