

**On the holotype of *Trichoceble cincta* PIC, 1929  
(Coleoptera: Rhadalidae), and transfer of the species to  
the genus *Jelinekius* MAJER, 1990**

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Abstract

The holotype of *Trichoceble cincta* PIC, 1929 was re-examined because PEACOCK (1987) indicated that the species in question does not belong to the genus *Trichoceble* THOMSON, 1859. Based on the characters of the holotype, *T. cincta* is transferred to the genus *Jelinekius* MAJER, 1990, with the resulting new combination: *Jelinekius cinctus* (PIC, 1929) comb.n. In addition, histories of species discovery, specimen handling and taxonomic study are reconstructed from label data and literature.

**Key words.** Rhadalidae, *Jelinekius*, new combination, history, systematics, taxonomy, type study.

Zusammenfassung

Der Holotypus von *Trichoceble cincta* PIC, 1929 wurde erneut untersucht, weil PEACOCK (1987) darauf hindeutete, dass die betreffende Art nicht zur Gattung *Trichoceble* THOMSON, 1859 gehört. Basierend auf den Merkmalen des Holotypus wird *T. cincta* in die Gattung *Jelinekius* MAJER, 1990 transferiert, mit der daraus resultierenden neuen Kombination: *Jelinekius cinctus* (PIC, 1929) comb.n. Darüber hinaus wird die Geschichte der Entdeckung der Art, der Handhabung des Exemplars und des taxonomischen Studiums anhand von Etikettendaten und Literatur rekonstruiert.

Introduction

Heretofore, the genus *Jelinekius* MAJER, 1990 (Coleoptera: Rhadalidae: Rhadalinae: Trichoceblini) comprised four valid species, viz. *J. brunneus* MAJER, 1990, *J. minor* MAJER, 1990, *J. persicus* MAJER, 1990 (all three from Iran), and *J. prisniyi* KOVALENKO, 2017 (from Tajikistan). In what follows, a fifth species is added to the list. A singleton, which is steeped in history (reconstructed below), is transferred from the genus *Trichoceble* THOMSON, 1859 to *Jelinekius*. Its systematic placement has been known to the author since the start of his studies two decades ago, but confirmation through a type study was not possible until recently. The present communication represents the first result of an ongoing taxonomic revision of the genus *Jelinekius* (Plonski, in prep.), which was started in 2007.

Material and methods

One specimen was selected for the present communication. It is dry preserved in the Natural History Museum London, United Kingdom (henceforth abbreviated as NHMUK).



Figs 1–4: Holotype of *Jelinekius cinctus* (Pic, 1929) comb.n. (1) body (dorsal), detached abdomen; (2) median lobe (ventral); (3) right hindwing (dorsal); (4) labels. Original photos by © K. Matsumoto / NHMUK; digitally edited by the author.

The holotype was borrowed from the NHMUK from March to October 2015. During this period of time, it was studied and directly compared with other voucher specimens several times. An Olympus SMZ 10 stereo-microscope was used in this process.

The author understands the name- and character-bearing holotype as a naturefact, viz. as a naturally occurring object taken from its natural environment and used as a tool for the science of biological taxonomy. Note that, when a naturefact is modified to improve its usability for some purpose, it becomes a genuine artifact (HILPINEN 2011). Thus, the holotype as a mount can be further appreciated and understood like a work of art. By converting the psycho-historical framework for the science of art appreciation by BULLOT & REBER (2013a, b) into a similar approach for the science of biological taxonomy (Plonski, unpubl.), the author has found a way to understand both research on the given specimen and the researchers behind it, resulting in the multi-faceted history detailed below.

## Results

### *Jelinekius cinctus* (Pic, 1929) comb.n.

*Trichocelebe cincta* Pic, 1929: 1 (original description).

*Julistus cinctus*: Pic 1937: 47 (catalogue).

*Trichocelebe cincta*: PEACOCK 1987: 158 (note, checklist). – MAYOR 2007: 414 (catalogue).

Type locality. “Kurdistan” (Pic 1929) and “Penjwin, 4.500 ft., (...) orchards up the hills immediately behind the town (...) and (...) a ravine nearby” (SCOTT 1929: 78–79) = the hilly environment (northern side of Jabal Kani Shawkat, ca. 1371 m a.s.l.) just

south of Penjwen city (35° 37'26" N, 45°56'57" E); Penjwen subdistrict & district, Sulaymaniyah governorate, Kurdistan autonomous region, Iraq. – The current situation can be seen in Figure 5.

Type material examined. Holotype (♂; in NHMUK) labelled as in Figure 4.

