THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF OLIGOTYLUS VAN DUZEE AND LEPTOTYLUS VAN DUZEE, WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PSALLUS

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E. P. Van Duzee (1916) in his synoptic keys to the genera of North American Miridae described three new genera of the subfamily Phylinae for which no species were included. These genera were *Strophopoda, Oligotylus* and *Leptotylus.* Van Duzee assumed that these generic names were invalid in the above mentioned paper and noted that he intended to validate them later by the publication of included species. He did this, however, only in the case of *Strophopoda*[3] by the description in 1921 of *Strophopoda aprica.* This species becomes the type species of *Strophopoda* by subsequent designation. In the cases of *Leptotylus* and *Oligotylus,* no species have been included in these genera. Opinion 46 of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature establishes the principal that genera described without the inclusion of any species are valid. *Leptotylus* and *Oligotylus* therefore must be considered validly establish genera. It seems essential that type species be assigned to these generic names so that a type species inadvertently or accidentally assigned may not cause the synonymy of well known generic names proposed subsequent to 1916.

Dr. E. S. Ross of the California Academy of Sciences has kindly checked the Van Duzee collection of Miridae in an attempt to locate specimens bearing labels of either of these genera. Five specimens under the name *Oligotylus* have been located and prove to pertain to a new species of *Psallus* described below. We hereby designate as type species of *Oligotylus* Van Duzee, *Psallus brevitylus* new species. *Oligotylus* Van Duzee 1916 is therefore a junior synonym of *Psallus* Fieber 1858.

In the case of *Leptotylus,* no specimens under this name appear to be present in the Van Duzee collections. The type species of *Leptotylus* Van Duzee is here designated as *Microphylellus longirostris* Knight. This is a species that agrees in all essentials with the generic description of *Leptotylus. Leptotylus* Van Duzee 1916 is therefore a junior synonym of *Microphylellus* Reuter 1909.

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[3] Carvalho (1952) dates **Strophopoda** from 1921, but as noted above the genus should actually date from 1916.

Psallus brevitylus Slater and Knight, new species

General coloration black, second antennal segment and extreme apex of first segment light tan, second segment becoming darker brown on apical one-third, segments three and four dark brown; thoracic pleura narrowly margined with testaceous to dull white; femora dull testaceous marked with a series of large prominent, black spots and armed with conspicuous black spines; thickly clothed with decumbent, sericeous, flattened hairs, these interspersed with semierect blackened hairs, the latter abundant and conspicuous on upper surface of head.

Head strongly declivent, much more abruptly so than in *nigerrimus*. Width across eyes .81 mm. (.78-.85), interocular space .43 mm.; rostrum short, length .85 mm., attaining posterior margin of mesosternum, basal segment subequal to length of first antennal segment, length of this basal segment .21 mm.; length antennal segments, I .21 mm., II .92 mm., III .58 mm. (.50-66), IV .31 mm. (28-.33). Length pronotum .71 mm., width pronotum 1.25 mm. (1.14-1.28)), length scutellum .61 mm. (57-.64). Lateral margins of corium moderately and evenly rounded, membrane exceeding apex of abdomen by distance caudad of apex of cuneus. Total length 3.51 mm. (3.27-3.69); maximum width across hemelytra 1.50 mm. (1.35-1.56).

Holotype: Male, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 5-20-13 (E. P. Van Duzee). In California Academy of Sciences collection. Allotype: SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 6-8-13 (E. P. Van Duzee). Same deposition as holotype. Paratypes: 3 males, same date as holotype and allotype. Deposited in the California Academy of Sciences and private collections of the authors.

This new species is most closely related to *nigerrimus* (Van Duzee) with which species it agrees in coloration and particularly by the possession of the large black tibial spots and spines. It may readily be separated from *nigerrimus* by the much shorter rostrum that reaches only to the posterior margin of the mesosternum, whereas in *nigerrimus* the rostrum reaches or slightly exceeds the posterior coxae. In *nigerrimus* the basal segment of the rostrum is considerably longer than the first antennal segment (.36 to .21) whereas in *brevitylus* the two are subequal. In *brevitylus* the second antennal segment is light brown rather than black, the interocular space somewhat broader (*brevitylus* .43 mm., *nigerrimus* .36-.39 mm.), the black semierect hairs on the head more numerous and extending further anteriorly on the frons. The shape of the anterior portion of the head shows considerable difference in the two species being more strongly declivent in *brevitylus* and as a consequence less strongly produced forward.