

Scantius subapterus (Spinola, 1837) is a synonym of *S. forsteri* (Fabricius, 1781) (Heteroptera: Pyrrhocoridae)

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Kerzhner, I.M. 2002. *Scantius subapterus* (Spinola, 1837) is a synonym of *S. forsteri* (Fabricius, 1781) (Heteroptera: Pyrrhocoridae). *Zoosystematica Rossica*, 10(2), 2001: 360.

S. subapterus (Spin.), considered in all catalogues a species inquirenda, has been actually placed in synonymy with *S. forsteri* (F.) as early as by Herrich-Schaeffer (1847).

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Spinola (1837, p. 179) described a new pyrrhocorid species "*Astemma sub-apterum*" from male (apparently, from a single specimen) given by Sturm. "*Lygaeus*, Hagembach" was cited in synonymy and the type locality was given as "Barbaria", which has been sometimes interpreted as Algeria or Morocco in subsequent publications. The type specimen is apparently lost, as it is missing from Spinola's collection (Casale, 1981). The species was transferred to the genus *Scantius* Stål, 1866 by Stål (1870). *S. subapterus* (Spinola, 1837) was considered a species inquirenda and cited only in various catalogues (e.g., Lethierry & Severin, 1894; Oshanin, 1906; Hussey & Sherman, 1929; Stichel, 1959; Kerzhner, 2001).

Actually, the identity of Spinola's species has been clarified as early as by Herrich-Schaeffer (1847, p. 103). He figured a female received by him from Sturm as "*P[yrhcoris] subapterus* Hag." and stated that it does not differ from *P. forsteri* (now *Scantius forsteri*). As the species name, its attribution to Hagembach, and the donator's name (Sturm) coincide, and as *Astemma* is a synonym of *Pyrrhocoris*, one can hardly doubt that Spinola and Herrich-Schaeffer examined the same species. The short Spinola's description fits the characters of *S. forsteri* rather well. Accordingly, *Astemma subapterum* Spinola, 1837 should be added to the long list of synonyms of *Scantius forsteri* (Fabricius, 1781).

Probably, Spinola did not know any exact locality for *A. subapterus* and used "Barbaria" only as a suspicion. Herrich-Schaeffer stated that, according to Sturm, the specimen was probably

collected from Java. Actually *S. forsteri* is distributed in tropical Africa, Egypt and SW Asia; there are no records either from North Africa outside of Egypt or from Indonesia.

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Received 20 March 2002