

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

The Lectotype of *Philhydrus fimbriatus* Melsheimer (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)

During ongoing work on a taxonomic review of the genus *Enochrus*, a discrepancy in the type designation for the species previously known as *Philhydrus fimbriatus* Melsheimer (1844) (= *Enochrus fimbriatus*) was noticed. Recent literature (e.g., Hansen 1999) cited a lectotype designated by Gundersen (1977), but Smetana (1974) refers to the “Type” of *Philhydrus fimbriatus* Melsheimer in his revision of the genus *Cymbiodyta*. A visit to the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) at Harvard University confirmed that these were two separate specimens. Gundersen (1967) recognized the synonymy between *Philhydrus fimbriatus* Melsheimer (1844) and *P. perplexus* LeConte (1855) but mistakenly retained the junior synonym, *P. perplexus*, as the valid name (corrected by Hansen 1999). Additionally, the type labels Gundersen sent to MCZ in 1977 to place on a number of *Enochrus* types were incorrectly applied (established by correspondence between Gundersen and MCZ, 1977–78). As a result, lectotype labels of both *P. fimbriatus* and *P. perplexus* were attached to the same series of specimens. The specimen Gundersen intended and published in 1977 and 1978 as the lectotype of *P. fimbriatus* is in fact a *Cymbiodyta* species, whereas the type recognized by Smetana (1974) is an *Enochrus* species. Smetana (1974) satisfied the requirements for lectotype fixation (ICZN 1999: chapter 16 article 74.4), despite not directly using the term lectotype. Therefore, Gundersen’s 1977 lectotype is invalid (ICZN 1999: chapter 16, article 74.1.1). In addition, there is no evidence the specimen Gundersen designated, which is from the LeConte collection, was part of a syntype series or otherwise part of type material from the Melsheimer collection (see ICZN 1999: chapter 16, article 74.2). Data on the lectotype of *P. fimbriatus*, as fixed by Smetana (1974), are as follows:

Enochrus fimbriatus (Melsheimer, 1844).

Hydrophilus fimbriatus Melsheimer, 1806. (nomen nudum)

Philhydrus fimbriatus Melsheimer, 1844.

Philhydrus perplexus LeConte, 1855.

Enochrus perplexus Gundersen, 1977.

Enochrus fimbriatus Hansen, 1999.

Lectotype. Male. Label data: “Melsh.” “Type/ 3029”; “Philydr./fimbriat/us. M.”; “Philydrus fimbriatus/Melsh./not Cymbiodyta/fimbriata/Horn” (last label placed on specimen by H. B. Leech in 1959, P. Perkins, pers. comm.). Deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass. in the Melsheimer Collection. Specimen is pointed, with abdomen and aedeagus separately mounted below; encrusted with dirt ventrally.

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