

***Encyocratella olivacea* Strand, 1907, a senior synonym of *Xenodendrophila gabrieli* Gallon, 2003 (Araneae: Theraphosidae: Stromatopelminae) with a description of the male**

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Abstract

Encyocratella Strand, 1907 is removed from the synonymy with *Chaetopelma* Ausserer, 1871, and proposed as a senior synonym of *Xenodendrophila* Gallon, 2003. As a consequence, the secondary homonymy between *Chaetopelma olivaceum* (C. L. Koch, 1841) and *Chaetopelma olivaceum* (Strand, 1907) is rejected. *Chaetopelma strandi* Schmidt, 1991, previously applied as a *nomen novum* for *Chaetopelma olivaceum* (Strand, 1907), is treated as a junior synonym of *Encyocratella olivacea* Strand, 1907. *Xenodendrophila gabrieli* Gallon, 2003 is also considered a junior synonym of *E. olivacea* Strand, 1907 and the male is described for the first time.

Key words: *Chaetopelma strandi*, spider taxonomy, junior synonym, first description, Africa

Introduction

The genus *Encyocratella* Strand, 1907 and its sole species, *Encyocratella olivacea* Strand, 1907, were described from a single adult female collected from Amani, Tanzania. In his description Strand (1907a; 1907b) noted the absence of stridulation organs and the presence of a retrolateral scopula on the palpal trochanter. Strand also mentioned that the spider bore a resemblance to *Chaetopelma* Ausserer, 1871 in body shape.

Raven (1985) was unable to locate Strand's type material and, based on the examination of congeners in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, concluded that *Encyocratella* was synonymous with *Chaetopelma*. Raven's synonymy created the secondary homonyms *Chaetopelma olivaceum* (C. L. Koch, 1841) and *Chaetopelma olivaceum* (Strand, 1907). Schmidt (1991) resolved this by proposing *Chaetopelma strandi* Schmidt, 1991 as a replacement name for the junior secondary homonym *Chaetopelma olivaceum* (Strand, 1907).