

Brachodidae, A New Family Name for Atychiidae (Lepidoptera: Sesioidea)

by

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ABSTRACT. — Since the generic name *Atychia* Latreille, 1809, type-genus of the Atychiidae, is found to be a junior homonym, the new family name Brachodidae, type-genus *Brachodes* Guenée, is proposed as a replacement name.

Nomenclatural problems involving *Atychia* have been elucidated during the course of revisionary work on genera until recently grouped in the family Glyphipterigidae (*sensu* Meyrick, 1914). The type-genus of Atychiidae, *Atychia* Latreille, 1809, is a junior homonym of *Atychia* Ochsenheimer, 1808, now a junior synonym of *Adscita* Retzius, 1783, in Zygaenidae. Article 39 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature requires the replacement of a family name based on a junior homonym.

Brachodidae, new name

Type-genus: *Brachodes* Guenée, 1845.

The new family name Brachodidae replaces the long used name Atychiidae, Duponchel, 1835. Until the present, Atychiidae has included mainly the genus *Atychia*, now *Brachodes*, except for the rare inclusion of *Phycodes* and *Miscera*; genera lumped by Meyrick into his concept of Glyphipterigidae. In an earlier paper I reviewed the status of Glyphipterigidae (Heppner, 1977) and noted that Glyphipterigidae *sensu stricto* is best placed as a family in Copromorphoidea. Choreutidae, which was formerly considered a subfamily of Glyphipterigidae, was transferred to Sesioidea. Another group formerly in Glyphipterigidae was transferred to a new family, Immidae, now in Yponomeutoidea, as far as my studies have shown, but perhaps in a separate superfamily.

The homonymy of *Atychia* Latreille was already noted by Walsingham (1904) but with the exception of two authors (Joannis, 1919; Le Marchand, 1937); the use of *Brachodes* has not been followed by others, who have continued to describe new species in *Atychia*. The latter situation is undoubtedly due to Meyrick's (1914) rejection of *Brachodes*, even though he used it in two earlier papers, because Latreille (1809) indicated authorship of the name to Hoffmannsegg & Illiger in his original description of the genus. Latreille attributed several of his generic names to other authors who appear to have been working on the species involved and possibly had formulated the names which Latreille published. In the case of Hoffmannsegg, it is known that he was working on new genera segregated from the Linnean classification of Lepidoptera which was undergoing extensive splitting in the early years of the 19th century: this was noted in a footnote by Illiger in a paper by Laspeyres (1803). Latreille's reference to Illiger appears to involve publication of Hoffmannsegg's work in Illiger's *Magazin für Insektenkunde*. Illiger was editor of the journal, published from 1802-1807. Having searched the pages of these six volumes of Illiger's *Magazin*, however, it is clear that Hoffmannsegg never published the name *Atychia* in this journal. There are no other references of the name *Atychia* as authored by Hoffmannsegg before 1809 or after, thus, it must be assumed that Hoffmannsegg had this name in manuscript only. Consequently, *Atychia* Ochsenheimer, 1808 (Zygaenidae), remains the senior name, necessitating the use of a new name for Atychiidae *sensu Atychia* Latreille. *Chimerites* Blanchard, 1840, is likewise based on a junior homonym and is also not available as a family-group name.

Brachodidae is here enlarged to encompass several genera shown by my recent studies to be related and which Meyrick had in his Glyphipterigidae. These genera include *Miscera*, *Euthorybeta*, *Synechodes*, *Atractoceros*, *Callatolmis*, *Sagalassa*, *Polyphlebia*, *Phycodes*, *Nigilgia*, and *Ho-*

plophractis. *Palamernis* is also included as a *new synonym* of *Brachodes*. The details of the relationships of these genera and a checklist of included species, along with a detailed family description, are currently in press (Heppner & Duckworth, in press).

Brachodidae is the most plesiomorphic sesioid family and is here considered to be ancestral to the Sesiidae, in fact the missing unknown „sister group” left blank in the phylogeny of the Sesiidae proposed by Naumann (1971). The Sesiidae have evolved into highly specialized species, mimicking Hymenoptera, which until now have not been adequately related to any other group of Lepidoptera. Morphological and biological features of Brachodidae, which will be elucidated in the paper on Sesiioidea (Heppner & Duckworth, in press), show that Brachodidae are most closely related to Sesiidae.

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PERSONALIA

Op 27 juni jl. promoveerde de heer E. van der Meijden tot doctor in de wiskunde en natuurwetenschappen aan de Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden. De titel van zijn proefschrift luidt: Relaties tussen de Sint Jacobsvlinder en het Jacobskruiskruid.

Promotors waren Prof. Dr. K. Bakker en Prof. Dr. D. J. Kuenen, co-referenten mw. Dr. S. ter Borg, mw. Dr. N. Croin Michielsen en Prof. Dr. Th. Wiebes.