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A substitute name for *Dryobates minor heinrichi* von Jordans

by Edward C. Dickinson, Sylke Frahnert & Cees S. Roselaar

Received 5 March 2009

The name *heinrichi* was applied as new to two different species of woodpecker in the genus *Dryobates* in 1940. The collector in both instances was Gerd Heinrich.

One of the two, *Dryobates hyperythrus heinrichi* Stresemann, 1940, a race of Rufous-bellied Woodpecker that was described from Mt. Victoria in western Burma, did not appear in Peters (1948), perhaps because it was not listed in the *Zoological Record* before then. Indeed World War II might have led to the name being completely ignored had not Smythies (1953) listed it, and he seemed to accept the name as valid. However, a rapid re-evaluation suggests that these specimens fall within the range of colour variation exhibited by nominotypical *hyperythrus*. Stresemann suggested that Mt. Victoria birds are shorter winged, but the number of available specimens is small and we prefer to treat this name as a synonym of nominate *hyperythrus*. The holotype and four paratypes are in the Museum für Naturkunde, Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions-und Biodiversitätsforschung an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

In the same year, a Bulgarian population of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was named *Dryobates minor heinrichi* by von Jordans (1940: 131). This name did appear in Peters (1948: 196), as a synonym of *Dendrocopos minor serbicus* Buturlin.

The discovery of homonymy in the same year led us to explore the dates of publication in more detail to determine priority. The paper on the birds of Mt. Victoria in the 1939 volume of the *Mitteilungen der Zoologische Museum Berlin* by Stresemann & Heinrich is the first paper in part 2 of that volume, and the first page of that paper, and of the part, is dated 1939. However, the title page is dated 1940 and states 'Ausgegeben am 18 Januar 1940'.

The description of the Bulgarian woodpecker is in a volume dated 1940 and at the end of the article in which it is described are the words, on p. 152, 'Im Druck erschienen am 1.II.1940'. It is thus clear that Stresemann's Burmese bird was the first named.

In place of *Dryobates minor heinrichi* von Jordans, 1940, we now propose the following name, which continues to honour the collector as von Jordans wished.

***Dendrocopos minor gerdi* nom. nov.**

The holotype, collected on 6 June 1935 was originally given no. 38875 in the Alexander Koenig collection, but in the Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig it is now catalogued as ZFMK 38.614 (cf. van den Elzen & Rheinwald 1984: 99).

Although this taxon is described in a paper reporting on an expedition of Adolf von Jordans, Wolf, Breining and Pateff in 1937, its holotype was collected in south-east Bulgaria on an earlier trip by Heinrich. Of the 13 paratypes, one is also in Bonn, 11 are in Warsaw (Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences) and one has not been traced.

Primary homonymy requires that the new name be used for the Bulgarian population when the latter is recognised taxonomically. This is the case whether one follows Dickinson (2003), where the genus *Hypopicus* was used for Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, or Winkler & Christie (2002), where *Dendrocopos* was used for both species.

Acknowledgements

The discovery of this homonymy arose during work on the *Howard & Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (Dickinson 2003). We thank Zlatozar Boev for a copy of the original description of the Bulgarian taxon and for supplying evidence that confirmed the date, and Renate van den Elzen for confirming that the catalogue number in Bonn is correct and that the number given in the original paper is unexplained. Comments from a reviewer (Richard Schodde) much improved the clarity of this note.

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