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A new generic synonym in the Reduviinae of Australia, with an updated key to genera (Heteroptera: Reduviidae)

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Abstract

The monotypic genus *Horciniella* Miller, 1958 is considered a junior synonym of *Archilestidium* Breddin, 1900 (**new synonymy**), resulting in the following taxonomic change for its type species: *Archilestidium variabile* (Miller, 1958) (**new combination**). The evidence supporting this conclusion and the new composition of the genus are discussed at length. Updated keys to the reduviine genera of Australia and the Australian species of *Horcinia* Stål, 1874 are included. Habitus images as well as a new distributional record are provided for several Australian reduviines.

Key words: Assassin bugs, taxonomy, color pattern, identification

Introduction

The nominate subfamily of the Reduviidae comprises approximately 140 genera and 980 species worldwide (Putshkov & Putshkov 1985, Maldonado 1990). Although several genera contain a large number of species (e.g., *Zelurus* Hahn, 1826; *Acanthaspis* Amyot & Serville, 1843; *Holotrichius* Burmeister, 1835; *Tiarodes* Burmeister, 1835; *Reduvius* Fabricius, 1775), the fauna of Australia, a continent known for high levels of endemism, contains a much smaller reduviine component.

At the onset of this treatment, 15 genera and 31 species of Reduviinae were known from Australia: *Archilestidium* Breddin, 1900 (2 species); *Australocleptes* Miller, 1951 (3 species); *Centrogonus* Bergroth, 1894 (4 species); *Croscius* Stål, 1874 (1 species); *Dilophocoris* Miller, 1959 (1 species); *Horcinia* Stål, 1874 (8 species); *Horciniella* Miller, 1958 (1 species); *Noualhierana* Miller, 1958 (2 species); *Pelurgocoris* Miller, 1958 (1 species); *Peregrinator* Kirkaldy, 1904 (1 species); *Perissopygocoris* Miller, 1951 (1 species); *Reduvius* Fabricius, 1775 (1 species); *Sphedanocoris* Stål, 1866 (3 species); *Velitra* Stål, 1865 (1 species); and *Voconia* Stål, 1865 (1 species) (Putshkov & Putshkov 1987, Maldonado 1990, Cassis & Gross 1995). *Horcinia transversa* Signoret, 1881, described from China, probably belongs in another genus (Maldonado 1990) and will not be further considered in this treatment. *Peregrinator biannulipes* (Montrouzier & Signoret, 1861), a highly pagile and widespread predator within stored grain systems (Ghauri 1962), was reported from Australia by Cassis & Gross (1995). Wygodzinsky & Usinger (1964) listed the cosmopolitan synanthrope *Reduvius personatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) as introduced to Australia, but Maldonado (1990) apparently overlooked this addition to the distribution. *Velitra interrupta* (Walker, 1843), native to Papua-New Guinea, was reported from coastal northeastern Queensland and Moa Island by Cassis & Gross (1995). Beyond these four exceptions, all genera and species are endemic to Australia.

Despite such modest diversity, the Australian genera have been much neglected. Malipatil (1985, 1991) conducted reviews of the Australian members of two subfamilies, viz. Holoptilinae and Harpactorinae, respectively. Regarding the Reduviinae, the last key treating the Australian taxa was constructed by Stål (1874), and it is of little surprise that only eight of the aforementioned genera (in which *Centrogonus* = *Vellejus* Stål, 1865, *Reduvius* = *Opsicoetus* Klug, 1830, and *Peregrinator* = *Microcleptes* Stål, 1866) are present in the outdated key. Contemporary treatment has come only at the description of new genera, and in these cases, intergeneric comparisons are anemic at best.

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vex; scutellum with apex greatly elongated, length of scutellum greater than basal width ..... *Velitra*

- Pro- and mesofemur more slender, not greatly incrassate, metafemur not at all incrassate; posteromedial margin of pronotum somewhat convex; apex of scutellum short, basal width of scutellum greater than length ..... *Horcinia*

9 Disc of pronotum smooth or at most, feebly rugulose; [profemur armed ventrally with setigerous tubercles] 10

- Disc of pronotum granulate or covered with setigerous tubercles 11

10 Ocelli large, interocellar distance only slightly wider than ocellar diameter; head with transverse sulcus set at posterior margin of eyes; rostrum pilose; prosternal sulcus lined laterad with setigerous tubercles; posterior margin of male pygophore with very broad triangular median process, parameres emarginate apically ..... *Perissopygocoris*

- Ocelli small, interocellar distance at least twice ocellar diameter; head with transverse sulcus set between middle of eyes; rostrum glabrous; prosternal sulcus lined laterad with long setae, without tubercles; posterior margin of male pygophore with small rounded triangular projection between two raised lateral areas, parameres entire apically ..... *Pelurgocoris*

11 Lateral margin of postocular region distinctly angulate, thus postocular region distinctly wider than anteocular region, head triangular; [profemur armed ventrally with teeth] 12

- Lateral margin of postocular region narrowing to collum, thus postocular region not noticeably wider than anteocular region, head rhomboidal 13

12 Ocelli distant, separated by more than dorsal width of eye ..... *Dilophocoris*

- Ocelli close together, not separated by dorsal width of eye ..... *Sphedanocoris*

13 Profemur strongly incrassate, armed ventrally with distinct teeth; species with anterior pronotal lobe, legs and abdomen distinctly sanguineous, head contrastingly piceous ..... *Croscius*

- Profemur moderately incrassate, armed ventrally with setigerous tubercles; species not sanguineous but piceous, testaceous, or some combination thereof ..... *Noualhierana*

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