

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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NOTES ON ANTHRIBID WEEVILS. II.  
THE SPECIES DESCRIBED BY ADOLPHE HOFFMANN

BY BARRY D. VALENTINE  
*Faculty of Zoology, Ohio State University,  
Columbus, Ohio 43210*

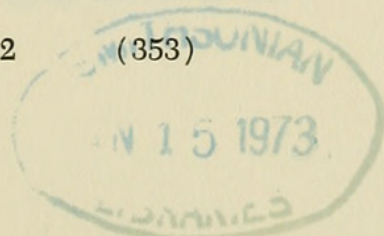
This is the second in a proposed series of summaries of needed taxonomic changes in the Anthribidae. For introductory comments, explanations of format, and acknowledgments see the previous paper (Valentine, 1971).

Adolphe Hoffmann was the author of the anthribid portion of the "Faune de France" (1945). No new taxa were described in that work. Later, during the 13-year period from 1954-1967, he and a co-worker described two genera and eight species of Anthribidae from Europe, Madeira, and Western Africa. I have recently seen type-material of each of these taxa in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, and present the following notes on their identification and synonymy. They are discussed in alphabetical order, by genera.

BRANCONYMUS Hoffmann, 1959:341. Type-species: *Branconymus vaysierei* Hoffmann, 1959:342, by original designation.

The type-species of this genus has eyes deeply notched by the edge of the rostrum; rostrum bicarinate, short, in males flared above the lateral scrobes; transverse carina of pronotum appearing basal, lateral carina extending slightly past middle of prothoracic sides; mesosternum with intercoxal process broad, almost vertical, apically truncate; female antennae extending to the elytral base; male antennae surpassing the elytra, the club slender and ill defined. It is a perfectly normal non-tufted species of *Phloeobius* Schoenherr, 1823:1126, type-species *Anthribus griseus* Fabricius, 1792:377, by original designation and monotypy.

NEW GENERIC SYNONYMY.





*Branconymus vayssierei* Hoffmann, 1959:342. The holotype is a teneral male labeled in part "Ile de San-Thome / Rec. Castel-Branco / Larve dans rameau de / Café-21-x-58."

The holotype has the basically uniform non-tessellate pubescence and tiny white isolated spots in the odd-numbered elytral interspaces that are the characteristic feature of *Phloeobius hypoxanthus* Jordan, 1911:91, also described from St. Thomé, and examined by me in London. The two names obviously apply to the same species. NEW SYNONYMY. Hoffmann actually mentions Jordan's species in his general comments on the St. Thomé anthribid fauna; and then goes on to redescribe it as a new genus and species.

*Branconymus pujoli* Hoffmann, 1959:342. The male holotype is labeled in part "Jacques Felix / Rec. Côte d'Ivoire"; and "s/Rameau de / Cafeier Arabica / 27-7-50."

Hoffmann's type is tessellate with small spots along the suture, larger dashes on the remaining odd-numbered interspaces, and has a dusting of gray posterior to the subbasal callosities concentrated mainly between the third and fifth interspaces; the pronotum has three pale orange spots on each side, two are so close that they almost form a longitudinal dash, the third is isolated and more lateral. This color pattern, plus the narrow tarsi, spined apices of antennal segments nine and ten, non-tufted vestiture, etc., are the characteristic features of *Phloeobius catenatus silaceus* Jordan, 1955:347. NEW SYNONYMY. Jordan's holotype is labeled "Gold Coast: / C. Ashanti / Juaso. 900 ft.," the subspecies occurs in the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, and "Senegambia."

*Cylindroides descarpentriesi* Hoffmann, 1967:1316. The unique male holotype from the Congo is labeled in part "Mbila (Mts du Chaillu) XII, 1963"; "Muséum Paris / Mission / A. Descarpentries / et A. Villiers / 1963-1964"; and "Cylindroides / spec. nov. / det. R. Frieser, 1966."

This seems to be a valid species for I can find nothing like it in the British Museum under *Cylindroides*, *Anaulodes*, or *Aulodina*.

