Liocheles extensa, a replacement name for Liocheles longimanus Locket, 1995 (Scorpionidae: Ischnuridae)

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Since describing Liocheles longimanus Locket, 1995, I have become aware that the name longimanus was given to a subspecies of L. australasiae (Fabricius) by Werner (1939), thus causing a nomenclatural problem.

Werner (1939) named his new subspecies Hormurus australasiae longimanus, which has not been subsequently mentioned in the taxonomic literature, nor formally transferred to the genus Liocheles (Dr V. Fet, personal communication), of which Hormurus is now accepted as a junior synonym (e.g., Koch 1977). Therefore, I here transfer Werner’s subspecies to the genus Liocheles:

Liocheles australasiae longimanus (Werner, 1939), comb. nov.

Liocheles longimanus Locket, 1995, is therefore a junior secondary homonym of Liocheles australasiae longimanus (Werner, 1939) and thus requires a replacement name, for which I propose Liocheles extensa nom. nov.

To establish the identity of Liocheles australasiae longimanus (Werner), I have now examined Werner’s types, which came from Montes Battak, Sumatra and are now in the collection of the Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Koenig, Bonn.

Specimen 110 from that museum is female and 111, male; the latter has been compared with the two specimens, both male, of L. extensa from the Northern Territory. It is plain on inspection that the N.T. specimens have much more elongate pedipalps than Werner’s specimen, and measurements of proportions confirm this. In Werner’s No. 111 L/W of patella and hand are 2.14 and 3.63 respectively, compared with 2.73, 2.77 and 4.85, 5.0 for the two N.T. specimens. Though Werner’s No. 111 is male, examination of the hemispermatophore was not possible, the specimen having been pinned dry originally.

The two forms are clearly distinct and it is not necessary to synonymise them. Werner’s L. australasiae longimanus may be a valid subspecies of L. australasiae, but the present material is not sufficient to determine this for certain.

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REFERENCES


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