

SHORT COMMUNICATION

A new synonymy in *Alitocoris* Sailer (Hemiptera, Pentatomidae, Discocephalinae)

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ABSTRACT. A new synonymy in *Alitocoris* Sailer (Hemiptera, Pentatomidae, Discocephalinae). *Alitocoris manni* Sailer is considered a junior synonym of *Alitocoris brunneus* Sailer after the comparison of the holotypes with specimens from Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras.

KEYWORDS. Heteroptera; Ochlerini; stink bug; taxonomy.

RESUMO. Uma nova sinonímia em *Alitocoris* Sailer (Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Pentatomidae). *Alitocoris manni* Sailer é considerada sinônimo junior de *Alitocoris brunneus* Sailer após comparação dos holótipos com espécimes do México, El Salvador e Honduras.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE. Heteroptera; Ochlerini; percevejo-do-mato; taxonomia.

Sailer (1950) described *Alitocoris* based on five species from Central America: *A. schraderi* Sailer, 1950 (Guatemala and Costa Rica), *A. maculosus* Sailer, 1950 (Guatemala), *A. brunneus* Sailer, 1950 (Honduras), *A. manni* Sailer, 1950 (Guatemala), and *Macropygium parvum* Distant, 1880 (Panama); *A. schraderi* was designated as the type-species. Sailer (1950) considered *A. manni* very similar to *A. brunneus* in size, shape and structure, and compared both species to *A. parvum* (Distant), from which they were distinguished mainly by characteristics of genitalia. However, males were unknown for *A. manni*, while females were unknown for *A. brunneus*.

The genus and its species received little attention after the original descriptions. Rolston (1992) diagnosed *Alitocoris* without further considerations on the species. Campos & Grazia (2006) listed the species of Ochlerini known at that time, including those of *Alitocoris*.

The examination of additional specimens and comparison with photographs of the holotypes deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM numbers 59344 and 59345), allowed us to confirm that males of *A. brunneus* (Figs. 1–4) and females of *A. manni* (Figs. 5–8) are, in fact, conspecific. Among the specimens studied are males and females collected at the same locality in El Salvador, and even at the same locality and date in Mexico.

Considering that precedence between the two names cannot be objectively determined and priority cannot be applied (article 23.1), *A. manni* is herein assigned as a junior synonym of *A. brunneus*, in accordance to the statement of the

first reviser (article 24.2.2) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999). *Alitocoris brunneus* is chosen as senior synonym because it is represented by a male holotype, which bears a larger set of diagnostic characters when compared with the female holotype of *A. manni*. Characteristics of the male genitalia in pentatomids are often more diagnostic than those of female, and the correct identification of Discocephalinae species is frequently possible only by male characters, such as in *Paralincus* Rolston (Rolston 1983) and in *Antiteuchus* Dallas (Fernandes & Grazia 2006).

