

On the genus *Maccevethus* Dallas (Heteroptera: Rhopalidae)

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Contrary to the opinion of Moulet (1994), the genus includes two species, *M. errans* (F.) and *M. corsicus* (Sign.), each with two subspecies.

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Josifov (1966) distinguished 4 species of *Maccevethus* (distribution completed from Putshkov, 1986): *M. errans* F., 1794 (NW Africa, Spain; apical part of paramere about 1.5 times as wide as long, with round margin), *M. caucasicus* Kol., 1845 (S Europe to E Kazakhstan and NW China; apical part of paramere about as wide as long, with parabolic margin), *M. corsicus* Sign., 1862 (S Europe to Azerbaijan; apical part of paramere more than twice as wide as long, with weakly convex margin) and *M. persicus* Jak., 1882 (E Iran to Mongolia; paramere as in *M. corsicus* but smaller and with shorter hypophysis, also the body smaller). For each species parameres of 5-7 specimens from various localities were figured by Josifov.

Putshkov & Kerzhner (1983) upgraded *M. caucasicus* to subspecies of *M. errans* and *M. persicus* to subspecies of *M. corsicus*. They noted that the distribution of the two species is widely overlapping while the distribution of subspecies within each species is continuous, differences between them are small, and specimens intermediate between the two subspecies of *M. corsicus* are found in Iran.

Moulet (1994) stated that *M. errans* and *M. caucasicus* are good species readily differing in the form of the parameres (with rounded and parabolic apical margin, respectively) and, contrary to Josifov, co-habiting in the area from Spain to Dalmatia. However none of his figures illustrates *M. errans* from the latter area; his figures illustrate specimens from the same regions as given by Josifov: *M. caucasicus* from France to Turkey and Lebanon, *M. errans* from Spain and NW Africa. The only exception is a specimen referred to *M. errans* and originating from Turkey (where distribution of *M. errans* is not given by Moulet). Examination of Moulet's figures (whether precise?) rather leads to conclusion that the two forms hardly can be distinguished and that Moulet's identifications are rather arbitrary: for example, the margin of paramere is regularly rounded in his *M.*

caucasicus from Turkey (Moulet's fig. 15) and obviously parabolic in his *M. errans* from Spain (fig. 27). I consider therefore that *M. errans* and *M. caucasicus* are merely subspecies: *M. e. errans* and *M. e. caucasicus*.

Moulet stated also that specimens resembling *M. persicus* and transitional to *M. corsicus* are found in the Mediterranean and therefore *M. persicus* cannot be maintained even as subspecies of *M. corsicus*. But of the four figures given by Moulet as "persicus" two (fig. 28, Malta, and fig. 29, Lebanon) obviously refer to *M. c. corsicus*, one (fig. 31, Algeria) to *M. e. errans* (*M. corsicus* does not occur in Africa!) and the only figure really referring to *M. c. persicus* (fig. 30, "Chine (Mongolie)", actually S Mongolia) agrees exactly with the differences given by Josifov. Having examined a large material of *M. corsicus*, I confirm that outside of the small transitional zone the two forms of this species readily differ and deserve subspecific rank.

References

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