

RESEARCH NOTE

***CENTRUROIDES HASETHI* POCOCK, A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *CENTRUROIDES TESTACEUS* (DEGEER) (SCORPIONES, BUTHIDAE)**

DeGeer (1778) described *Scorpio testaceus* from specimens collected in "Amerique" and, since that time, no one has been able to assign a correct locality to that taxon. This species, now considered a valid member of the genus *Centruroides*, was redescribed by Sissom and Francke (1983). Those authors discounted previous records of *C. testaceus* as being based upon misidentifications, including long-accepted records from Montserrat and Hispaniola (Haiti). Because the two syntypes of *C. testaceus* represented different species, the lectotype designated by Sissom and Francke remained the only known specimen of *C. testaceus*.

While sorting through undetermined scorpion material from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, I had the opportunity to examine a specimen of *Centruroides hasethi hasethi* Pocock from the island of Curaçao. I was immediately struck by the resemblance of the specimen from Curaçao to the lectotype of *C. testaceus* and borrowed the types of *C. testaceus* and *C. hasethi* from their respective depositories. Comparison of the type specimens confirmed my suspicions that *C. testaceus* and *C. hasethi* were conspecific.

Sissom and Francke (1983) mistakenly identified the lectotype of *C. testaceus* as a female because its metasomal segments are not as long and slender as those of males of most species of *Centruroides* (including the male syntype of *Scorpio testaceus* accompanying the lectotype). Unfortunately, the lectotype was pinned and dried and could not be sexed by the presence or absence of genital papillae. As a result, our morphometric comparisons with *C. hasethi* were based on females of that species. It is now clear that the lectotype of *C. testaceus* is indeed a male, and its morphometrics and meristics are virtually identical with those of male *C. hasethi* from Curaçao (Bakker 1963).

Since Bakker's (1963) study of the *Centruroides* populations of Curaçao and neighboring

islands, *C. hasethi* has been considered polytypic, with two distinct subspecies: *C. hasethi hasethi* Pocock from Curaçao and Bonaire, and *C. hasethi arubensis* (Bakker) from Aruba. Bakker (1963) distinguished the two subspecies by the following characters (based on comparisons between the populations of *C. hasethi hasethi* from Curaçao and *C. hasethi arubensis* from Aruba): (1) in *C. h. hasethi*, males have 27-29 pectinal teeth and females 25-27 teeth; in *C. h. arubensis*, males have 23-25 teeth and females 21-23; (2) *C. h. hasethi* range up to 75 mm in body length, whereas *C. h. arubensis* reach only 55 mm in length; (3) *C. h. hasethi* have proportionately longer metasomal segments; and (4) *C. h. hasethi* have proportionately longer pedipalpal femora and patellae. Interestingly, according to measurements and ratios published by Bakker (1963), the morphometrics of the Bonaire population are in some cases intermediate between those of the populations of Curaçao and Aruba, suggesting that further study of the taxonomic status of each population may be warranted. Based on the observations above and on direct comparisons of type specimens, there is no doubt that *C. testaceus* and *C. hasethi hasethi* belong to the same taxon. Further, because of the morphometric similarities with specimens from Curaçao, it is probable that the lectotype of *C. testaceus* originated from that island, and I hereby restrict the type locality of *C. testaceus* to Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles. Pending further investigation of the various island populations, *arubensis* is considered a subspecies of *C. testaceus*.

As a consequence of the above observations, the following synonymies are proposed: *Centruroides hasethi* Pocock, 1893 = *Centruroides testaceus* (DeGeer, 1778); *C. hasethi hasethi* Pocock, 1893 = *C. testaceus testaceus* (DeGeer 1778); and *C. hasethi arubensis* (Bakker, 1963) = *C. testaceus arubensis* (Bakker, 1963).

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