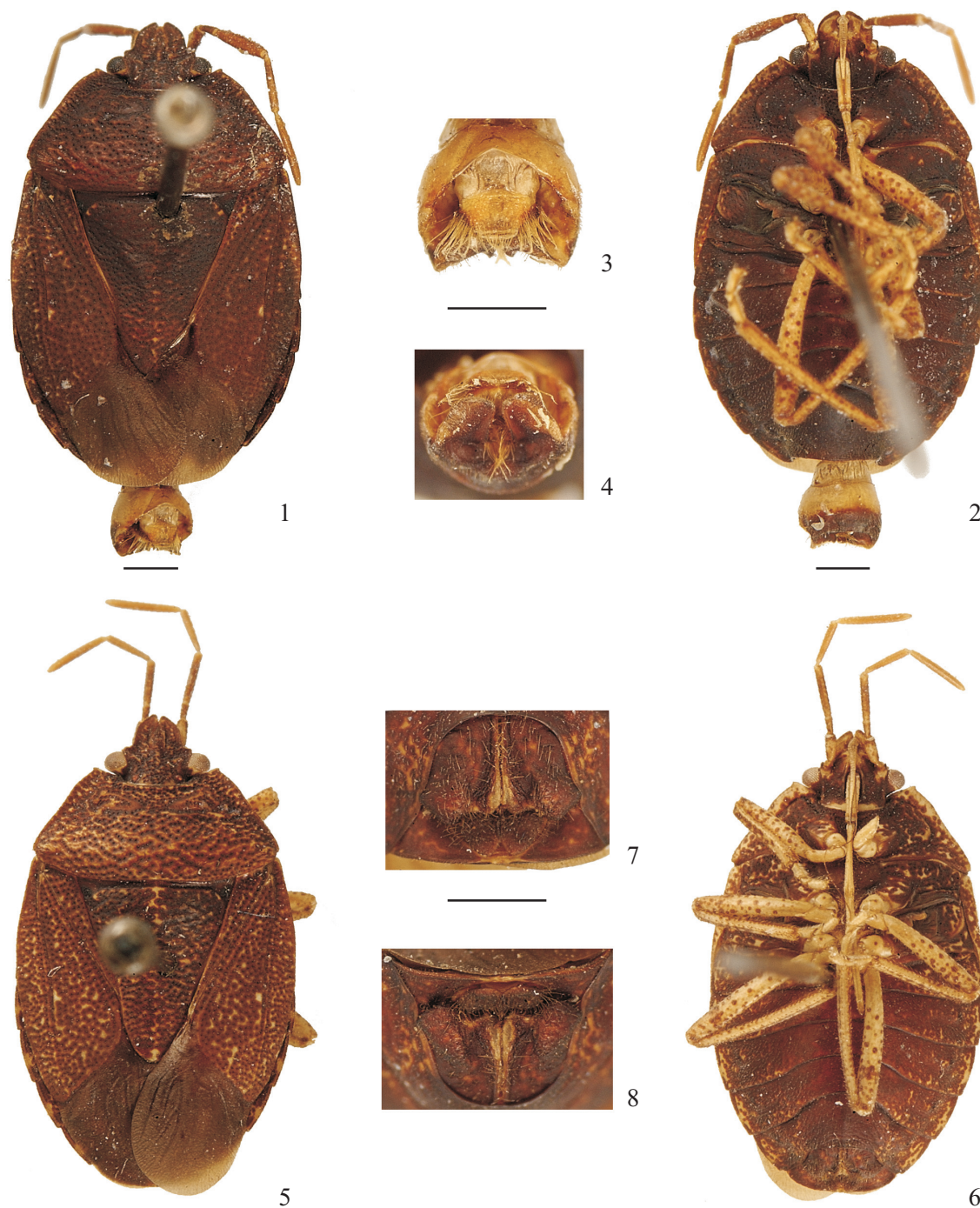
Alitocoris brunneus Sailer, 1950

Alitocoris brunneus Sailer, 1950: 74–75, plate 3 (figs. 6, 9, 19); Campos & Grazia, 2006: 153 (list).

Alitocoris manni Sailer, 1950: 75, plate 3 (figs. 7, 10, 15); Campos & Grazia, 2006: 153 (list) **syn. nov.**

Distribution. Mexico (new record), Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador (new record).

Material examined. Specimens used in this study (nine males and nine females) were loaned from the following collections, acronyms are according to Evenhuis (2010): American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), California Academy of Sciences (CAS), Donald B. Thomas Collection (DBTC), John E. Eger Collection (JEE), State Biological Survey of Kansas (KSBS), Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA).



Figs. 1–8. 1–4, *Alitocoris brunneus* Sailer, male holotype, respectively dorsal, ventral, pygophore dorsal and caudal (type USNM 59344); 5–8, *A. brunneus* female (holotype of *Alitocoris manni* Sailer), respectively dorsal, ventral, genital plates ventral and caudal (type USNM 59345). Scales = 1mm.

MEXICO, *Tamaulipas*: 1 female, El Encino (El Cielito), 28-30.VIII.1985, E. G. & T. J. Riley, [23.1333; -99.1167], collected at Mercury Vapor & Blacklight, *Alitocoris manni* Sailer det. D. A. Rider 1987 (JEE); *San Luis Potosi*: 1 female, Tamazunchale, 19.IV.1963, W. J. Gertsch & W. Ivie, [21.2667; -98.7833], *Alitocoris* sp. LHR 1972, *Alitocoris manni* Sailer, 1950 Campos det. 1999 (AMNH); 1 male, Tamazunchale, 25.V.1974, C. W. O'Brien & G. B. Marshall, [21.2667; -98.7833], at light, *Alitocoris manni* Sailer det. J. E. Eger, 2004 (JEE); 3 females and 2 males, Tamazunchale,

25.V.1974, C. W. O'Brien & G. B. Marshall, [21.2667; -98.7833], at light (JEE); 1 male, El Salto (Rio Salto), 12.VI.1970, R. E. Beer & Party, [23.7333; -100.9167], *Alitocoris manni* Sailer det. D. A. Rider 1986 (KSBS); 1 male, El Salto (nr. Antiguo Morelos), 29.VI.1953, D. Rockefeller Mex. Exp. 1953 C. & P. Vaurie, [23.7333; -100.9167], *Alitocoris brunneus* Sailer det. H.R. (AMNH); *Veracruz-Llave*: 1 female, Coatzacoalcos, 11.VIII.1966, J. & W. Ivil, [18.1500; -94.4167], *Alitocoris manni* Sailer det. L. H. Rolston 1987 (AMNH); *Chiapas*: 1 male, (RD to Apic-Pac, 35km N Ocozocoautla),

13.V.1990, D. B. Thomas, [16.7667; -93.3667], *Alitocoris brunneus* Sailer, 1950 Campos det. 1999 (DBTC); 1 male, Ocozocoautla (853m), 20.V.1972, D. E. Breedlow, [16.7667; -93.3667], at black light, H. Brailovsky A. det. *Alitocoris manni* Sailer (CAS); 1 female and 1 male, Ocozocoautla (853m), 20.V.1972, D. E. Breedlow, [16.7667; -93.3667], at black light (CAS). HONDURAS, *Francisco Morazán*: 1 female, (6km SE El Zamorano, 850m), 17.V.1994, H. & A. Hawden, [14.0167; -87.0333], thorn scrub, at light, *Alitocoris manni* Sailer, 1950 Campos det. 1999 (DBTC). EL SALVADOR, *La Libertad*: 1 female, Santa Tecla (900m), 18.V.1971, S. & L. Steinhäuser, [13.6769; -89.2797], No. B198, *Alitocoris manni* Sailer LHR 1984 (FSCA); 1 male, Santa Tecla (900m), 6.V.1972, S. & L. Steinhäuser, [13.6769; -89.2797], No. B280 (FSCA).

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