

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Commentary on priority of the family-group name *Kateretidae* Erichson (Cucujoidea)

Kateretidae (= *Brachypteridae*) are small to minute cucujoid beetles typically associated with flowering plants. Their broad distribution (see Grouvelle 1913; Kirejtshuk 1992; and Audisio 1993) and ease of collection has placed many specimens in museums throughout the world. Although previously considered a subfamily of *Nitidulidae*, morphological (Verhoeff 1923; Audisio 1984; Kirejtshuk 1986; Leschen *et al.* 2005) and molecular (Cline *et al.* in preparation) evidence suggest *Kateretidae* is a distinct family sister to *Nitidulidae* and *Smicripidae*.

Two relatively recent catalogues dealing with family-group names (Lawrence and Newton 1995; Pakaluk *et al.* 1995) both cite *Brachypteridae* Erichson, 1845 as the appropriate name for the family. These catalogues likely are the source for the continuation of *Brachypteridae* both in publications (*e.g.*, Habeck 2002; Marske and Ivie 2003; Evans and Hogue 2004; Sikes 2004; Tsinkevich 2005, Leschen *et al.* 2005, etc.) and museum curation. However, concurrent with preparation of the above mentioned catalogues, Audisio *et al.* (1994) petitioned Case 2865 for consideration to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. The petition sought to remove homonymy of *Brachypterinae* in *Coleoptera* and *Plecoptera*. This case received further elaboration and an additional proposal was advanced to use *Kateretidae*, in lieu of *Brachypteridae*, based on common usage of the name over the past 50 years (Audisio 1995). Newton (1995) replied in opposition to the new proposal mainly based on 'strict priority' for *Brachypteridae* and some internal inconsistencies in the argument in favor of *Kateretidae*. However, the official ruling of the ICZN (Opinion 1916, 1999) provided that "the family-group name *KATERETIDAE* Erichson in Agassiz, [1846] and other family-group names based on *Kateretes* Herbst, 1793 are given precedence over *BRACHYPTERINAE* Erichson, [1845] and other family-group names based on *Brachypterus* Kugelann, 1794 (*Coleoptera*)." As new taxa and larvae are described, ecological and systematic analyses performed, and biological or distributional data accumulated on this small (~100 species) group of beetles, the need for a stable family-group name is imperative. A new catalogue (Jelínek and Audisio in press) of Palearctic *Coleoptera* also will further address the priority and usage of *Kateretidae*.

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