



## Resolution of taxonomic problems associated with the complex publication history of the seminal Torre and Bartsch monograph on Cuban Urocoptidae (Gastropoda, Pulmonata)

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### Abstract

This paper clarifies the confusion relating to the publication of Carlos de la Torre & Paul Bartsch's taxonomic study of the Cuban Urocoptidae. This massive work, which described >500 new taxa, was completed in manuscript form in 1943, but was not published during the authors' lifetime. In 1972 Miguel Jaume and Alfredo de la Torre (a nephew of C. de la Torre) published a slightly modified version of a large portion of this manuscript in the *Circulares del Museo y Biblioteca de Zoología de la Habana*, a mimeographed journal which is available for taxonomic purposes per ICZN Code Article 8. The 420 new taxa introduced in this paper were made available under the ICZN Code (even though many were differentiated only in identification keys) and should be attributed to C. de la Torre & Bartsch because the descriptions were copied from the 1943 manuscript and Jaume & A. de la Torre explicitly credited this work to the former two authors (per Article 50 of the 1964 edition of the ICZN Code). The 1972 paper does not delineate type material for most of the new species-group taxa; however the detailed information provided in the 1943 manuscript constitutes valid evidence of the type series per ICZN Code (1999) Article 72.2. The 1972 paper was republished by Jaume & A. de la Torre in 1976 in the *Ciencias Biológicas* of the Universidad de la Habana. In 1980 Jaume & A. de la Torre prepared a typescript describing the remaining new taxa from the 1943 manuscript, which was slated to be published in the *Circulares*; however we have not found any evidence that it was distributed or otherwise made available in a manner satisfying the ICZN Code criteria for availability. In 2008 Carolina de la Torre, grand-niece of C. de la Torre, published the entire 1943 manuscript in a book of more than 760 pages that was printed in Havana. The authorship of this book was credited to C. de la Torre & Bartsch. The book describes as new the taxa already treated in the 1972 paper as well as 130 additional taxa, which also should be attributed to C. de la Torre & Bartsch. We briefly discuss the disposition of the Cuban urocoptid material studied by C. de la Torre & Bartsch and the subsequent citations to their taxonomic study of this fauna.

**Key words:** Urocoptoidea, land snails, Caribbean, biodiversity, taxonomy, nomenclature

### Introduction

The Urocoptidae, a family of terrestrial pulmonate gastropods belonging to the Urocoptoidea (formerly in the Orthalicoidea), is distributed in tropical and sub-tropical regions of North America, Central America, and the islands of the Caribbean (Boss 1982: 1074; Schileyko 1999: 368–429; González-Guillén 2008; Uit de Weerd 2008). Urocoptids are primarily or exclusively calciphilic (restricted to limestone and other calcareous substrates) and consequently are distributed in an insular fashion, with populations spatially separated by patches of non-calcareous substrates. The resulting propensity for local differentiation is evidenced by the large number of species that have been described in this family. One of the “hotspots” of urocoptid diversity is the island of Cuba (Espinosa & Ortea 2009), whose fauna was extensively documented by two well known malacologists, Carlos de la Torre and