

On the taxonomic status of the genus *Horvathinia* Montandon (Hemiptera: Belostomatidae)

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ABSTRACT

Nine species of *Horvathinia* have been described since Montandon (1911) described *H. pelocoroides*, a description based upon two specimens. Subsequent descriptions, of *H. argemii* Schnack, *H. bollei* De Carlo, *H. castilloi* De Carlo, *H. doellojuradoi* De Carlo, *H. forsteri* Lauck, *H. lenti* De Carlo, *H. meyeri* De Carlo, *H. pelleranoi* De Carlo, and *H. schubarti* De Carlo, were based on only one specimen, each all captured while flying at lights. In February 1981, 55 specimens of *Horvathinia* were collected flying at light in Torres, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The morphological variation of these specimens is similar to that diagnostic species-level characters in describing *Horvathinia* species. Therefore, we consider that the southern South American genus *Horvathinia* is monotypic. However, as far as the type of *H. lenti* could not be examined, we therefore synonymize all species described after 1911 with *H. pelocoroides*, except for *H. lenti*. We also redescribe *H. pelocoroides* Montandon.

Key words: Southern South America, Belostomatidae, *Horvathinia*, synonymies

Introduction

The genus *Horvathinia* Montandon 1911 was described from two specimens collected in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Minas Gerais, Brazil; no further locality. They belong in the Hungarian Natural History Museum of Budapest and in the Riks Museum of Stockholm. The description of the type species of the genus, *H. pelocoroides*, was probably based on the former specimen (De Carlo, 1930). Later, from a total collection of nine adults, each captured at a different locality of southern South America (northeastern Argentina, southern Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia), nine more species of *Horvathinia* were described: *H. argemii* Schnack, *H. bollei* De Carlo, *H. castilloi* De Carlo, *H. doellojuradoi*