

Myrmecaelurus fedtschenkoi McLachlan, 1875, currently
Lopezus fedtschenkoi: reversal of precedence relative
to *Myrmeleon conspurcatum* Kolenati, 1857
(Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae)

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The widely used specific name of the Palaearctic antlion *Lopezus fedtschenkoi* (McLachlan, 1875) is given precedence over that of its unused senior synonym *Myrmeleon conspurcatum* Kolenati, 1857.

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Myrmecaelurus fedtschenkoi McLachlan, 1875 (p. 4) was described from Uzbekistan. Ten specimens from the type series are kept in the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, one of them was designated as lectotype (Krivokhatsky, 1998c: 425).

Navás (1913: 449) established the genus *Lopezus* for *M. fedtschenkoi*. The species, currently divided into four subspecies, is distributed from the lower Volga (Russia) in the north to Saudi Arabia in the south, and from Algeria in the west to Mongolia in the east. The specific name was continuously used as valid, including no less than 25 publications by 17 authors in the last 50 years: Tjeder, 1954: 118; Pazhitnova & Kiranova, 1956: 97; Luppova, 1961: 200; 1987: 83; Yakhontov et al., 1962: 91; Hölzel, 1968: 6; 1969: 294; 1972: 24; 1982: 252; Krivokhatsky, 1990: 894; 1994: 496; 1995: 12; 1998a: 215; 1998b: 44; 1998c: 425; Oswald & Penny, 1991: 33; Zakharenko & Krivokhatsky, 1993: 68; Zakharenko, 1994a: 169; 1994b: 104; Aspöck & Hölzel, 1996: 70; Aspöck et al., 1996: 197; Krivokhatsky et al., 1996: 150; Krivokhatsky & Anikin, 1996: 54; Krivokhatsky & Zakharenko, 1996: 62; Krivokhatsky & Piryulin, 1997: 1154.

Myrmeleon conspurcatum was described by Kolenati (1857: 502) from unstated number of specimens (much probably one) collected by J. Lehmann in 1840 at Novoalexandrovsk (currently Fort Shevchenko, Kazakhstan). The only

known syntype is a slightly damaged male (with broken tip of abdomen) in the Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg, bearing two handwritten labels: "Nov. Alex." and "*Myrmeleon conspurcatum* Kolenati". The first label is identical to labels of other insects collected by Lehmann at Novoalexandrovsk (for a list see Ménétrés, 1849) and the second is undoubtedly in Kolenati's handwriting as proved by comparison with type specimens of other insects described by Kolenati. The mentioned syntype was designated as lectotype (Krivokhatsky, 1995). It belongs to *Lopezus fedtschenkoi* (McLachlan), Kolenati's name having priority over McLachlan's. But *Myrmeleon conspurcatum* is a *nomen oblitum*, this name was mentioned after publication in the lists of synonyms only. It was considered by Hagen (1866: 437) as a probable synonym of *Myrmeleon tabidus* Eversmann, 1841, and by McLachlan (1872: 32) and Brauer (1876: 289) as a probable synonym of *Creagris plumbeus* (Olivier, 1811). Recently, *M. conspurcatum* has been placed by Hölzel (1972: 60) in synonymy with *Creoleon lugdunensis* (Villers, 1789), among synonyms of which have been included both *tabidus* and *plumbeus*. Then (Aspöck et al., 1980: 308), *M. conspurcatum* was listed among synonyms of *Creoleon plumbeus* (Ol.) separated from *C. lugdunensis* (Vill.).

In accordance with Article 23.9 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 4th

edition, the name *fedtschenkoi* McLachlan, 1875 (nomen protectum) is given precedence over its senior synonym *conspurcatum* Kolenati, 1857 (nomen oblitum). The case was considered by ICZN (2000), but the evidence that the conditions of Article 23.9.1.2 were met has not been given.

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