

ANCISTROCEROIDES SAUSSURE, 1855: PROPOSED CHANGE
OF TYPE SPECIES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE
WELL-ESTABLISHED NAME *PARALASTOR* SAUSSURE, 1856
(HYMENOPTERA, VESPOIDEA, EUMENIDAE). Z.N.(S.)2280

By J. van der Vecht, (*Burg. Vermeerlaan 4, 3881 GZ Putten,
Netherlands*)

In his monographs of the VESPIDAE H. de Saussure (1853, p. 147) described two species in the 'IIIe Division' ('Ile Division' on p. 146, but corrected on p. 3 of the 'Table des Matières') of the subgenus *Ancistrocerus* Wesmael, 1836, of the genus *Odynerus* Latreille, 1802, viz. *O. alastoroides* from Montevideo and *O. alastoripennis* from Tasmania, both said to be in the Mus. Paris.

2. Shortly afterwards the same author (1855, p. 221) proposed the name *Ancistroceroides* for this division and added two new species to it: *O. cruentus* from Australia and *O. sanguinolentus* from an unknown locality, both based on one or more specimens in the British Museum (Natural History).

3. In a review of the American VESPIDAE de Saussure (1875, p. 211) used the name *Ancistroceroides* for a division of the subgenus *Ancistrocerus* containing a single species: *A. alastoroides* Sauss. (In this work de Saussure divided the genus *Odynerus* into four subgenera, but actually he treated these taxa as genera, using for the species only the initial of the subgenus with the specific name.)

4. In the 'Catalogus Hymenopterorum' Dalla Torre listed *Ancistroceroides* as a subgeneric name (1894, p. 49), and it was used as such by Schrottky (1903, p. 178), who recorded *Odynerus* (*Ancistroceroides*) *alastoroides* (Sauss.) from Argentina. Brèthes (1903, p. 268) regarded *alastoroides* as a probable synonym of *Odynerus clarazianus* Saussure, described in 1870 from Argentina. Since then the specific name *clarazianus* has been used by about a dozen different authors, in combination with *Odynerus*, or in a few cases, *Ancistrocerus*. In view of the present conception of these genera, neither name is correct. The supposed synonymy of *alastoroides* and *clarazianus* can now be established with certainty (unpublished) so that the older name *alastoroides* must be used.

5. When in 1925 Bequaert revised the North American species of the genus *Ancistrocerus*, he also designated type species for some of the subgenera, including *Ancistroceroides* Saussure. He wrote: 'only two species are described in 1856, and of these I designate the first, *Odynerus cruentus* Saussure, 1856, of Australia, as the type'. (Apparently Bequaert overlooked the fact that the two species described by de Saussure in 1853 (see above, first paragraph) were also available for selection as type species of *Ancistroceroides*.)

6. This designation was confirmed by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, when upon my request (Van der Vecht, 1967), it recognised H. de Saussure as the author of several names, proposed by him in the period 1855–1863, for secondary divisions of genera (Opinion 893, 1970). At that time there could not be objections against this proceeding, but lately it has become clear that this designation may have very undesirable consequences.

7. *Odynerus cruentus* Saussure, 1855, was based on a female wasp from 'La Nouvelle Hollande' in the British Museum. The type could not be found there in 1975, and no Eumenid wasp agreeing with de Saussure's description was detected in several collections studied since then. In January 1980, however, Dr R. M. Bohart (*University of California, Davis*), collected in South Australia a series of a *Paralastor* species which is undoubtedly identical with *Odynerus cruentus* Saussure.

8. Consequently it may now be regarded as certain that *Paralastor* Saussure, 1856, is a junior subjective synonym of *Ancistroceroides* Saussure, 1855. This is extremely unfortunate, for the name *Paralastor* has been in general use for a well defined group of Australian wasps ever since R. C. L. Perkins, 1914, raised it to generic rank in a monograph dealing with nearly a hundred species. The number of species known at present is about 130. Moreover this name was placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Opinion 893, when the type species of the genus was fixed as *Odynerus cruentus*.

9. This confusion could best be avoided by rejecting Bequaert's type designation and by selecting as such *Odynerus alastoroides* Saussure. Moreover, this action would have the advantage that the name *Ancistroceroides* thus becomes available again for a small, well-characterized and isolated, at present nameless, group of at least two species of EUMENIDAE inhabiting the southern part of South America. There is no doubt that this group deserves at least subgeneric status.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested to:

- (1) use its plenary powers
 - (a) to suppress all designations of type species for the genus *Ancistroceroides* Saussure, 1855, made prior to the ruling now requested, and
 - (b) to designate *Odynerus alastoroides* Saussure, 1853, as the type species of that genus;
- (2) correct the entry under Name Number 1857 in the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology to:
Ancistroceroides Saussure, 1855 (gender: masculine), type species *Odynerus alastoroides* Saussure, 1853;
- (3) place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
alastoroides Saussure, 1853, as published in the binomen

- Odynerus alastoroides* (specific name of type species of *Ancistroceroides* Saussure, 1855);
- (4) delete the words '(type species of *Ancistroceroides* Saussure, 1855)' from the entry under Name Number 2330 in the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, now reading '*cruentus* Saussure, 1855, as published in the binomen *Odynerus cruentus* (type species of *Ancistroceroides* Saussure, 1855) (Name Number 2330)'.

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