Revision of the family Cyclocoelidae Stossich, 1902 with the proposal of two new subfamilies and the description of a new species of Morishitium Witenberg, 1928 from the common snipe, Gallinago gallinago, from Texas, U.S.A.

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Abstract

Based on the definition of 6 basic body types in the group, the family Cyclocoelidae is revised with the erection of Skrjabinocoelinae n. subf. and Szidatitreminae n. subf., and the resurrection of the subfamily Hyptiasminae. Subfamily keys and keys to genera that accommodate the original 3 subfamilies (Cyclocoelinae, Ophthalmophaginae, and Haematotrephinae), the 3 additional subfamilies proposed, the 6 body types used in the revision, and the recently described genus Selfcoelum are provided. Morishitium texanense n. sp. is described from the common snipe, Gallinago gallinago, in Texas, U.S.A., the genus Neoallopyge is synonymized with Allopyge, and the genus Neohyptiasmus is synonymized with Morishitium.

Key words: Curlew, Cyclocoelidae, Cyclocoelinae, Gallinago gallinago, Haematotrephinae, Hyptiasminae, key, Morishitium texanense n. sp., Neoallopyge, Neohyptiasmus, Ophthalmophaginae, revision, Scolopacidae, Skrjabinocoelinae n. subf., snipe, Szidatitreminae n. subf., Texas, U.S.A.

Introduction

The common snipe, Gallinago gallinago (Linnaeus) (syns. the Old World snipe, Capella gallinago [Linnaeus] or Scolopax gallinago [Linnaeus], Wilson’s snipe, Gallinago delicata [Ord]) (Scolopacidae), is a common wading bird that is generally found in wet meadows and grassy areas, flooded fields, marshes, and along the shores of lakes and streams from tundra to temperate lowlands. In the New World, it ranges from northern Alaska and Canada, southward throughout North America to Columbia, Ecuador and Venezuela, South America (Walters, 1980; American Ornithologist’s Union, 1983). This species is also found in most of Eurasia, ranging from Iceland in the west, eastward through the British Isles, Scandinavia, Russia, and much of southern Europe to the west coast of the Atlantic ocean in the east (Walters, 1980; American Ornithologist’s Union, 1983; Rappole & Blacklock, 1994). This species was previously assigned to the genus Capella Frenzel, but was reassigned to the genus Gallinago Brisson by Mayr (1963). There is disagreement among ornithologists as to whether or not southern hemisphere species (the South American snipe, Gallinago paraguaiæ [Veillot] and the puna snipe, Gallinago andina Taczanowski [South America], and the African snipe, Gallinago nigripennis Bonaparte [African]) are conspecific with G. gallinago (American Ornithologist’s Union, 1983). There have been a number of cyclocoelids reported from this species of scolopacid bird (Table 1).