Condition and handling history of the holotype. The specimen was originally pinned through the right elytron by H. Scott, and was subsequently remounted and partly dissected by E.R. Peacock: the body, its detached abdomen, unseparated terminalia, and aedeagus separated into tegmen and median lobe (Figs 1, 2) were mounted on the same rectangle cardboard, and one hindwing (Fig. 3) on a separate cardboard, which is affixed below the former onto the same pin. The present author did not alter this condition, i.e., did not remount the terminalia, because the chemical composition and water-solubility of the totally clear mounting medium is unknown. The order of the labels (Fig. 4) has been modified over time: the original patria-collector label handwritten by H. Scott himself (pin hole on left side) is followed by an acquisition-label of the NHMUK (pin hole on left side); these are followed by a desideratum-label (with three pin holes) and the original determinator-label (with five pin holes), both handwritten and attached by M. Pic in 1929; during a subsequent curation, a circular typus-label was attached but placed atop the aforementioned; later, a handwritten note pertaining to the determination key by REITTER (1902) was attached (most likely by E.R. Peacock in the 1980s); in October 2015, the author attached revisionary typus- and determinator-labels; and in March 2023, a label with QR-code and type-number was attached by K. Matsumoto.

History of species discovery and taxonomic studies. Hugh Scott (\*1885, †1960) travelled Iraqi Kurdistan in 1928, during his brief position as an agricultural entomologist for the British administration of Iraq (THOMPSON 1961). On June 25<sup>th</sup>, he visited greengage orchards and a ravine next to Penjwen (SCOTT 1929), where he collected



Fig. 5: Current situation of the type locality. Source: Google Earth (Imagery © CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies; Data © 2023; digitally edited by the author).



among other insects a unique rhadalid beetle specimen. The singleton was communicated to Maurice Pic (\*1866, †1957), who recognized it as new to science and shortly described it as *Trichoceble cincta* PIC, 1929. Over half a century later, the monotype was studied by Enid Rowena Peacock (\*1928, †2005), who noted characters not mentioned by PIC (1929) and unusual for the genus *Trichoceble* THOMSON, 1859. PEACOCK (1987) concluded that *T. cincta* could be transferred to another genus (see next paragraph). The genus in question was not defined back then, and Peacock did not define a new one in her generic revision of the Rhadalinae, probably because her correspondent Karel Majer (\*1949, †2000) planned to do so: Majer designated the types of *J. persicus* (typus generis), *J. brunneus*, and of *J. minor* in 1984 (see HÁJEK & ŠVIHLA 2012: 631 f. for detailed label data), but his *Jelinekius* was eventually published in 1990.

Systematic placement of the species. PEACOCK (1987: 158) wrote about the holotype: “*Trichoceble cincta* PIC from Kurdistan could possibly be a different genus as its wing venation is much weaker and no anal cell is present. It also differs in having narrower pronotum, strongly rimmed punctures with a pattern round each one (making them look flower-like). Also, it is light brown, except for the black head, which is not the usual coloration in *Trichoceble*.” The genus in question was defined subsequently by MAJER (1990), who erected *Jelinekius* for three species from Iran. The following list of characters possessed by the holotype allow the transfer of the species to the genus *Jelinekius* MAJER, 1990: (1) body coloration predominantly light brown, except head capsule blackish and extremities yellowish; (2) pubescence rather long and yellowish; surface structure of dorsum consisting of (3) rimmed punctures with radially arranged wrinkles on head and pronotum (cf. MAJER 1990: fig. 7), and of (4) non-confluent double punctures on elytra (cf. MAJER 1990: fig. 9); (5) antennae distinctly pectinate from fourth antennomere onwards; (6) pronotum distinctly more slender than elytra at the humeri; (7) male pygidium crescent shaped (cf. MAJER 1990: fig. 16); tegmen with (8) parameres less sclerotized (cf. MAJER 1990: figs 17, 30); (9) dorsal lever of median lobe with a long, thin posterior apophysis (cf. MAJER 1990: figs 17, 30); (10) dorsal lever of median lobe with a median apophysis (cf. MAJER 1990: figs 28, 36).

## Outlook

*Jelinekius cinctus* (PIC, 1929) comb.n. shall be re-described and re-diagnosed in a future contribution to the knowledge of the genus *Jelinekius* MAJER, 1990 (Plonski, in prep.), because the most comparable congeners known to the author are undescribed forms distributed in the Iranian Zagros mountain range, i. e., there is a population from Ilam closely resembling the holotype, and two other population samples from Lorestan and Fars, which differ more or less subtly in eidonomy (Plonski, unpubl. data).

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