

RESEARCH NOTES

A NEW SYNONYM IN THE GENUS *META* (ARANEAE, TETRAGNATHIDAE)

The orb-weaving spider *Meta menardii* (Latreille 1804) has been treated in the past as occupying much of the holarctic region (Bonnet 1957; Roewer 1942; Levi 1980). Recently, however, Marusik & Koponen (1992) concluded that three allopatric species are involved, namely, *M. menardii* in Europe, *M. manchurica* Marusik & Koponen 1992 in the Russian Far East, and *M. americana* Marusik & Koponen 1992 in eastern North America. A fourth related species, *M. japonica* Tanikawa 1993, was subsequently described. My purpose here is to show that there is an available name older than *americana* for the eastern North American species.

Gertsch (1933) described a species of cave spider from Indiana, proposing for it the new genus *Auchicybaeus* and placing it in the family Agelenidae. Soon recognizing his error regarding the generic and familial placement, he synonymized the name *Auchicybaeus* under *Meta*. He also synonymized the specific name *ovalis* under *menardii* (Gertsch & Ivie 1936). Bonnet (1957) recorded the synonymy, but Roewer (1942) and Levi (1980) did not.

I have examined Gertsch's type specimen and have found it to match specimens of the eastern North American species formerly known as *M. menardii* and lately described as *M. americana*. The size, color pattern, cheliceral dentition, eye relations, leg trichobothria, and details of the epigynum and spermathecae of the type lead me to conclude that *ovalis* and *americana* represent a single species. The older name must be used, as formalized below.

Meta ovalis (Gertsch)

Meta menardi: Emerton 1875:129 (part); Gertsch & Ivie 1936:20; Bonnet 1957:2787 (-i) (part); Levi 1980: 42, figs. 112-127, map 5; Platnick 1993:376 (-i) (part). Not *menardii* Latreille 1804.

Auchicybaeus ovalis Gertsch 1933:11, fig. 15. Holotype female from Marengo Spring Cave, Crawford County, Indiana, 20 October 1911 (Arthur W. Henn), deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Examined.

Meta americana Marusik & Koponen 1992:138, figs. 1-4, 14. Holotype male from northeast of Jamison, Pennsylvania, June 1944 (W. Ivie), deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, not examined. Male and female paratypes from Eganville, Ontario, 12 June 1972 (S. Peck), deposited in the Canadian National Collection of Insects and Arachnids, Ottawa, Ontario, examined. NEW SYNONYM.

Note: Platnick (1993:376) first used the combination *Meta ovalis* (Gertsch 1933).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am grateful to Norman Platnick for lending me the type specimen of *Auchicybaeus ovalis*.

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