

Case 3596***Eusparassus* Simon, 1903 (Arachnida Araneae, SPARASSIDAE): proposed conservation of the generic name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the widely used generic name *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903 for a well-known huntsman spider genus from Africa and Eurasia currently with 30 known valid species. The name is threatened by its little-used senior synonym *Cercetius* Simon, 1902. Simon (1902) established the name *Cercetius* for a monotypic taxon based on a juvenile specimen of *C. perezi* Simon, 1902. The generic name has never been used as valid except in catalogues and other lists. The discovery of adult specimens of *C. perezi* in the type locality and nearby regions supports the synonymy of *Cercetius* with *Eusparassus*. The putative junior synonym *Eusparassus* is however a long-accepted name and it should be conserved to maintain stability of nomenclature in this taxonomic group.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; *Eusparassus*; *Cercetius*; *Cercetius perezi*; *Eusparassus dufouri*; huntsman spiders; Persian Gulf; Arabian Peninsula.

1. The genus *Cercetius* Simon, 1902 (p. 253) is a monotypic taxon based on *Cercetius perezi* Simon, 1902. The immature holotype (MNHN 1658–21936) was collected in 1901 during the French mission to the coastal terrestrial regions of the Persian Gulf conducted by J. Bonnier and Ch. Perez. The type locality is Dibba, a coastal geographic region at the northeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. Dibba currently lies in the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman. Simon (1902) stated the close similarities in traits between *Cercetius* and *Eusparassus* (sub *Sparassus*), in particular the arrangement and relative size of the eyes. He classified *Cercetius* in the subfamily SPARASSINAE. *Cercetius perezi* was cited again by Simon (1903, p. 1026) as a new record from Somalia. Since this time, the monotypic genus *Cercetius* has been used only in catalogues, i.e. Petrunkevich (1928) and Platnick (2012), and a generic checklist and identification key (Jäger & Kunz, 2005).

2. *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903 (pp. 1020, 1023, 1025) is a well-known huntsman spider genus in Africa and Eurasia currently with 30 known nominal species. Moradmand & Jäger (2012) revised the genus *Eusparassus* in Eurasia and presented

the diagnostic characters of this genus. The type species is *Eusparassus dufouri* Simon, 1932 (p. 890), which was proposed for specimens originally mistakenly identified as *Sparassus argelasius* by Latreille (1818).

3. The genus *Sparassus* Walckenaer, 1805 originally included five species one of which was '*Sparassus argelasius*' based on a single male from Bordeaux, France. Walckenaer (1805, p. 40) presented no description or illustration of '*S. argelasius*', which is therefore a nomen nudum. The following year, Walckenaer (1806, p. 146, table 2) provided a description and illustration of this male specimen under the name *Sparassus argelasius*. This species is currently assigned to the genus *Olios* Walckenaer, 1837. Jäger (1999) proposed the synonymy of *Sparassus* Walckenaer, 1805 with *Micrommata* Latreille, 1804.

4. Latreille (1818, pp. 516, 517) examined two female specimens from Spain and mistakenly identified them as '*Micromata argelasia*'. *Micromata* was an incorrect original spelling of *Micrommata* in Latreille (1804); Latreille (1806, pp. 115, 127) amended the spelling of the genus name into '*Micrommata*'. According to Articles 32.2.2 and 33.2.2 of the Code this is a justified emendation and the incorrect original spelling ('*Micromata*') is considered a lapsus calami (original Greek word: το ομμα — eye). Latreille (1806) used *Micrommata* for the first time and used it in this format in his following publications (e.g. Latreille, 1817, p. 92; 1818, p. 515); see Bonnet (1957, p. 2886) for all citations also of subsequent authors. Latreille (1818, p. 516) again used erroneously the incorrect spelling *Micromata* (which was probably a typographical error) along with the correct spelling on p. 515).

