



## The correct publication date for mecopteran insects (Choristidae, Bittacidae, and Panorpidae) described by John Obadiah Westwood, resurrecting *Panorpa confusa* Westwood, 1841, the confused scorpionfly

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### Abstract

I correct the publication dates for one genus and 14 species of Mecoptera (1 choristid, 4 bittacids, and 9 panorpids), and resurrect *Panorpa confusa* Westwood, 1841. Additionally, I provide a nomenclatural and taxonomic summary for these taxa, and a publication history for all of Westwood's related publications.

**Key words:** Mecoptera, *Panorpa rufescens*, *Euphania*, *Chorista*, *Neopanorpa*, *Bittacus*, nomenclature, synonyms

### Introduction

John Obadiah Westwood's 1846 monograph on Mecoptera has long been held as one of the seminal publications for this insect order and attributed to be the original publication date for descriptions of 15 taxa. I examined an earlier abbreviated version of Westwood's 1846 publication, and herein discuss its publication history and implications for correcting publication dates for one genus and 14 species of Mecoptera. Additionally, I resurrect one species, *Panorpa confusa* Westwood, 1841, relegating *Panorpa rufescens* Rambur, 1842 to junior synonymy.

### Methods

I obtained literature from my personal library; the Interlibrary Loan Department (ILL), Library West, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida (UF); the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH); and the internet services and Library of the Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (DPI, FDACS). Additionally, I used the reprint collections, including the Howard V. Weems Reprint Collection, of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA) at DPI.

### Results

Westwood (1841) was an abbreviated preview of his larger 1846 publication (Westwood 1846) (G. Keineg, personal communication, 2007). In it he gave short but valid descriptions of the choristid genus *Euphania* Westwood, 1841 (= *Chorista* Klug, 1838) and *Euphania luteola* (= *Chorista luteola* (Westwood, 1841)); the bittacids *Bittacus affinis* Westwood, 1841 (= *B. flavescens* Klug, 1838), *B. pilicornis* Westwood, 1841, *B. punctiger* Westwood, 1841, *B. pallidipennis* Westwood, 1841 (= *B. stigmaterus* Say, 1823); and the panorpids *Panorpa javanica* Westwood, 1841 (= *Leptopanorpa javanica* (Westwood, 1841)), *P. angustipennis* Westwood, 1841 (= *Neopanorpa angustipennis* (Westwood, 1841)), *P. appendiculata* Westwood, 1841 (= *Neopanorpa appendiculata* (Westwood, 1841)), *P. confusa* Westwood, 1841, *P. debilis* Westwood, 1841, *P. nebulosa* Westwood, 1841, *P. rufo-stigma* Westwood,