*Mecocerus confusus* Hoffmann, 1967:1313. The unique female holotype is labeled in part "Sibiti / Congo / XII-1963"; "Muséum Paris / Mission / A. Descarpentries / et A. Villiers / 1963-1964"; and "Mecocerus / spec. nov. / det. R. Frieser, 1966."

This species is not a member of the genus *Mecocerus*, it is, in fact, one of several geographically variable populations of *Acorynus pachys*



Jordan, 1911:101. NEW SYNONYMY. This is the largest and most *Mecocerus*-like species of *Acorynus* in Africa, but it can be immediately distinguished from *Mecocerus* by the more dorsal eye. In *A. pachys* in en face view the entire eye margin is visible as are the sides of the head capsule posterior to the eye. In *Mecocerus* the eye is more lateral, in en face view the posterior margin is not visible and the eye interrupts the line of the head capsule. The rostrum is also quite different being broader, flatter, almost on the same plane as frons and vertex, sides evenly in-curved between base and apex, a vague median carina highest on a basal swollen area flanked by two apically divergent rows of weak rugosities, and apex flatter without the ridges and depressions of most *Mecocerus*.

The holotype of *Acorynus pachys pachys* Jordan is labeled "Kumassi / (Newberry)." The British Museum also has a series from "Kassai: Kondué / E. Luja" received from the Musée du Congo. These specimens have an almost uniformly brown pronotum, and elytra with a short basal longitudinal sutural stripe which divides and then turns laterally. In the population named by Hoffmann the pronotum has a pair of oblique lateral yellowish stripes which do not reach the anterior margin of the thorax, and complexly spotted elytra. A female in the British Museum labeled "Despallières / Loango / 1893" is similar. Other specimens from "Kassai district, / Congo F. St. / (Taymans)." have three complete pronotal stripes and were named *Acorynus pachys vitticollis* Jordan, 1911. Specimens from Uganda are the most completely marked with extensive pale areas on both pronotum and elytra. It is difficult to tell if the variation is demic or geographic; however, *confusus* Hoffmann looks more like *pachys vitticollis* Jordan than *pachys pachys* Jordan.

*Mecocerus villiersi* Hoffmann, 1967:1312. The male holotype and two female paratypes are labeled in part "Sibiti / Congo / XII-1963"; "Muséum Paris / Mission / A. Descarpentries / et A. Villiers / 1963-1964"; and "*Mecocerus* / spec. nov. / det. R. Frieser, 1966."

The holotype is a virtually perfect match for a male in the R. Oberthur collection in Paris which may be the type of *Mecocerus mniszchi* Thomson, 1858. This male is the first specimen in Oberthur's series and stands next to a label which in addition to the determination also states "Gabon" and "Type." I do not know if this is Thomson's type, however, it certainly is the common species we recognize today as *mniszchi*, and it agrees with Thomson's illustration. NEW SYNONYMY.

*Mecocerus* is a large genus with 30 described species from Africa. *Mecocerus mniszchi* is the commonest species in all the collections I have studied, and especially in material from the Congo. Hoffmann does not list it in the Villiers-Descarpentries collection, the reason now being clear.



*Tropideres* (*Opisthotropis*) *vasconicus* Hoffmann and Tempère, 1954:66.

The female holotype in the A. Hoffmann collection in Paris is labeled in part "Basses-Pyrénées / Urrugne / 30.6.53 / G. Tempère"; "Quercus / pedunculata"; "Genre nouveau / pré de *Tropideres* / à décrire?!!" The specimen card has the number "5890" written on the underside.

*Opisthotropis* Hoffmann and Tempère was described as a new subgenus with *vasconicus* as its only species. The subgeneric name is a junior synonym of *Ormiscus* Waterhouse, 1845, the largest and most wide-spread genus in the Americas with more than one hundred species ranging from Canada to Argentina, including the West Indies and Galapagos Islands. NEW GENERIC SYNONYMY. *Ormiscus* is the oldest of five generic names which were discussed by me (1960), one of these names, *Eusphyrus* Leconte, 1876, may eventually be used as a subgenus. *Opisthotropis* with its apparently basal transverse pronotal carina and laterally protruding prothoracic hind angles, is one of the *Eusphyrus*-like species of *Ormiscus*.

