New synonymy and combination in Antillean Buprestidae (Coleoptera)

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The genus Paracinyra was described by Fisher (1925) for a new species, P. viridimaculata, from Cuba. A recent visit to the American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH), allowed me to study the unique type specimen there and then subsequently compare it to other species that have previously undisclosed similarities which seem to indicate a closer relationship than the current classification suggests.

A direct comparison of the type of P. viridimaculata with species of Peronaemis Waterhouse, 1887 (i.e., P. cupricollis Fisher, P. monticola Fisher); Mixochlorus Waterhouse, 1887 (i.e., M. lateralis Waterhouse, M. suturalis Waterhouse) and Agaeocera Saunders, 1871 (i.e., A. gentilis (Horn), A. gigas (Gory and Laporte) and A. scintillans Waterhouse), the three genera which currently comprise the Agaeocerina of Nelson (1982) sensu Holynski (1993), convinced me that Paracinyra is a new junior synonym of Peronaemis.

The statement by Fisher (1925) that Paracinyra is related to Cinyra Laporte and Gory was understandable at that time as only Peronaemis thoracicus Waterhouse was then available and Fisher may never have seen it. However, as Fisher is the author of four of the six species currently placed in Peronaemis, it is surprising that in none of his subsequent works (Fisher 1930, 1936, 1940, 1949) is any comparison made between taxa that are so obviously close in morphology. Perhaps the fact that this unique specimen is at the AMNH and thus was not immediately available for study in his office at the United States National Museum of Natural History, can explain this error. He may likely never have taken the opportunity to study the specimens together. Indeed, Fisher compared his four species to their congeners as follows: P. elegans (1930) to the type species, P. thoracicus; P. monticola (1936) to P. elegans; P. insulicola (1940) to P. monticola and P. cupricollis (1949) to P. thoracicus. Paracinyra viridimaculata differs from these species in colouration alone, i.e. with the six short iridescent green bars on the elytra, but in all other respects is clearly congeneric.

The taxon P. viriditorax Zayas (1988) was briefly characterized and compared by the author to P. monticola, and possibly is conspecific with it. Since the Zayas types are currently unavailable for study (M. Ivie, personal communication), and several beetle species described in the work of Zayas (1988) have been synonymized with older and better understood taxa (Ivie, 1991), I believe my suspicion will be confirmed.

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE GENUS PERONAEMIS WATERHOUSE
Type species: Peronaemis thoracicus Waterhouse (original monotypy).
Type species: Paracinyra viridimaculata Fisher (original monotypy).
insulicola Fisher, 1940: 159; Blackwelder, 1944: 310. Dominican Republic.
monticola Fisher, 1936: 343; Blackwelder, 1944: 310. Cuba, Oriente Province.
viridimaculata (Fisher), 1925: 134 (Paracinyra); Obenberger, 1930: 359; Blackwelder, 1944: 312. Comb. nov. Cuba.
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REFERENCES


