



Peruphasma marmoratum a remarkable new species of high montane Phasmatoidea (Pseudophasmatidae: Pseudophasmatinae) from the Venezuelan Andes

DÁVID MURÁNYI

Department of Zoology, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Baross u. 13, H-1088 Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

A remarkable new species of high montane Phasmatoidea (Pseudophasmatidae: Pseudophasmatinae), *Peruphasma marmoratum* sp. n. from the Venezuelan Andes is described and illustrated from both sexes. The species of *Peruphasma* Conle & Hennemann, 2002, which were excluded by Zompro (2004) are confirmed as belonging to the genus. The new species differs from all other members of the genus by the presence of tubercles on the mesonotum. Affinities, ecological and distributional notes, and notes on other Anisomorphini from Venezuela are presented.

Key words: Phasmatoidea, Anisomorphini, *Peruphasma marmorata*, new species, Venezuela, Cordillera de Mérida

Introduction

The Pseudophasmatinae tribe Anisomorphini consists of Neotropical and South Nearctic species. The tribe sensu Bradley & Galil, 1977 was recently revised by Conle & Hennemann (2002) and to-date includes twelve genera (since revised to nine: Zompro (2004), Otte & Brock (2005)). Some of them are particularly high montane insects, the genera *Peruphasma* Conle & Hennemann, 2002 and *Monticomorpha* Conle & Hennemann, 2002 being the highest dwelling stick insects known so far, with the species included having extremely local distribution.

Conle & Hennemann (2002: 91) established *Peruphasma* based on *Autolyca pentlandi* Redtenbacher, 1906 and included seven further species. Zompro (2004: 146) excluded all species from the genus, except the type-species *Peruphasma pentlandi* (Redtenbacher), on the basis of a lacking dorsolateral appendix on sternite IX and the less bulgy subgenital plate in the males. However, as he had not transferred species elsewhere, they were retained in *Peruphasma* by Otte & Brock (2005). Zompro listed no differences between the females and left the seven excluded species without a generic placement at all, a state certainly of poor taxonomic use. The generic value of the distinguishing characters mentioned by Zompro is doubtful as there are no generic differences in the females. As already stated by Conle & Hennemann (2002: 92) at the time of establishing the genus, it is polyphyletic and deserves further splitting. However, as numerous still undescribed species are known, which belong in close relation of *Peruphasma*, it is undoubtedly best to provisionally retain these species in *Peruphasma* rather than leaving them without a generic affiliation (personal communication with O. Conle & F. Hennemann). Therefore, Zompro's treatment is here disregarded and all species, with the exception of *Autolyca picturata* Redtenbacher, 1906, retained in *Peruphasma* (these are: *Peruphasma anakena* Conle & Hennemann, 2002; *Autolyca doylei* Caudell, 1906; *Anisomorpha flavomaculata* Blanchard, 1846; *Peruphasma nigra* Conle & Hennemann, 2002; *Autolyca transversata* Caudell, 1913 and *Autolyca unicolor* Redtenbacher, 1906). A new species which is remarkable for having rudimentary wings, *Peruphasma*