

Zeitschrift: Entomologica Basiliensia et Collectionis Frey
Herausgeber: Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Entomologische Sammlungen
Band: 31 (2009)

Artikel: Onthophagus witteianus nom.nov. for Onthophagus wittei Frey, 1958 (nec Harold, 1867) from Congo (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae)
Autor: Krell, Frank-Thorsten
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-981035>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 10.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

***Onthophagus witteianus* nom.nov. for *Onthophagus wittei* Frey, 1958
(*nec* Harold, 1867) from Congo (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae)**

by Frank-Thorsten Krell

Abstract. *Onthophagus witteianus* nom.nov. is introduced for *Onthophagus wittei* Frey, 1958, a junior primary homonym of *Onthophagus wittei* Harold, 1867, currently *Phalops wittei* (Harold).

Keywords. Coleoptera – Scarabaeidae – *Onthophagus wittei* – *Onthophagus witteianus* nom.nov. – homonymy

Introduction

In 1958 Frey described the new dung beetle species *Onthophagus wittei* based on two specimens from Kaswabilenga in the former Belgian Congo (FREY 1958). He overlooked that this binomen had already been used by HAROLD (1867: 56) for a southern African species. *Onthophagus wittei* Frey, 1958 is a junior primary homonym of *Onthophagus wittei* Harold, 1867 and has no junior synonyms (KRAJCIK 2006: 142).

Harold's species was transferred to *Phalops* Erichson, 1848 by LANSBERGE (1883) where it has remained since (FERREIRA 1972; BARBERO *et al.* 2003; KRAJCIK 2006: 148). However, because *Phalops* was considered a subgenus of *Onthophagus* by several authors, the combination *Onthophagus wittei* Harold had been in use until fifty years ago (FERREIRA 1958, 1959).

Since the junior homonym *Onthophagus wittei* Frey has been included in an ongoing conservation assessment of the IUCN, it needs a valid name. *O. wittei* Frey has been used only infrequently (FERREIRA 1972: 777; KRAJCIK 2006: 142). The introduction of a replacement name is unlikely to cause nomenclatural confusion.

I propose the following nomen novum.

***Onthophagus witteianus* nom.nov.**

syn. *Onthophagus wittei* Frey, 1958 (*nec* Harold, 1867)

Etymology. This species was dedicated to Gaston François de Witte (1897–1980), Belgian herpetologist who led the expedition during which the type series was collected. I keep the dedication, but avoid homonymy with Harold's species name by changing the suffix.

Acknowledgements

I thank Philippe Moretto, Toulon, for checking a former version of this manuscript.

References

- BARBERO E., PALESTRINI C. & ROGGERO A. (2003): *Revision of the genus Phalops Erichson, 1848 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Onthophagini)*. Monografie, Museo Regionale di Science Naturali, Torino **38**: 1–378.
- FERREIRA M. C. (1958): *Coleoptera (Scarabaeidae): Coprinae*. South African Animal Life **5**: 479–516.
- FERREIRA M. C. (1959): *A contribution to the study of the Coleoptera from the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (Scarabaeidae, Buprestidae, Cerambycidae): I. Koedoe* **2**: 77–86.
- FERREIRA M. C. (1972): *Os escarabídeos de África (sul do Sáara)*. I. Revista de Entomologia de Moçambique **11**: 5–1088.
- FREY G. (1958): *Onthophagini (Coleoptera Polyphaga) (Fam. Scarabaeidae)*. Parc National de l'Upemba, Mission G. F. de Witte **54**: 69–90.
- HAROLD E., von (1867): *Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Gattung Onthophagus*. Coleopterologische Hefte **2**: 23–59.
- KRAJCIK M. (2006): *Checklist of Scarabaeoidea of the World 1. Scarabaeinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae)*. Annima.x Supplement **3**: 1–189.
- LANSBERGE J. W., van (1883): *Matériaux pour servir à une monographie des Onthophagus*. Entomologische Zeitung, herausgegeben vom Entomologischen Vereine zu Stettin **44**: 161–170.

Author's address:

Frank-Thorsten Krell
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Department of Zoology 2001 Colorado Blvd.
Denver
CO 80205-5798
USA
E-mail: frank.krell@dmns.org