



Lost and found: Rediscovery of the genus *Margaromantis* Piza, 1982 and consequential nomenclatural changes in the genus *Colombiella* Koçak & Kemal, 2008 (Mantodea: Mantidae, Photininae)

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Rehn (1916) described *Metriomantis planicephala* Rehn, 1916 on the basis of one male and one female collected in Cearà Mirim, State of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, by the Stanford Expedition to that country in 1911. The new species had several distinct autpomorphies, such as a stout, short, granulated pronotum and a characteristically shaped head, among other unique features. The species remained as a member of *Metriomantis* but generally was overlooked over the years, even being omitted from Terra's checklist of Neotropical Mantodea (Terra 1995). Recently, Lombardo (1999) published an important contribution on *Metriomantis*, which helped to clarify the confusing taxonomic situation of this genus, considered until then as a subgenus of *Photina* Burmeister, 1838. In the same publication, Lombardo (1999) created a new genus, *Rehniella*, to accommodate the clearly misplaced *M. planicephala*. However, the name *Rehniella* was already in use as it was first created by Hebard (1928) to accommodate a new species of cricket (*Rehniella glaphyra* Hebard, 1928) from Costa Rica. This case of homonymy was recently detected almost simultaneously by Koçak & Kemal (2008) and Ozdikmen (2008), who independently solved this nomenclatural issue by proposing replacement names for *Rehniella* Lombardo, 1999: *Colombiella*, proposed by Koçak & Kemal (2008) and *Lombardoa*, proposed by Ozdikmen (2008). The name *Colombiella* was published in May, 2008, whereas *Lombardoa* was published in June of the same year. Because *Colombiella* had priority over *Lombardoa*, Koçak (2008) established the new synonymy.

***Margaromantis* Piza, 1982**

During a routine literature search on the Internet, I came across a citation referring to an obscure genus and species described by the late Brazilian entomologist Salvador de Toledo Piza, Jr.: *Margaromantis margaritaria* Piza, 1982. The new taxon was published in the Brazilian journal "Ecosistema", a publication not particularly devoted to zoology but rather to agricultural and domestic animal sciences. This journal is regularly published by the "Centro Regional Universitário de Espírito Santo do Pinhal" in São Paulo State. In his one-page paper, Piza (1982) described in Latin this new genus and species, classifying it as a member of the Eremiaphilinae (an Old-World lineage, not found in the Neotropical region) and cited its distribution as Pernambuco State, in eastern Brazil. The description was accompanied by a single illustration (frontal view of the head). An extensive search in the mantid literature yielded no other reference for such genus and species, even in the most recent compilations of mantid literature (Agudelo *et al.* 2007; Ehrmann 1998, 2002; Ehrmann & Schütte 2005; Ehrmann & Koçak 2009; Otte & Spearmann 2005). However, an exhaustive search in the most relevant databases yielded a single record in the AGRICOLA database (National Agricultural Library - USDA).

After analysis of the available literature and comparison of the original description of the holotype of *Margaromantis margaritaria* with previously published descriptions and illustrations (e.g., Rehn 1916; Lombardo 1999), it became obvious that *Margaromantis margaritaria* and *Colombiella planicephala* were the same species and clearly a member of the Photininae (Mantidae). Because *Margaromantis* was described 26 years before the replacement name *Colombiella* was applied to *Rehniella planicephala*, the principle of priority applies and thus *Colombiella* must be considered a synonym of *Margaromantis*.