

RESEARCH NOTES

SCYTODES POENITENS CHAMBERLIN, NOT *PNOEITENS* (ARANEAE, SCYTODIDAE)

In his descriptions of new species from "the shores and islands of the Gulf of Baja California," Chamberlin (1924) showed a great propensity for scientific names with religious or philosophical meanings. For instance, he used such religious terms as *theologus*, *dogmaticus*, *agnosticus*, *reformans*, *protestans*, *calvanisticus* (sic), *catholicus*, and even *scepticus*, and *redempta*. Names with a philosophical reference are: *positivus*, *rationalis*, *empiricus*, *syntheticus*, *eclecticus*, *pragmaticus*, *realisticus*, *scholastica*, *philosophia*. Sometimes these names were used several times in different genera.

Among these was a new species, *Scytodes poenitens*, correctly spelled, and again misspelled in the same paper. Subsequent cataloguers perpetuated the misspelling (Bonnet 1958: 3988), or produced a new misspelling (Roewer 1942: 330). We correct these errors, and present our reasoning.

Scytodes poenitens Chamberlin

Scytodes poenitens Chamberlin 1924:572 (in a list of species of San Marcos Island).

Scytodes pnoeitens Chamberlin 1924:592 (description of the new species); Bonnet 1958: 3988 (printer's error).

Scytodes pnocitens Roewer 1942:330 (*lapsus calami* or printer's error).

The fact that Chamberlin's 1924 paper has two different spellings is sufficient to justify the correction, since there is in the original publication itself clear evidence of an inadvertent error (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1985: Art. 32c). The form *pnoeitens* of Chamberlin is clearly an error of the printer, who simply got the *n* in the wrong place. Roewer's (1942: 330) *pnocitens* is the result of a further error in which the printer, working from Roewer's handwriting, read the *e* as a *c*.

Chamberlin started with the correct *poenitens* (1924: 272) meaning "penitent", correctly formed as the present participle of the Latin verb *poeniteo*. Subsequent references are all misspelled.

LITERATURE CITED

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Manuscript received June 1988.