

***Amphyginus* Haliday, 1841 has precedence over *Neocalathus* Ball & Nègre, 1972
(Coleoptera, Carabidae)**

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Hovorka & Sciaky (2003), in their treatment of genus *Calathus* Bonelli, 1810, used the names *Amphiginus* [sic!] Haliday, 1841 and *Neocalathus* Ball & Nègre, 1972 as valid for different subgenera of this genus.

In the same year, Serrano (2003) synonymised under *Neocalathus* the nominal taxon *Amphigynus* [sic!]. This action was endorsed by Gañán & Novoa (2006), who again used *Neocalathus* as valid name for the single subgeneric taxon.

In both cases, Haliday's name has been misspelt, since he wrote *Amphyginus* originally. Moreover, in both papers, the authors fail to apply correctly the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The Principle of Priority says that the oldest available synonym of a taxon is to be taken as the valid name for this taxon, provided that it is not invalid for any other reason. In this case, Haliday's name has 131 years of precedence over the other synonym, and there is no published reversal of the precedence, either in an Opinion of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature or in direct application of Art. 23.9.2, which cannot be used here.

Consequently, *Amphyginus* Haliday, 1841 is the valid name of a subgenus of *Calathus*, and *Neocalathus* Ball & Nègre, 1972 is an **invalid name**, being a synonym, according to Serrano (2003) and Gañán & Novoa (2006).

References

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