

DESIGNATION OF A LECTOTYPE FOR *PHRUROTIMPUS*
MINUTUS (ARANEAE: CLUBIONIDAE)

A problem often faced by practising taxonomists is the loss or deterioration of type-specimens, which are the name bearers of species. A holotype or syntypes definitely known to have been destroyed may be replaced by a neotype, provided the rather stringent conditions laid down by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature are met. If the type-specimens are partly or wholly in existence, the taxonomist's task is generally easier, though the condition of the specimens may be critical. In this paper we examine a nomenclatural problem in the clubionid genus *Phrurotimpus*, and take a first step toward its solution by designating a specimen from the original type-series as lecto-type.

The spider species *Phrurotimpus minutus* (Banks, 1892) was described, in the combination *Phrurolithus minutus*, from an unstated number of specimens collected along two gorges that empty into Cayuga Lake in northern New York State (Banks, N. 1892. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, pp. 11-81). Banks' description pertains solely to the adult female, though he included illustrations of both the epigynum and the adult male palpus. Because no reference was made to types, we can assume that the primary type-series consisted of at least one female and one male. Emerton (J. H. 1911. Trans. Connecticut Acad. Arts Sci. 16: 385-407) later collected and redescribed an adult male from Tyngsboro, Mass., and Kaston (B. J. 1948. Bull. Connecticut St. Geol. Nat. Hist. Surv. 70: 1-874) followed with new illustrations of Emerton's male and of an adult female from Woods Hole, Mass.

Phrurotimpus minutus is to be included in our forthcoming manual of sac spiders, which treats all of the species known or assumed to occur in Canada and Alaska. However, Banks' original figure of the epigynum is not sufficiently diagnostic to permit positive identification of the species. The female figured by Kaston (*loc. cit.*, fig. 1349), in our opinion, represents *P. dulcineus* Gertsch, 1941, a species of which the adult male is known and which differs specifically from the male that Banks identified as *P. minutus*. Examination of the type-series was essential; this was facilitated through the kindness of Dr. H. W. Levi, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZ).

The type vial of *P. minutus* contains the following: one adult female without appendages, one adult male with both palpi intact but without legs, one juvenile specimen without appendages, and the excised tarsus of an adult male palpus. The epigynum of the female is in poor condition, having the parts warped and darkened so as to obscure the outlines of the copulatory openings and spermathecae. Immersion in clove oil did not improve it. It is, in our opinion, unreasonable to attempt to diagnose *P. minutus* on the basis of this female, even though Banks heavily emphasized it in his original description. The two males in the type vial, on the other hand, are in full agreement with those illustrated by Banks, Emerton, and Kaston.

Few additional specimens of *P. minutus* have been collected. The MCZ has Emerton's male from Tyngsboro, MA. The American Museum of Natural History (Dr. N. I. Platnick, Curator) has three adult males collected respectively at Chicago, IL, Ithaca, NY, and Lakehurst, NJ. Other specimens labelled as *P. minutus* in these collections are misidentified representatives of other species.

We believe that stability of nomenclature is best served if Banks' figured (though not verbally described) male with intact palpi is regarded as part of an original syntype series

and designated as lectotype of *P. minutus*. This would permit diagnosis of the species in a way consistent with the diagnoses made by all subsequent authors who have dealt with it. The adult female of the species must, however, remain undiagnosed until specimens undisputably associated with adult males become available.

We therefore designate the syntype male as illustrated in Figure 67*b* of Banks (*loc. cit.*) as lectotype of *P. minutus*. This male is deposited in the MCZ and bears the following labels: *Phrurolithus minutus* Banks, 1892, Ithaca, NY, Nathan Banks Collection, LECTOTYPE MALE designated by Dondale and Redner 1979; Museum of Comparative Zoology. The original syntype female, the juvenile specimen, and the excised male palpal tarsus in the type vial are labelled PARALECTOTYPES (other data as for lectotype).

Charles D. Dondale and **James H. Redner**, Biosystematics Research Institute, Research Branch, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6.