

SHORT COMMUNICATION

On the date and organ of publication for the endemic Galápagos scorpion *Centruroides exsul* (Scorpiones: Buthidae) by Wilhelm Meise, with a revision of its distribution and type material

Markus Lambertz: Institut für Zoologie, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Poppelsdorfer Schloss, 53115 Bonn, Germany. E-mail: lambertz@uni-bonn.de

Abstract. There are conflicting statements in the literature about the date and organ of publication for the endemic Galápagos scorpion *Centruroides exsul* (Scorpiones: Buthidae) by Wilhelm Meise. In contrast to what the current authoritative taxonomic references suggest, this species was not described in 1934 but rather in 1933. Before the article containing the description finally was included in Volume 74 of the Norwegian journal *Nyt Magazin for Naturvidenskaberne* in 1934, it was distributed as a preprint in the form of Volume 39 of the separately issued series *Meddelelser fra det Zoologiske Museum, Oslo* in 1933. The latter publication, in full agreement with Article 21.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, has priority over the former and consequently has to be referred to when citing the original taxonomic reference. The present contribution furthermore reviews the distribution of this species and, due to loss and mislabeling, revises its type material.

Keywords: Ecuador, nomenclature, South America, taxonomy

Wilhelm Meise (1901–2002) is best known as a gifted and productive ornithologist who, as a doctoral student of Erwin Stresemann (1889–1972) at the Zoological Museum in Berlin in the 1920s and as a contemporary of Ernst Mayr (1904–2005), was part of a prominent group of early twentieth century scientists (Haffer 2003). For detailed information about his personal life and career, see also the accounts by Hoerschelmann (2002, 2003a). While the majority of his publications indeed focus on birds (Hoerschelmann 2003b), Meise showed a wide range of scientific interests and expertise. The most notable of these are probably his work in herpetology, which included the very first two publications of Willi Hennig (1913–1976) (Meise & Hennig 1932, 1935).

During his early years, Meise was employed at the Museum für Tierkunde in Dresden (Germany), where he also undertook an evaluation of the scorpions collected by Alf Wollebæk (1879–1960) during the latter's expedition to the Galápagos Islands in 1925. Wollebæk collected five specimens of a single species of scorpion, which in turn was described by Meise as the new subspecies *Rhopalurus testaceus exsul*.

A review of the Galápagos-relevant scorpion literature, however, revealed conflicting statements about the year and origin of publication for this species, which currently is known as *Centruroides exsul*. Although the name of the author of a given species does not form part of the taxon's name, its citation is strongly advisable (ICZN 1999: Art. 51.1 and Recommendation 51A) and in several journals is fortunately even required. Three different varieties of indication of authorship for this species are known to date:

“*Centruroides exsul* Meise, 1933”: Baert (2013): entry no. 93 (p. 15, but not paginated), only by year in the checklist, without citation in the reference section.

“*Centruroides exsul* (Meise, 1933)”: Kinzelbach (1973): p. 2.

Maury (1974): p. 19, mentioned only as “*Centruroides exsul* (Meise)” in the text, but with citation of the paper from 1933 in the reference section.

Kinzelbach (1982): p. 118.

Lourenço & Méndez (1984): p. 86 only by year in the text, without citation in the reference section.

Kovařík (2002): p. 6, only by year in the checklist, without citation in the reference section.

“*Centruroides exsul* (Meise, 1934)”: Sissom & Lourenço (1987): p. 22.

Fet & Lowe (2000): p. 104.

Since particularly the taxonomic revision by Sissom & Lourenço (1987) and also the comprehensive and authoritative catalog by Fet & Lowe (2000) use the differing “(Meise, 1934)” reference, and at least one of the major on-line taxonomic databases (GBIF 2013) follows this latter allocation, it seems justified to elucidate this formal issue here. This is especially true as not only the year, but also the journal title, differs between Meise (1933) and Meise (1934).

