The real taxonomic position of
Spondylis florissantensis Wickham, 1920
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

Francesco Vitali

Summary - The taxonomic position of Protospondylis florissantensis (Wickham, 1920), Florissant, Oligocene, is analysed. The genus Protospondylis Linsley, 1942 has resulted to be a younger synonym of Parandra Latreille, 1804, whose synonymy is here proposed. Accordingly, Protospondylis florissantensis Wickham, 1920 becomes Parandra florissantensis (Wickham, 1920) nov. comb.

Riassunto - In questo lavoro si analizza la posizione tassonomica di Protospondylis florissantensis (Wickham, 1920), Florissant, Oligocene. Il genere Protospondylis Linsley, 1942 è risultato essere sinonimo juniore di Parandra Latreille, 1804, la cui sinonimia è qui proposta. Protospondylis florissantensis Wickham, 1920 viene di conseguenza trasferito a tale genere: Parandra florissantensis (Wickham, 1920) nov. comb.

Key-words - Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Spondylidinae, Spondylis, Protospondylis, Parandra, fossil, Florissant, Oligocene, taxonomy.

Introduction

Wickham (1917) described Spondylis tertiarious from Early-Oligocene shales of Florissant (Colorado, USA). Later, having noticed that this fossil was homonym of Spondylis tertiarious Germar, 1849, a species already described from Miocene brown-coal of Orsberg (Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany), Wickham (1920) changed this name in Spondylis florissantensis.

Linsley (1942) instituted for this species the monobasic genus Protospondylis; actually, a genus that Lameere (1903) had already introduced as hypothetical fossil.

This species was later cited by Linsley (1961) and Carpenter (1992) without any taxonomic changes.

Actually, Spondylis florissantensis, whose taxonomic position seemed uncertain even to its descriptor, has no spondylidine characters and it should find a simpler and more natural place in another subfamily of cerambycids.