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The identity of *Acanthosoma vicinum*, with proposal of a new genus and species level synonymy (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Acanthosomatidae)

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Abstract

The identity of *Acanthosoma vicinum* Uhler, 1861 (type species of the monotypic genus *Grossaria* Kumar, 1974) is clarified based on reexamination of the lectotype. The following new combination and new subjective synonymies are proposed: *Elasmucha* Stål, 1864 = *Grossaria* Kumar, 1974, syn. nov.; *Elasmucha vicina* (Uhler, 1861), comb. nov. (transferred from *Acanthosoma*) = *Elasmucha dorsalis* (Jakovlev, 1876), syn. nov. Reversion to the senior name *E. vicina* is considered to be undesirable, therefore, in order to preserve stability, no nomenclatural changes are proposed in this paper, but an application has simultaneously been submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give the specific name *dorsalis* precedence over the specific name *vicinum*.

Key words: Heteroptera, Acanthosomatidae, taxonomy, new combination, new synonymy

Introduction

Acanthosoma vicinum (Uhler, 1861) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Acanthosomatidae) was described by Uhler (1861) based on an unspecified number of specimens from Hong Kong. The species was greatly ignored by subsequent authors: it was not cited except of taxonomic catalogues and lists (Stål 1876, Lethierry & Severin 1893, Kirkaldy 1909, Hoffmann 1932, 1935, Hsiao & Liu 1977, Hua 2000, Göllner-Scheiding 2006), and all authors listing it explicitly regarded it as of unknown or doubtful identity. Wu (1933) cited the epithet in combination with the generic name *Cyphostethus* Fieber, 1860 without providing any explanation.

Kumar (1974) reexamined the type material of *A. vicinum* and designated a lectotype. He concluded that this species deserves a genus of its own and consequently he designated it as the type species of his newly described genus *Grossaria* Kumar, 1974. Still both the genus and the species have remained unrecognized and no subsequent author has ever provided original data on them.

Based on a subsequent reexamination of the lectotype of *A. vicinum* we disagree with the act of Kumar (1974). Discussion of this problem is the subject of the present paper.

Material and methods

External structures and genitalia were examined using stereoscopic microscopes (Olympus SZX12, Zeiss Discovery.V8). Digital photographs were taken with a Nikon D90 camera equipped with an AF-S Micro Nikkor 60mm f/2.8G ED lens. Morphological terminology mostly follows Tsai *et al.* (2011). Type depositories and localities verified by us are marked with exclamatory point (!).

established a new monotypic genus, *Grossaria*, for it (see also discussion about the generic level synonymy above). As a result of the poor illustrations and the incorrect and misleading description based on the defective lectotype no subsequent authors could recognize this species after Kumar (1974) and the genus and the species have never been cited except the taxonomic catalogue by Göllner-Scheiding (2006).

We believe that changing the prevailing usage of the name of this species simply because of adherence to the Principle of Priority is undesirable and would threaten stability. The number and authorship of the works using the junior name meet the conditions of Article 23.9.1.2., but the senior name was used as a valid name after 1899 therefore the ‘automatic’ conservation of *E. dorsalis* under Article 23.9.2 is not possible. Therefore, no nomenclatural change is proposed in this paper, but an application has simultaneously been submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give the specific name *dorsalis* precedence over the specific name *vicinum* under the provision of Article 23.9.3.

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