



The identity of shield bugs described by Francis Walker from Taiwan (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae)

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Abstract

Francis Walker (1809–1874), an English entomologist, described five species of shield bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) from „Formosa” (= Taiwan) in 1868. Four of them have never been recorded again since the original description and their identity has remained unknown so far. Based on the type material deposited at the Museum of Victoria, Abbotsford, Australia, Walker’s species are documented and their identities are clarified. The following new synonymies are proposed: Eysarcorini: *Eysarcoris guttigerus* (Thunberg, 1783) = *E. latus* Walker, 1868, syn. n. = *E. pustulatus* Walker, 1868, syn. n.; Menidini: *Menida (Menida) versicolor* (Gmelin, 1790) = *Rhaphigaster quinquemaculatus* Walker, 1868, syn. n.; Myrocheini: *Laprius gastricus* (Thunberg, 1822) = *Sciocoris lugubris* Walker, 1868, syn. n. Lectotypes are designated for *Eysarcoris latus*, *E. pustulatus*, and *Sciocoris lugubris*.

Key words: taxonomy, Heteroptera, Pentatomidae, Francis Walker, Taiwan, new synonymy

Introduction

Francis Walker (born in Southgate, England, 1 July 1809, died in Wanstead, England, 5 October 1874) was one of the most prolific authors in entomology. During his career in the British Museum between 1837 and 1863, he greatly improved its collections, and described a huge number of new taxa of various insect groups. He is best known for his catalogues of specimens of several insect orders deposited in the collection of the British Museum. His detailed biography was published by Graham (1979).

In 1868, in the third part of his 8-volume work *Catalogue of the specimens of Hemiptera Heteroptera in the collection of the British Museum* published between 1867 and 1873, Walker described five new species of Pentatomidae from „Formosa.” Four of these have never been recorded again since their original description, not cited except within taxonomic catalogues, and their identities have remained unknown so far.

For all of the above five species, the type depository was indicated as „the National Museum at Melbourne.” These specimens are currently housed in the Museum of Victoria, Abbotsford, Australia. The history of Walker’s collection was discussed by K. Walker (1985a), and a list of the hemipteran species was presented by the same author (K. Walker 1985b).

By the kind cooperation of Dr. Ken Walker (not a relative of Francis Walker), Senior Curator of Entomology and Arachnology at Museum of Victoria, we had the possibility to examine the holotypes of Walker’s *incertae sedis* pentatomid species. The type specimens are documented; lectotypes are designated; the identities of the respective species are clarified, and if necessary, redescriptions are given; and new synonyms are proposed in this paper.