

**The systematic position of *Polytodes ochraceus* Horváth,
with synonymical notes on the
genus *Polytes* Stål (Heteroptera: Scutelleridae)**

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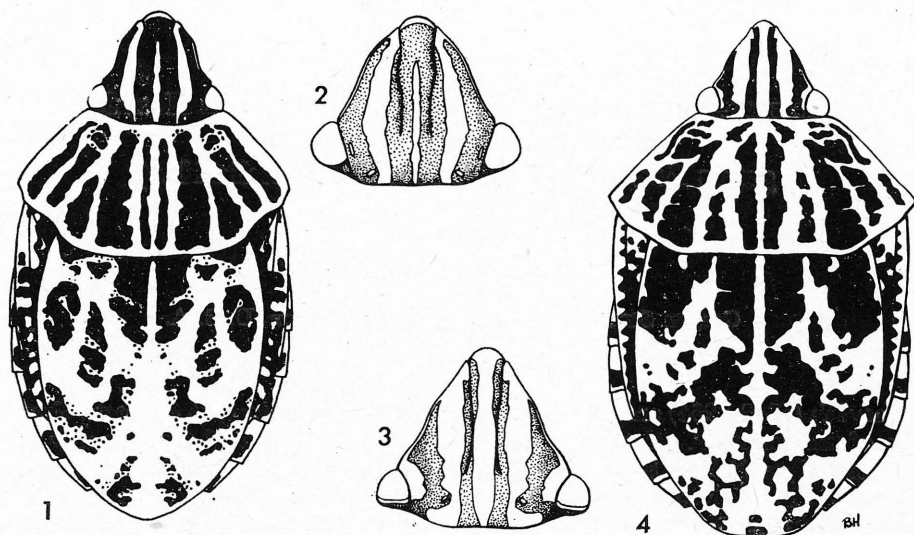
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Horváth (1892 : 254) erected the genus *Polytodes*, describing at the same time the type of the genus, *P. ochraceus*, from central Africa. He stated that his new genus was related to *Polytes* Stål, a taxon found only in South America. *P. ochraceus* belongs to the Pachycorinae, a subfamily found primarily in the Western Hemisphere (except for *Deroplax* Mayr, *Hotea* Amyot and Serville, and *Tectocoris* Hahn) - (all genera placed with some doubt in the Pachycorinae). Schouteden (1904 b : 51) and Kirkaldy (1909 : 287) questioned the validity of the locality cited by Horváth and suggested that the specimens actually came from South America.

In January, 1966, I located a single specimen of *ochraceus* in the Entomologické oddělení, Národní museum, Praha, Czechoslovakia with the assistance of my good friend Dr. Ludvík Hoberlandt. This specimen, a male, was labelled as follows: Zambesi (V. Foié, Coll. Nickerl, Mus. Pragense) *Polytodes* [*ochrac.*] [*Polytodes*] n. g. [*ochraceus*] Horváth n.sp. [*Zambesi*] Duda, Foié. Subsequently, through the kindness of Dr. A. Soós, Department of Zoology, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary, I was able to examine the holotype of *ochraceus* deposited in that museum. It bore the following information: [*Holub*] *ochraceus* [*Typ. Horváth*] [*Typus*] [*Polytodes*] *ochraceus* Horv. It lacks the genital capsule as Horváth stated in his original description. The Prague specimen agrees with the holotype in all respects. Although Horváth did not mention the Prague specimen, apparently it was part of the type series.

Concerning the holotype Horváth (*loc. cit.* 256) stated "Insectum hoc novum, sicut etiam species ceteras a celeberrimo viatore E. Holub in Africa centrali collectas et in sequentibus descriptas, mecum benevole communicavit Dom. Lad. Duda." Thus the specimen upon which Horváth based his genus and species apparently was collected by E. Holub, given to Duda and in turn given to Horváth. There must have been two specimens in Duda's collection, one given to Horváth and the other retained in the Duda collection. That collection was later given to O. Nickerl and then, in 1920, the Nickerl collection was given to the National Museum in Prague. The second label of the Prague specimen appears to be in Horváth's handwriting.

