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The correct name of the endemic *Dasypus* (Cingulata: Dasypodidae) from northwestern Argentina

ANDERSON FEIJÓ[1,2,3] & PEDRO CORDEIRO-ESTRELA[1,2]

[1]*Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas, Centro de Ciências Exatas e da Natureza, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil. CEP 58059-900*
[2]*Laboratório de Mamíferos, Departamento de Sistemática e Ecologia, Centro de Ciências Exatas e da Natureza, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil. CEP 58059-900*
[3]*Corresponding author. E-mail: andekson@gmail.com*

Abstract

We show that *Dasypus mazzai* Yepes 1933 is a senior synonym of *Dasypus yepesi* Vizcaíno 1995. We present morphological evidence that the holotype of *D. mazzai* is not a juvenile of *Dasypus novemcinctus* or any other species of this genus, but a distinct endemic species from northwestern Argentina undistinguishable from *D. yepesi*. Therefore, the correct name for the long-nosed armadillo of intermediate size occurring in the Argentinean provinces of Jujuy and Salta is *Dasypus mazzai* Yepes 1933.

Key words: *Dasypus mazzai, Dasypus yepesi*, senior synonym, Yepes

Introduction

The genus *Dasypus* Linnaeus 1758 is the most diverse and widely distributed among living Xenarthra, encompassing a large area from the center of Argentina to the United States (Wetzel *et al.* 2007). Currently, there are seven recognized species: *Dasypus novemcinctus* Linnaeus 1758, *Dasypus septemcinctus* Linnaeus 1758, *Dasypus hybridus* (Desmarest 1804), *Dasypus pilosus* (Fitzinger 1856), *Dasypus kappleri* Krauss 1862, *Dasypus sabanicola* Mondolfi 1967 and *Dasypus yepesi* Vizcaíno 1995. The last one is endemic to northwestern Argentina with confirmed records restricted to the provinces of Salta and Jujuy (Yepes 1933; Vizcaino 1995; Diaz *et al.* 2000).

The description of *D. yepesi* was done amidst a controversial taxonomic history. Originally, Yepes (1933) described a new species of the genus *Dasypus,* which he named *Dasypus mazzai,* based on two specimens collected in "Tabacal, departamento Orán, Provincia de Salta" in northwestern Argentina. The holotype (MACN 31.273) designated by Yepes (1933: 226) consists of a complete carapace with cephalic shield and tail, a skull and the postcranial skeleton , while the paratype, from the same locality is a mounted specimen (MACN 13.222, number given posteriorly to the description). The controversy begins when Hamlett (1939) reexamined the type material, and attributed, without any justification, the holotype of *D. mazzai* to a specimen of *D. novemcinctus.* Conversely, he acknowledged the paratype of *D. mazzai* an undescribed species and highlighted the following diagnostic character states: (1) the rounded upper edge of the cephalic shield, with absolutely no indication of a separate occipital lobe, and (2) the hexagonal scale-pattern in the central, dorsal third of both scapular and pelvic shields. Besides these, Hamlett (1939) provided a unique combination of character states exclusive to the paratype of *D. mazzai*: seven movable bands, long ears, the dental formula and scale counts similar to *D. novemcinctus* and *D. kappleri*, and the same body proportions of *D. hybridus* (Hamlett 1939: 336).

The latest revision of *Dasypus* (Wetzel & Mondolfi 1979) sheds more controversy in the taxonomic history of *D. mazzai.* Firstly, they agree with Hamlett (1939) in that the holotype of *D. mazzai* is actually a specimen of *D. novemcinctus.* Second, complementing Hamlett (1939), they justify this identification based on the original

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APPENDIX 1. Specimens examined in the present study**.**

Dasypus septemcinctus*:* MACN 3323; MHNCI 3352; MN 10062; MN 10091; MN 2370; MN 23997; MN 24005; MN 24007; MN 24022; MN 24094; MN 51642; MN 51652; MN 55053; MN 63454; MNHNP 3365; UNB 1475.

Dasypus yepesi*:* CML 1809; CML 4549; MLP 10.II.99.6; MLP 30.III.90.2; MLP 30.III.90.3; MLP 30.III.90.4; MLP 30.III.90.5; MLP 30.III.90.7; MLP 30.III.90.8 (holotype); MLP 30.III.90.I.

Dasypus mazzai*:* MACN 13222 (paratype); MACN 31.273 (holotype).

Dasypus hybridus*:* MN 24095; MACN 13220; MACN 13900; MACN 17310; MACN 3017; MACN 3018; MACN 33176; MACN 36980; MACN 54156; MBUCV 2905; MCNU 2513; MLP 1.I.03.65; MLP 1.I.03.71; MLP 16. IX.35.48; MLP 16. IX.35.53; MLP 16. IX.35.54; MLP 16. IX.35.55; MLP 1979; MLP 2.III.00.15; MLP 4.VIII.98.10; MLP 5.IX.97.3; MLP 868; MN 24006; MNHN 2675; MNHN 2761; MNHN 3187; MNHN 3188; MNHN 4713; MNHN 688; ZVCM 1274; ZVCM 2010; ZVCM 5572; ZVCM 845.

Dasypus novemcinctus*:* CBF 1255; CBF 1462; CBF 1503; CBF 1505; CBF 1507; CBF 1521; CBF 1526; CBF 1538; CBF 1539; CBF 1540; CBF 1544; CBF 1545; CBF 1547; CBF 1548; CBF 1550; CBF 1551; CBF 1552; CBF 1553; CBF 1554; CBF 1555; CBF 1559; CBF 1564; CBF 1567; CBF 1568; CBF 1569; CBF 1570; CBF 1571; CBF 1572; CBF 1573; CBF 1575; CBF 1610; CBF 1922; CBF 1923; CBF 1924; CBF 1926; CBF 1927; CBF 1928; CBF 1929; CBF 1930; CBF 1931; CBF 1933; CBF 1934; CBF 1939; CBF 1941; CBF 1944; CBF 1945; CBF 1946; CBF 1947; CBF 1948; CBF 1950; CBF 1950; CBF 1951; CBF 1952; CBF 3847; CBF 3944; CBF 3945; CBF 3949; CBF 3961; CBF 3962; CBF 3963; CBF 3964; CBF 3965; CBF 3967; CBF 3969; CBF 3970; CBF 3971; CBF 3973; CBF 3976; CBF 3977; CBF 4080; CBF 4084; CBF 4089; CBF 4093; CBF 415; CBF 416; CBF 419; CBF 420; CBF 424; CML 315; CML 449; EBRG 1034; EBRG 1114; EBRG 1115; EBRG 1116; EBRG 15788; EBRG 17584; EBRG 20223; EBRG 2174; EBRG 28782; EBRG 29404; EBRG 29788; EBRG 782; ERBG 27567; FURB 12077; FURB 18225; FURB 20069; FURB 20079; FURB 6410; FURB 6966;