

On the date of publication of the genus *Isidus* Mulsant & Rey, 1875 (Coleoptera: Elateridae)

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Abstract: The date of publication of the description of the genus *Isidus* and the species *I. moreli* Mulsant & Rey is clarified from the study of the date of publication of the works where they were described, based on external evidence and the application of Art. 21.4 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The earliest day of existence that can be demonstrated is 24th April 1875.

Key words: Coleoptera, Elateridae, *Isidus* Mulsant & Rey, *Isidus moreli* Mulsant & Rey, 1875, publication dates.

Sobre la fecha de publicación del género *Isidus* Mulsant y Rey, 1875 (Coleoptera: Elateridae)

Resumen: Se aclara la fecha de publicación de la descripción del género *Isidus* y la especie *I. moreli* Mulsant y Rey a partir del estudio de las fechas de publicaciones de los trabajos en donde se describió, basándose en evidencias externas y en la aplicación del Art. 21.4 del Código Internacional de Nomenclatura Zoológica. La fecha más antigua que se ha podido demostrar es el 24 de abril de 1875.

Palabras clave: Coleoptera, Elateridae, *Isidus* Mulsant & Rey, *Isidus moreli* Mulsant & Rey, 1875, fechas de publicación.

An appropriate review of the nomenclature associated to taxonomical practice is essential in zoological research. As an inherent part to the nomenclatural study, bibliographical review is a necessary task, in many cases interesting and sometimes even exciting. It is important to guarantee that the information previously published by other authors is used accurately. This includes the correct mentioning of publishing dates. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) is unequivocal about this (cf. Arts. 21 and 22). It is interesting because it allows access to preceding authors' ways of work, study tools and publications. And it can be exciting because in some cases the study becomes a detective-like job when a piece of information or a date must be verified.

In this search for accuracy Delnatte *et al.* (2015) published a work with new and valuable information about the biology and distribution of *Isidus moreli* Mulsant & Rey, 1875, fixing 1874 as the actual year of publication of Mulsant & Rey's genus *Isidus* and species *I. moreli*. Delnatte *et al.* (2015) also claimed that 1875, the date provided for the description of *Isidus moreli* by Sánchez-Ruiz (1996), Cate (2007) or Zapata & Sánchez-Ruiz (2012, 2013) among others, is incorrect. Delnatte *et al.* (2015) argue that Mulsant & Rey first published their original descriptions in the *Annales de la Société Linnéenne de Lyon* (n.s.) XXI, 1874, and that they published their descriptions again one year later in 1875 in a collection of already printed articles entitled *Opuscules Entomologiques*, XVI. They also stated that the contemporary author Candèze (1891:149) also mentioned 1874 as the date of publication of *Isidus*. Delnatte *et al.* (2015) concluded that those authors that used 1875 as the date of publication of *Isidus*, did so because that was the year the compilation *Opuscules Entomologiques* was published. They quote Bouchard *et al.* (2011:12) to support this point: "In the dedication to the first volume Mulsant wrote "ces Opuscules, publiés déjà ça et là dans nos Recueils académiques". The dates of the dedications in the Opuscules are always later than the dates on which they were presented to the various Sociétés, frequently in the following year."

However, Sánchez-Ruiz (1996) and Zapata & Sánchez-Ruiz (2012, 2013) did not use the date of the *Opuscules Entomologiques*, but used Mulsant & Rey (1875) for the following reasons:

– "1875" is clearly read on the bottom part of the front page in the journal *Annales de la Société Linnéenne de Lyon* (n.s.), volume XXI. When two dates were indicated together on a front page, it is generally because the expected year of publication of the volume does not match the actual year of printing or the volume, which nominally belongs to one year but is printed the next one. In our case volume XXI should have been published in 1874 (its nominal date) but it was not, and that is why 1875 is stated in the front page as the year of publication.

– Inside the journal itself, there are references such as the list of "Membres de la Société Linnéenne de Lyon au 31^e décembre 1874" on page V (page 5 following the first page numbering), that could not be published in 1874, unless the 31st December date was a mistake or intentionally misapplied.

A better procedure is, however, a precise dating using literary or printing sources. In the case of France, the journal *Bibliographie de la France: ou Journal général de l'imprimerie et de la librairie*, which appeared every Saturday, included the novelties which had appeared in the market since the last issue, so usually the dates mentioned for the books and journals are usually wrong at most by 7 days.

In the present case, the *Bibliographie de la France*, 2e série, vol. 19, issue 17, p. 221, records the publication of the 21st volume of the *Annales de la Société linnéenne de Lyon*, corresponding to 1874, being dated on 24th April 1875. This rather late date is corroborated by the reception of this volume by the Académie des sciences in its Séance on 17th May 1875 (*Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des sciences*, 80(1): 1316). The *Bibliographie de la France*, 2e série, 20, issue 19, p. 246, dated on 6th May 1876, recorded the appearance of Mulsant's *Opuscules Entomologiques* cahier 16, that is, one year later, as it was usual (see above). Moreover, Bousquet (2016) gives as the earliest date the 1st May 1876 based in the record on that date by the journal *Petites Nouvelles Entomologiques* (more exactly in vol. 2, issue 147, p. 36). Consequently, this second description corresponds to Mulsant & Rey (1876).

The information available both from the original source and the external evidence points clearly to 1875 as the date of publication of *Isidus* and *I. moreli* in the *Annales de la Société linnéenne de Lyon*, 21. Consequently the arguments put forward by Delnatte *et al.* (2015) can be rejected.

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