Although the synonymy of *Opisthotropis* with *Ormiscus* is clear, the identity of *vasconicus* Hoffmann and Tempère is not. Approximately half of the described species of *Ormiscus* are of the *Eusphyrus* type. The genus has recently been transported accidentally to Hawaii and I assume that the French specimens are imports too. The rarity or possible absence of males in some species, and the concomitant possibility of parthenogenesis, increases the potential for successful chance dispersal; Hoffmann and Tempère mention the absence of males in their species. *Ormiscus vasconicus* is not one of the Nearctic species; however, I do not know all the many Neotropical forms well enough to determine whether the French species is valid or a synonym. For the present it should be listed as a questioned valid species, probably introduced into southern France from Central or South America.

*Tropideres* (*Enedreutres*) [sic] *lindbergi* Hoffmann, 1963:128. A paratype in the A. Hoffmann collection is labeled in part "Madeira Funchal / 9-10. 6. 1957 / Lindberg."

This is another example of the flagrant abuse of generic names that characterizes the Palearctic classification. The name *Tropideres* is a huge wastebasket into which has been thrown an extraordinary variety of Anthribidae, in all, at least 10 different, distinct genera. In the fauna of western Europe, only two species are actually *Tropideres* Schoenherr, 1823, they are *Tropideres albirostris* (Herbst, 1784) which is the type-species by original designation, and *T. dorsalis* (Thunberg, 1795). The various "subgenera" of *Tropideres* are actually all valid genera none of which belongs in the Tropiderini.

The present species, "*Tropideres*" *lindbergi*, is a synonym of *Trigonorhinus zeae* (Wolfrum, 1931). NEW SYNONYMY. *Trigonorhinus* Wollaston, 1861 includes the Mediterranean type-species *pardalis* Wollaston,



1861 (= *areolatus* Boheman, 1845) (Wollaston's Cape Verde Islands type-locality is apparently an error), plus many described American species ranging from Canada to Argentina. The genus and its synonymy was discussed by me (1960). *Trigonorhinus zae* was described (as a *Brachytarsus* Schoenherr) from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and ranges north into Mexico. In the United States and Canada it is replaced by a related species *T. sticticus* (Boheman, 1833).

#### A SUMMARY OF THE HOFFMANN SPECIES OF ANTHRIBIDAE

*Mecocerus* Schoenherr, 1833

*Mecocerus mniszchi* Thomson, 1858

(= *Mecocerus villiersi* Hoffmann, 1967) NEW SYNONYMY.

*Acorynus* Schoenherr, 1833

*Acorynus pachys* Jordan, 1911

(= *Mecocerus confusus* Hoffmann, 1967). NEW SYNONYMY.

*Trigonorhinus* Wollaston, 1861

*Trigonorhinus zae* (Wolfrum, 1931)

(= *Tropideres lindbergi* Hoffmann, 1963) NEW SYNONYMY.

*Cylindroides* Fairmaire, 1886

*Cylindroides descarpentriesi* Hoffmann, 1967

*Phloeobius* Schoenherr, 1823

(= *Branconymus* Hoffmann, 1959) NEW SYNONYMY.

*Phloeobius hypoxanthus* Jordan, 1911

(= *Branconymus vayssierei* Hoffmann, 1959) NEW SYNONYMY.

*Phloeobius catenatus silaceus* Jordan, 1955

(= *Branconymus pujoli* Hoffmann, 1959) NEW SYNONYMY.

*Ormiscus* Waterhouse, 1845

(= *Opisthotropis* Hoffmann & Tempère, 1954) NEW SYNONYMY.

*Ormiscus vasconicus* (Hoffmann & Tempère, 1954) NEW COMBINATION.

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