Indeed, there are two independently issued publications, namely the 1933 and the 1934 papers by Meise. However, both have exactly the same content and differ only in the title and heading on the first page (Fig. 1). The publication from 1933 turns out to be an offprint distributed separately and issued in form of the series *Meddelelser fra det Zoologiske Museum, Oslo*, ahead of the final inclusion of the article in the *Nyt Magazin for Naturvidenskaberne* in 1934. Although the entire volume of the latter appeared in 1934, Meise's article contains a note at the end that it was previously printed on 14 October 1933 (see Fig. 1). However, according to Article 21.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999), the preprint from 1933 unequivocally has priority and counts as the formal publication containing the species description. Since this paper was distributed as part of an individually and sequentially numbered series (*Meddelelser fra det Zoologiske Museum, Oslo*), this publication has to be used to give reference to the species description.

Due to certain additional inconsistencies in the literature, especially regarding the type material, it seems appropriate to provide a formal and revised account for this species, which includes the first photographic illustration of the holotype. Institutional abbreviations are NHMO for the Naturhistorisk Museum Oslo (Norway) and SMTD for the Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden Museum für Tierkunde (Germany).

Centruroides exsul (Meise 1933)

Fig. 2

Synonymy.—see Kinzelbach (1973:2; 1982:118) and Fet & Lowe (2000:104).

Type specimens.—Holotype female, close to the beach (“Strandregion”), Post Office Bay, Isla Floreana, Galápagos Archipelago, Ecuador, 16–20 September 1925, Alf Wollebæk (NHMO Ga 1062).

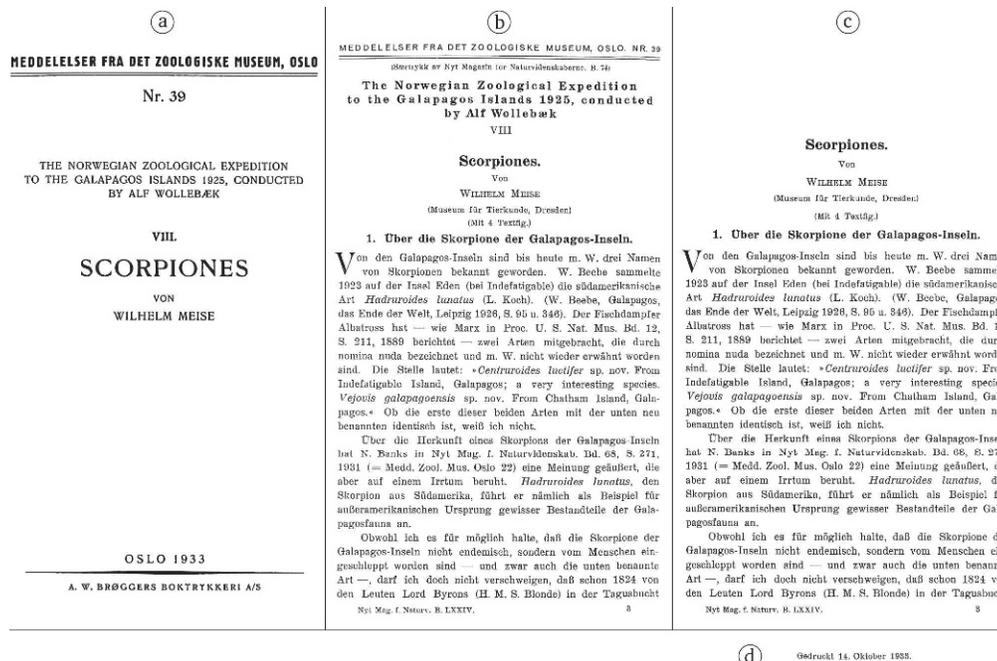


Figure 1a–d.—Reproductions of the bibliographically relevant aspects from the two publications by Wilhelm Meise. a. Cover sheet of the separately issued and individually bound preprint from 1933; b. Title page of this preprint; c. Title page of the final journal article from 1934, note—in comparison to the preprint from 1933—the lacking extra heading, slightly different vertical arrangement of the title, author’s name, etc., but identical body of text; d. Remark on the actual date of printing (14 October 1933) from the end (unpaginated page following p. 43) of the final journal article from 1934.

