

Taxonomic notes on two species of *Pseudoscolia* (Hymenoptera, Crabronidae, Philanthinae) described by O. Radoszkowski

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Abstract

The type series of *Pseudoscolia maculata* Radoszkowski, 1876 consists of two species. The female from Kyzylkum (Kazakhstan) in the Berlin Museum is designated as the lectotype. The male described from Caucasus (type lost) is *Pseudoscolia ferruginea* Radoszkowski, 1880. *Pseudoscolia clavata* Kazenas, 1994, **syn. nov.** is newly synonymized with *Pseudoscolia maculata* Radoszkowski, 1876.

Key words: digger wasps, Azerbaijan, Kyzylkum, lectotype, new synonymy

Introduction

Octavius Wincenty Burmeister-Radoszkowski (1820–1895), of Polish nationality, a founding member of the Russian Entomological Society, its honorary member and active president (1867–1880), was a military man by education and profession, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant General in the Army of the Russian Empire. He was recognized authority on Hymenoptera. This side of his activity brought him greater fame than his military one (Dylewska *et al.* 1973; Popov 1960).

The period of Radoszkowski's entomological research coincided with the annexation of Central Asia to the Russian Empire, the development of Caucasus and the Far East, and the first comprehensive scientific exploration of these territories. Radoszkowski often received the first faunal material from his entomological friends, the military, and exiled Polish explorers of Siberia, on the basis of which he described many new species of Hymenoptera.

Radoszkowski used research methods that were advanced for his time—the study of the proboscoidal and stinging features, as well as a systematic comparative study of the male genitalia. However, from a modern point of view, Radoszkowski did not always describe new species fully and accurately, often ending up with synonyms; some of the species he described have not been found again, and others are not understood because of his superficial descriptions. Radoszkowski illustrated his works with good but not always accurate drawings of the genitalia and hidden sterna, sometimes describing and illustrating the genitalia and hidden sterna of different taxa under one name. All these circumstances make General Radoszkowski's collection the only source for understanding what he actually had in his hands, particularly because he did not designate holotypes when describing species, and type series (syntypes) could include several taxa.

After his retirement, Radoszkowski took his collection to Warsaw, Poland, and after his death it passed into the hands of his heirs. After being partially destroyed by transport during the two world wars and the non-return of loaned specimens, the collection now comprises over 30,000 specimens and is housed in the Institute of Systematic and Experimental Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Krakow, Poland, ISEK), the Museum für Naturkunde

This species belongs to the *Pseudoscolia theryi* species group which includes *P. angelae* (Kohl, 1891), *P. theryi* (Vachal, 1893) and *P. splendida* Giner Marí, 1945. It should be noted that *Pseudoscolia splendida* sensu Kazenas (2004: 149) is not conspecific with *P. splendida* Giner Marí, 1945. Taxonomical position of that species need clarification.

The most striking features of this group (according to the rules of priority, it should be called *P. ferruginea* species group) are the rounded head with eye margins conspicuously converging above, the posterior ocellus located close to the eye, the usually large size (9.0–13.0 mm) and a specific structure of the male foretarsus (Figs 4–5). It is not flattened, basitarsomerus with a deep ventral incision basally, tarsomerus IV shortened and tarsal rake markedly reduced (in all other *Pseudoscolia*, the male foretarsus is flattened, basitarsomerus without incision, tarsomerus IV long and tarsal rake well developed). The foretarsus of *Pseudoscolia angelae* was illustrated by de Beaumont & Bytinski-Salz (1959: 135, fig. 37b) and those of *P. theryi* and *P. splendida* by de Beaumont (1949: 201, figs 65, 66).

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