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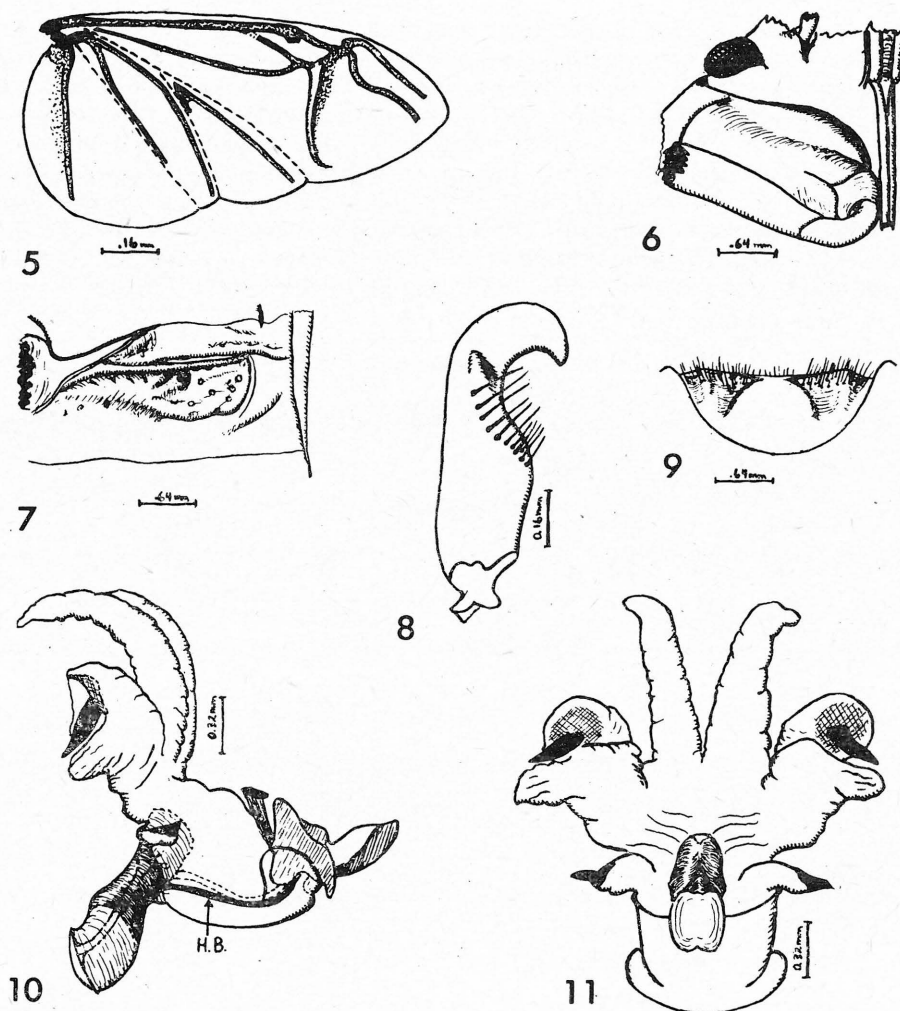
Figures 1, 2. Holotype male of *Polyptes tigrinus* (Vollenhoven). Figures 3, 4. *Polytes lineolatus* (Dallas)

The holotype bears no locality label, only the Prague specimen is labelled Zambesi. Several of the drawings presented in this paper (figs. 5, 8—11) are based on this latter specimen.

In March, 1966, with the kind assistance of Dr. Pietr van Doesburg, I was able to examine the holotype male of *Polytix tigrinus*, described by Vollenhoven in 1868 from Columbia as *Pachycoris tigrinus* and deposited in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands. I compared this specimen with the type of *P. ochraceus* and found the two specimens represented the same species. Thus *Polytodes ochraceus* Horváth, 1892, is a synonym of *Pachycoris tigrinus* Vollenhoven, 1868 (new synonymy) and *Polytodes* Horváth, 1892 is a synonym of *Polytes* Stål, 1867 (new synonymy). The holotype of *tigrinus* bears the following information: H. Deyr/ Colum.// (blue label) Holotypus//Museum Leiden/ *Polytes tigrinus* Voll./ /Cat. no. 1//. The specimen lacks only the left antenna and the left middle leg. Thus it appears that the two specimens of *P. ochraceus*, believed to have been collected in central Africa came, in reality, from South America and were merely mislabelled.

The holotype of *P. tigrinus* is illustrated here (figs. 1, 2, 6, 7) together with several critical characters to assist in identification. All of the characters show that it is a member of the subfamily Pachycorinae. The wing ventilation and the male genitalia with the three pairs of conjunctival appendages, the sclerotic vesica, the reduced seminal reservoir and the hyaline band (labelled H. B.) all support this position. The significance of the hyaline band will be dealt with in detail by Dr. R. H. Cobben in a subsequent publication.

I visited the British Museum (Natural History) in 1966, and, with the help of Dr. W. Knight, was able to examine types of other species of *Polytes* in that museum. *Polytes inca*, described by Distant from Peru in 1899, was found to be identical to



Figures 5.—11. *Polytes tigrinus* (Vollenhoven). Figure 5. Metathoracic wing. Figure 6. Prostethium. Figure 7. Ostiolar canal. Figure 8. Male clasper. Figure 9. Posterior view of male genital capsule. Figure 10. Male aedeagus, lateral view (H. B. = hyaline band). Figure 11. Male aedeagus, ventral view

Polytes lineolatus (Dallas), described from Columbia in 1851 as *Pachycoris lineolatus* Dallas (new synonymy). *P. inca* merely represents a fully marked individual of *lineolatus*. Because of its superficial resemblance to *P. tigrinus*, illustrations of a homotype of *inca* (= *lineolatus*) are included in this paper (figs. 3, 4). Note the differences are in the eunomic pattern on the head, thorax, and scutellum and in the shape of the head, thorax and scutellum. Although the large black areas on the dorsum of the fully marked specimens are lacking in many individuals of *lineolatus*,

the basic pattern of the reduced spots remains the same. Thus, as in the Saldidae, the eunomic patterns provide useful taxonomic characters. Several previous workers have discussed color variation in the Scutelleridae. Some of these include Lehmann (1922), who discussed and illustrated several color variations of *Polytes fenestra* Breddin; Barber and Bruner (1932 : 244—246), who treated *Augocoris illustris* (Fabricius), and mentioned surface texture as well as color; and Wagner (1951), who provided an extensive study of the variation in *Eurygaster* Laporte. Had some of the earlier workers been aware of these patterns, many synonyms could have been avoided. This eunomic variation has been observed in other Scutelleridae. A subsequent paper will deal with this variation in *Agonosoma* Laporte.

Acknowledgements

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