Paratype: 1 female, same locality as the holotype, 20–30 November 1925, Alf Wollebæk [SMTD “O 691”, not available (but see Remarks below)].

Distribution.—Española (= Hood): no specific locality [Banks 1902 (as “*Centrurus princeps* Karsch”); Jackson 1993; Baert 2013]. Floreana (= Santa María, Charles): “Post Office Bay” (type locality); Meise 1933; Kinzelbach 1973; Sissom & Lourenço 1987), no specific

locality [Butler 1877 (as “*Androctonus americanus* Linnaeus”); Jackson 1993]. Marchena (= Bindloe): “Cabo Espiño Camp” (Sissom & Lourenço 1987). Pinta (= Abingdon): “south coast” (Kinzelbach 1973; Sissom & Lourenço 1987), “south slope” (Sissom & Lourenço 1987), “South Playa” (Sissom & Lourenço 1987), no specific locality (Kinzelbach 1973; Jackson 1993; Kovařík 2002; Baert 2013). San Cristóbal (= Chatham): no specific locality (Kinzelbach 1973; Jackson 1993), “found only at an elevation of 1,000 feet in the interior island” [Snodgrass 1902 (as “*Centrurus princeps*”)]. San Salvador (= James, Santiago): no specific locality (Baert 2013). Santa Cruz (= Indefatigable): “Academy Bay” (Kinzelbach 1973; Sissom & Lourenço 1987; Kovařík 2002), “Table Mountain” (Kinzelbach 1973; Sissom & Lourenço 1987), no specific locality [Marx 1890 (as “*Centruroides luctifer* sp. nov.” *nomen nudum*); Kinzelbach 1973; Jackson 1993; Kovařík 2002; Baert 2013].

Possible non-Galápagos records.—Peru (no specific locality, interpreted as non-native, Sissom & Lourenço 1987), Panamá (Provincia de Chiriquí, record requires confirmation: Lourenço & Méndez 1984).

Remarks.—Beside the one from SMTD (see below), Fet & Lowe (2000:104) list an additional putative female paratype from the Zoologisk Museum Oslo (ZMO, today NHMO, Norway), which most likely has to be regarded as invalid. Meise (1933:27) explicitly designated the specimen with Wollebæk’s field number 40 (today, NHMO Ga 1062) as holotype and one specimen (with field number 21) from the Museum für Tierkunde in Dresden (O 691, SMTD, Germany) as paratype. He then wrote that beside these specimens, there were three additional females deposited at NHMO. However, he did not automatically designate them as paratypes, which is evident from the fact that he used the German singular for paratype (= Paratypus) and not the plural (= Paratypen). The whole passage in the original description reads: “Typus im Zoologisk Museum in Oslo, ♀ von Florana (sic), Post Office Bay, Strandregion, Wollebæk leg. Nr. 40 (16.–20. 9. 1925). Paratypus im Museum Dresden O 691, ♀ vom gleichen Fundort, Strandregion, 20.–30. 11.



Figure 2.—The holotype (NHMO Ga 1062) of *Centruroides exsul* (Meise 1933) along with its respective labels. Scale = 5.0 mm. Photo: Karsten Sund, Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Norway.

1925. Wollebæk leg. Nr. 21. Außerdem sind 3 ♀ vom gleichen Fundort im Museum zu Oslo (Nr. 25 ad. u. juv., Nr. 24, September bis Oktober).” Beside the holotype, there are currently four additional specimens deposited at NHMO, to all of which Sissom & Lourenço (1987: p. 22) referred as paratypes. They are still labeled with Wollebæk’s field numbers (24: one specimen under Ga 1061; 25: three specimens under Ga 1060). In fact, there seems to be no formal justification to treat any of these as a paratype. The only known initial paratype, originally deposited at SMTD (O 691), is not directly traceable today, although it appears plausible that this is the extra third specimen now deposited under Wollebæk’s field number 25 (which, according to Meise, originally were only two). However, due to the lack of an individual label (e.g., the original field tag with number 21) and the lack of any illustrations of the paratype, it is impossible to identify this specimen reliably today.

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