

AGATHIDIODES PORTEVIN,
NEW SYNONYM OF *STETHOLIODES* FALL
(COLEOPTERA: LEIODIDAE: ANISOTOMINI)*

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Examination of type material of many obscure genera of Leiodidae for a work in preparation on the suprageneric classification of the family has revealed a new generic synonymy in the tribe Anisotomini (=Agathidiini).

Stethliodes Fall, described for a single species *S. laticollis* Fall from Indiana, USA (Fall 1910), has recently been redescribed by Wheeler (1981) who discussed the close relationship of the genus to *Agathidium* Panzer.

The genus *Agathodes* Portevin was described for a single species *A. striatipenne* Portevin from Kashmir, India (Portevin 1926). Portevin later (1944) proposed the new name *Agathidiodes* to replace *Agathodes* Portevin 1926 (not Guénée 1854). He considered *Agathidiodes* to be closely related to *Agathidium*.

Stethliodes and *Agathidiodes* are each known only from the holotype male of the type species. Direct comparison of these two specimens (examined dry with a dissecting microscope and on temporary slides in lactophenol with a compound microscope) shows that the two species are extremely similar in all characteristics that have been used at the generic and subgeneric level in Anisotomini. I therefore propose the following synonymy:

Stethliodes Fall
= *Agathidiodes* Portevin, NEW SYNONYMY
= *Agathodes* Portevin (not Guénée)

The two included species, *Stethliodes laticollis* Fall and *S. striatipennis* (Portevin) (NEW COMBINATION), show slight differences in shape, sculpture, male secondary sexual characters and the shape of

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the median lobe and parameres of the aedeagus. They are thus evidently not conspecific. In *S. striatipennis* the basal three tarsomeres of the protarsus and basal two tarsomeres of the mesotarsus are dilated and bear tenent setae, while in *S. laticollis* the basal three tarsomeres of both legs are similarly modified. It should be noted that Portevin (1926) erred in describing this character for *S. striatipennis* as well as in attributing a 5-5-5 tarsal formula to this species (tarsi are 5-5-4 segmented in *S. striatipennis* and *S. laticollis*).

The genus *Stethliodes* has been well characterized by Wheeler (1981), whose description is virtually unmodified by the addition of *S. striatipennis*. I would add that both *Stethliodes* species lack an epistomal suture and have a supraocular carina and groove that separate the side of the head (including the eyes) from the dorsum. This last character is found in most or all *Agathidium* but is absent in *Anisotoma* and allied genera of Anisotomini. I agree with Wheeler that *Stethliodes* is closely allied to, and possibly congeneric with, *Agathidium*. At present *Stethliodes* appears to differ from *Agathidium* only in having nine distinct punctate elytral striae, rather than fewer or no striae, and in lacking an epistomal suture. Further study of the large and diverse genus *Agathidium* is needed to clarify the status of *Stethliodes*.

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