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The type species of the threadsnake genus *Tricheilostoma* Jan revisited (Squamata, Leptotyphlopidae)

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For most of the last 150 years, *Tricheilostoma* Jan, 1860 has resided in the synonymy of other snake genera such as *Glauconia* Gray, 1845 and *Leptotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 (Boulenger, 1893; McDiarmid *et al.*, 1999). Thus there has been less practical concern over the identity of the type species. This changed recently with the proposal of a new classification of the family Leptotyphlopidae and resurrection of the Genus *Tricheilostoma* (Adalsteinsson *et al.*, 2009). Pinto *et al.* (2010) alluded to a potential taxonomic problem with the type species of that genus, but determined that no change was necessary. However, the problem remains and affects 15 species of South American and African snakes. The purpose of this note is to resolve the issue and make the necessary taxonomic changes.

The name *Tricheilostoma* was introduced by Jan (1860) without diagnosis or type species designation, in a figure legend of an issue ("livraison") presenting snake illustrations. It was in one of a series of issues treated here as a periodical, *Iconographie Générale des Ophidiens*, comprising three volumes (Volume 1, 1860–1866; Volume 2, 1866–1870; Volume 3, 1870–1881). Authorship of the separate issues was attributed to Georges Jan, as noted in the headers of the plates and in new taxa described in figure legends, although the volumes were edited by Jan and Ferdinand Sordelli. *Tricheilostoma* was used in the first issue as a subgenus for two African species (*Stenosoma gracile* Jan, 1860, and *S. bicolor* Jan, 1860). In the second issue of Volume 1, appearing in 1861, it was used as a subgenus for a New World species (*S. macrolepis* Peters, 1858) and another African species (*S. sundewalli* Jan). As pointed out by McDiarmid *et al.* (1999), some confusion has existed over the dates of publication of names proposed by Jan. In part, this is because some explanatory text was published separately in a journal (Jan 1861b) and different collections of issues can be found bound together in various libraries.

Loveridge (1957) mistakenly designated *Stenosoma macrolepis* as type species of *Tricheilostoma*, referring to the journal article (Jan 1861b). Pinto *et al.* (2010) acknowledged the mistake but considered his type designation to be valid based on Art. 70.2 of the ICZN which states that an earlier, overlooked, type fixation should be accepted and any later fixations treated as invalid. However, that article is irrelevant here because no type was ever correctly fixed.

One of the two African species mentioned by Jan, *Stenosoma gracile*, is now a synonym of the other, *S. bicolor*. Thus, I designate *Stenosoma bicolor* Jan, 1860 as the type species of *Tricheilostoma* Jan, 1860. That genus now contains four species: *Tricheilostoma bicolor* (Jan, 1860), *T. broadleyi* (Wallach & Hahn, 1997), *T. greenwelli* (Wallach & Boundy, 2005), and *T. sundewalli* (Jan, 1861a) (Adalsteinsson *et al.*, 2009). *Guinea* Hedges, Adalsteinsson, & Branch, 2009 *in* Adalsteinsson *et al.* (2009), the genus that previously contained those species, is a homonym of the hymenopteran genus *Guinea* Koçak & Kemal, 2008.

In making these changes, the group of 11 New World species previously placed in *Tricheilostoma* requires a new genus. For those species, I propose the new generic name *Trilepida* (from classical Greek; feminine; "three scales") to continue allusion to the character (presence of three supralabials) which is useful—in combination with other traits (brown or pale brown venter, usually 10 midtail scales, moderate anterior supralabials)—in diagnosing the group (Adalsteinsson *et al.*, 2009). I designate *Stenosoma macrolepis* Peters, 1858, as type species. The genus contains these 11 species (Adalsteinsson *et al.*, 2009; Pinto *et al.*, 2010; Pinto & Curcio, 2011): *Trilepida anthracina* (Bailey, 1946), *T. brasiliensis* (Laurent, 1949), *T. brevissima* (Shreve, 1964), *T. dugandi* (Dunn, 1944), *T. fuliginosa* (Passos, Caramaschi, & Pinto, 2006), *T. guayaquilensis* (Orejas-Miranda & Peters, 1970), *T. joshuai* (Dunn, 1944), *T. koppesi* (Amaral, 1955), *T. macrolepis* (Peters, 1858), *T. nicefori* (Dunn, 1946), and *T. salgueiroi* (Amaral, 1955).

To summarize, the generic name *Tricheilostoma* Jan, previously applied to New World species, now replaces the African genus *Guinea* Hedges, Adalsteinsson, & Branch (the latter name becoming a homonym of *Guinea* Koçak & Kemal). A new genus, *Trilepida*, is erected for the New World species previously placed in *Tricheilostoma*. The total number of recognized genera of leptotyphlopid snakes (twelve) is unchanged.

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