

## Taxonomy and nomenclature of *Matsucoccus* Cockerell, 1909, and of *Acreagris* Koch & Berendt, 1854 (Hem., Margarodidae)

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### Ressources associées :

*Matsucoccus*

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1991 et 1992, MEISWINKEL & BAYLIS, 1998) auxquels il convient de se référer pour éviter toute confusion possible.

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#### Yair BEN-DOV & Jan KOTEJA. – Taxonomy and nomenclature of *Matsucoccus* Cockerell, 1909, and of *Acreagrís* Koch & Berendt, 1854 (Hem., Margarodidae)

Koch and Berendt established the genus *Acreagrís* in 1854 for the type species *A. crenata* Koch & Berendt, 1854, a fossil insect included in Baltic amber. The type material has been deposited in the collection of the Albertus-Universität zu Königsberg, Eastern Prussia (now Kaliningrad, Russia), which apparently disappeared during the Second World War (1939-1945). Attempts to locate the above-mentioned specimens among remnants of these collections in the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut und Museum at Göttingen and other collections failed.

KOCH & BERENDT (1854) assigned *A. crenata* to Insecta: Apterygota, but Menge (in footnote in BERENDT, 1854 : 123), and MENGE (1856 : 18) noted that these inclusions were female members of

*Monophlebus sensu* GERMAR & BERENDT, 1856 (= *Matsucoccus*, *partim*). FERRIS (1941) studied further Baltic amber inclusions deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University and found them very similar to those described and illustrated by Koch & Berendt and Germar & Berendt, and to the recent *Matsucoccus* Cockerell. Ferris concluded (on page 8) « *It is the author's personal conviction that Matsucoccus is actually a synonym of Acreagris, but the step of uniting the two will not here be taken* ». KOTEJA (1984d, 2000) studied and re-evaluated the identity and status of *Acreagris* and suggested that it might be identical with *Matsucoccus*, but for the sake of nomenclatural stability, proposed to consider the senior *Acreagris* as a *nomen dubium*.

If the Priority Principle of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature would be strictly applied, the genus *Matsucoccus* Cockerell, 1909, must be sunk as a junior synonym of *Acreagris* Koch & Berendt, 1854. *Matsucoccus* is a genus that includes 34 extant and 5 fossil species. Some of the extant species are of great economic importance, therefore such a nomenclatural emendation will seriously affect stability and might cause confusion.

In order to avoid such needless changes, we shall apply here Article 29.3 of The Fourth edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999), which provides taxonomists with the power, without a formal petition to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), to designate a senior synonym as *nomen oblitum*, sunk its junior synonym as a *Nomen Protectum* and stabilize the continued usage of the junior synonym.

The senior synonym, *Acreagris* (herewith the *nomen oblitum*) has not been used as a valid name after 1899, thus this fact meets the condition of Article 23.9.1.1 in the Code.

The junior synonym, *Matsucoccus* (herewith the *nomen protectum*) has been extensively used as a valid name in the following publications :

BEARDSLEY (1968), BEN-DOV (1981), BODENHEIMER & NEUMARK (1955), BORATYNSKI (1952), DANZIG (1972, 1980), FERRIS (1950), FOLDI (1998, 2001), GILL (1993), GOIDANICH (1972), GULLAN & SJAARDA (2001), KAWAI (1980), KOSZTARAB (1996), KOSZTARAB & KOZÁR (1988), KOTEJA (1984, 1999, 2000), KUTSCHER & KOTEJA (2000), MENDEL *et al.* (1991), MILLER & PARK (1987), MORRISON (1928), MORRISON & MORRISON (1966), RAY & WILLIAMS (1984, 1991), SPAHR (1988), TANG & HAO (1995), TANG *et al.* (1997), TAO (1999), WANG (1986), YANG (1982), YOUNG (1980).

Therefore the requirement of Article 23.9.1.2 in the Code was met.

We conclude therefore that *Matsucoccus* Cockerell, 1909, has now precedence over its senior synonym *Acreagris* Koch & Berendt, 1854, **n. syn.**

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