

PAPÉIS AVULSOS
DO
DEPARTAMENTO DE ZOOLOGIA
SECRETARIA DA AGRICULTURA — SÃO PAULO - BRASIL

SYNONYMIC NOTE ON *COELOXENUS GUENTHERI*
WASMANN (COLEOPTERA, CARABIDAE)

HANS REICHARDT

Through the courtesy of Prof. J. K. A. van Boven, curator of the Wasmann and Willemse collections (Naturhistorisch Museum, Maastricht, Holland), I have been able to study the types of *Coeloxenus guentheri* Wasmann. This genus and species of myrmecophile carabid was very briefly described by Wasmann in his "Ameisenmimikry" (1925:75), who noted his intention to describe it more completely later. This never happened and therefore *Coeloxenus* is very poorly characterized, and almost unrecognizable.

Coeloxenus guentheri was not listed in the supplement to the Coleopterorum Catalogus (1933:1677). Blackwelder (1944) listed the genus and species twice, on page 70 in the tribe Orthogoniini (to which the new genus had been assigned by Wasmann), and on page 72 under "incertae sedis". Blackwelder and later authors completely overlooked the following statement by van Emden (1936:255): "...*Physeia setosa* Chaud., die Wasmann (1925) bereits von *Atta* besass und als deren groesste bis dahin bekannte Symphile erwaehte (freilich ohne sie und ihre richtige systematische Stellung zu erkennen, so dass er sie als *Coeloxenus Guentheri* kurz neu beschrieb)". Van Emden does not mention whether or not he had seen the type of Wasmann's species, however, as shall be seen, he was right.

Two "types" of *Coeloxenus guentheri* are preserved in Wasmann's collection. They bear the following data: "b. *Atta sexdens* L. (C. Guenther!) Tapera (Pernambuco) 27.9.23" (Tapera is a railroad station about 35 km west of Recife). The identification label on each specimen is different, one reading "*Coeloxenus Guentheri* Wasm., n.g. n. sp. Typus", and the other one "*Coeloxenus atticola* n.g. n. sp. Typus". These two specimens are obviously conspecific and the latter name was probably a manuscript name which Wasmann replaced later by *guentheri*. Both speci-

Departamento de Zoologia, Secretaria da Agricultura, São Paulo;
at the time Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass., USA.

mens were most probably used by Wasmann at the time of his drafting the original description, although he did not mention how many individuals were studied.

I have compared these "types" with material of *Physeia setosa* Chaudoir from Villarrica, Paraguay (in the Museum of Comparative Zoology), and no differences are apparent, thus proving van Emden was correct in suggesting their synonymy in 1936.

Accordingly, the taxonomic status of *Coeloxenus* Wasmann, as a synonym of *Physeia* Brullé, is settled. Consequently, true Orthogoniini, the Old World tribe of Carabidae to which *Coeloxenus* had been assigned by Wasmann, do not occur in the New World.

Jeannel (1946:47) with reference to *Physeia* states: "Les quelques espèces connues du genre *Physeia* Brullé sont sans doute toutes myrmécophiles..." There really seems to be no doubt about the myrmecophilous habits of *Physeia*; however, a search in the literature showed that actually only one of the six species (*setosa* Chaudoir) has been collected with *Atta sexdens* Linnaeus (see Wasmann, 1925:75 and van Emden, 1936:251).

REFERENCES

- BLACKWELDER, R. E., 1944: Checklist of the Coleopterous Insects of Mexico, Central America, The West Indies and South America. Part I. *Bull. U.S.Nat. Mus.*, 185:1-188.
- CSIKI, E., 1933: *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, pars 126: pp. 1599-1933. Berlin.
- VAN EMDEN, F., 1936: Eine interessante zwischen Carabidae und Paussidae vermittelnde Käferlarve. *Arb. Phys. Angew. Ent.* 3:250-256, 5 figs.
- JEANNEL, R., 1946: Coléoptères Carabiques de la région Malgache, 1ère partie. *Faune de l'Empire Français*, 6:1-372, 168 figs.
- WASMANN, E., 1925: Die Ameisenmimikry. *Abhandl. theor. Biol.* 19:75.