

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

The Familial Placement of the Genus *Singularodaemon* Pic (Coleoptera: Ptilodactylidae, Dascilloidea, Melyridae: Dasytinae)

Pic described the Malagasy genus *Singularodaemon* in 1953, placing it (by association) in the Ptilodactylidae. Like so many of the extraordinary genera so poorly described by Pic, this genus has received virtually no attention since its description. It remained in the Ptilodactylidae until Stribling (1986) excluded it in his generic revision of the family, suggesting it belonged to the Dascilloidea. Although Stribling's dissertation remains unpublished, leaving the move officially in limbo, his statement required me to check this genus as part of a review of the membership of the Dascillidae (Ivie 2001, 2002) in preparation for a generic revision of the Dascillinae.

During a recent visit to Paris, I was able to study the type of the only included species, *Singularodaemon pauliani* Pic (Pic 1953). Examination of the 2 syntypes in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle revealed that *Singularodaemon* is neither a ptilodactylid nor a dascilloid, but rather belongs in the Dasytinae of the Melyridae **New Family** **placement**. Although this species superficially resembles some Ptilodactylidae, it has the characteristics of the Dasytinae, as defined by Lawrence *et al.* (1999), and it consistently keys to that taxon in Lawrence's key (*loc. cit.*). The body is elongate (the elytra are slightly more than 3 times as long as the pronotum); the third antennomere is greatly expanded, arcuate and flattened (the remainder of the antenna is simple and filiform); the last maxillary palpomere is securiform; the basal ventrites are not connate; and the front of the head is longitudinally excavate, giving it a bug-eyed appearance in dorsal view.

This information is presented specifically to clarify the placement of *Singularodaemon* in regards to the Dascilloidea, and to alert Melyridae workers to the existence of this taxon. Further effort to place it within the Dasytinae is beyond the scope of this work, and my expertise.

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Michael A. Ivie, Department of Entomology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717, USA. E-mail: mivie@montana.edu.

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