5. Simon (1903, p. 1020) noted that *S. argelasius* Walckenaer, 1805 was a nomen nudum and did not enter nomenclature. He considered that Latreille (1818) provided the valid description for Walckenaer's species as *Micrommata argelasia*, but it is likely that Simon (1903) overlooked the valid description of *S. argelasius* Walckenaer, 1806. Simon (1903, p. 1025) established a new genus *Eusparassus* and designated Latreille's (1818) *Micrommata argelasia* (based on the misidentified female specimens) as the type species. Simon (1932, pp. 889, 890) pointed out the misidentification by Latreille (1818) and established the name *E. dufouri* for Spanish specimens previously misidentified as '*Sparassus argelasius*' by Latreille. Simon (1932) designated *E. dufouri* as the type species of the genus *Eusparassus* and assigned Walckenaer's '*Sparassus argelasius*' to the genus *Olios* Walckenaer, 1836. The type species of *Eusparassus* was misidentified under the name '*E. argelasius*', thus *dufourii* was selected as the valid specific name for the type species of the genus *Eusparassus*. This designation meets the conditions of Article 70.3.2 (Misidentified type species). According to Article 72.4.2, the type series of *E. dufouri* consists of the female specimens which had been misidentified (*M. argelasia* sensu Latreille, 1818). Since it is generally understood that the material of Latreille in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris) is lost, a neotype of *E. dufouri* was designated, properly described and illustrated by Moradmand & Jäger (2012).

6. Specimens that were later assigned to *Eusparassus* were apparently known to Simon prior to proposing the name *Cercetius*, at least since 1880 (Simon 1880, p. 290). Additionally, *Eusparassus* is the type genus of the family-group name EUSPARASSIDAE Järvi, 1912, which even if no longer used as a family name (Jäger, 1999), is still an available name as subfamily EUSPARASSINAE (e.g. Dunlop et al., 2011; Moradmand & Jäger, 2012).

7. *Cercetius* (due to its juvenile type) has never been properly diagnosed. Somatic features of the holotype of *C. perezii* fit well with those of the genus *Eusparassus*. The cheliceral dentition, intermarginal denticles of the chelicerae, arrangement of the eyes, spination pattern, leg formula and presence of a dark marking on the ventral opisthosoma seen in the immature holotype are found in the newly discovered adult specimens from the type locality and nearby regions. The copulatory structures of the adults clearly place *C. perezii* in the genus *Eusparassus*: male with a parallel U-shaped tegulum and embolus, presence of an embolus membrane near to the embolus tip, a well-developed dorsal RTA (Retro-lateral tibial apophysis) and a ventral RTA reduced in size; female's epigyne with two large lateral lobes, simply long and parallel copulatory ducts which lead to more complex turning loops and a glandular process (Moradmand; in preparation).

8. *Eusparassus* is a long-accepted name and has been widely used after its original designation in 1903 in at least 25 taxonomic papers (Simon, 1909, 1932; Strand, 1906, 1907, 1908; Järvi, 1912, 1914; Reimoser, 1919; Roewer, 1928, 1962; Gravely, 1931; Caporiacco, 1935, 1939, 1941; Schenkel, 1936; Denis 1945, 1947, 1958; Barrientos & Urones, 1985; Jäger, 1999, 2001; Song et al., 1999; Jäger & Yin, 2001; Jäger & Kunz, 2005; Urones, 2006), in four catalogues and faunistic studies (Petrunkovich, 1928; Roewer, 1955; Deltchev, 2011; Platnick, 2012), one palaeozoological (amber) investigation (Dunlop et al., 2011) and one contribution to developmental biology and natural history (Gabriel, 2011).

9. For the sake of nomenclatural stability we request that the junior name *Eusparassus* be given precedence over the senior synonym *Cercetius*. Article 23.9.2 cannot be applied because *Cercetius* was established in 1902, thus the conditions of Article 23.9.1.1 are not met. However the conditions of Article 23.9.1.2 are met, since the junior synonym *Eusparassus* has been used in 31 publications, published by 27 different authors. Therefore we refer this case to the Commission for a ruling under the plenary power.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903 precedence over *Cercetius* Simon, 1902, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903, type species by subsequent designation by Simon (1932) *Eusparassus dufouri* Simon, 1932, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Cercetius* Simon, 1902, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Cercetius* Simon, 1902, type species by monotypy *Cercetius perezii* Simon, 1902, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *dufourii* Simon, 1932, as published in the binomen *Eusparassus dufouri* Simon, 1932, the specific name of the type species of *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903;
 - (b) *perezii* Simon, 1902, as published in the binomen *Cercetius perezii* Simon, 1902, the specific name of the type species of *Cercetius* Simon, 1902.

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