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Designation of a neotype for *Paratrechina currens* Motschoulsky, 1863

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Recently LaPolla et al. (2010) divided the genus *Paratrechina* (sensu lato) into three separate genera: *Nylanderia*, *Paraparatrechina*, and *Paratrechina*. This decision was based on the combination of a robust molecular phylogeny and morphological data. Since the publication of that paper it has come to our attention that there could be some confusion regarding the type species for the genus *Paratrechina*. In this note we confirm that *P. currens* (now a junior synonym of *P. longicornis*; see below) is the type species for *Paratrechina* and has been for nearly 100 years.

In 1863 Motschoulsky established the genus *Paratrechina*, within which he described two species, *P. currens* and *P. vagabunda*. As was standard for the time period, Motschoulsky did not nominate a type species for his newly established genus. In 1892, Emery synonymized *P. currens* Motschoulsky (1863) under *P. longicornis* (Latreille, 1802). Since that time no author has questioned the validity of this synonymy (see Bolton, 2003).

Wheeler (1911) unambiguously designated *P. currens* as the type species of *Paratrechina*. Therefore, under Article 69.1.1 of the ICZN, *P. currens* becomes the valid type species for *Paratrechina*. The Code (ICZN, 1999) states:

"Article 69.1.1. In the absence of a prior type fixation for a nominal genus or subgenus, an author is deemed to have designated one of the originally included nominal species as type species, if he or she states (for whatever reason, right or wrong) that it is the type or type species, or uses an equivalent term, and if it is clear that that author accepts it as the type species."

Unfortunately, the type material of *P. currens* cannot be located and is assumed to have been lost. Therefore, in the interest of stabilizing the nomenclature within the *Prenolepis* genus-group (sensu LaPolla et al., 2010), in particular the genus-group names *Paratrechina* and *Nylanderia*, we here establish a neotype for *P. currens* (Figure 1). The label data for this neotype reads "Bangkok, Thailand, P. Jolivet, 18 November 1970, Hydnophytum". This neotype specimen is housed in the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, Australia, with ANIC Specimen Database number ANIC32-053687. We take this action under article 75.1 of the Code (ICZN, 1999), which states:

"Article 75.1. Definition. A neotype is the name-bearing type of a nominal species-group taxon designated under conditions specified in this Article

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when no name-bearing type specimen (i.e. holotype, lectotype, syntype or prior neotype) is believed to be extant and an author considers that a name-bearing type is necessary to define the nominal taxon objectively. The continued existence of paratypes or paralectotypes does not in itself preclude the designation of a neotype."

With this action, there can be no doubt as to the identity of the type species for *Paratrechina*. As all other authors have done since Emery (1892), we consider *P. currens* a junior synonym of *P. longicornis*. Examination of the neotype demonstrates that it matches *P. longicornis* by possessing: 5 mandibular teeth, long scapes, a low profile, elongated mesosoma, with a low-dome shaped dorsal face of the propodeum. For a full diagnosis of *Paratrechina* see LaPolla et al. (2010).

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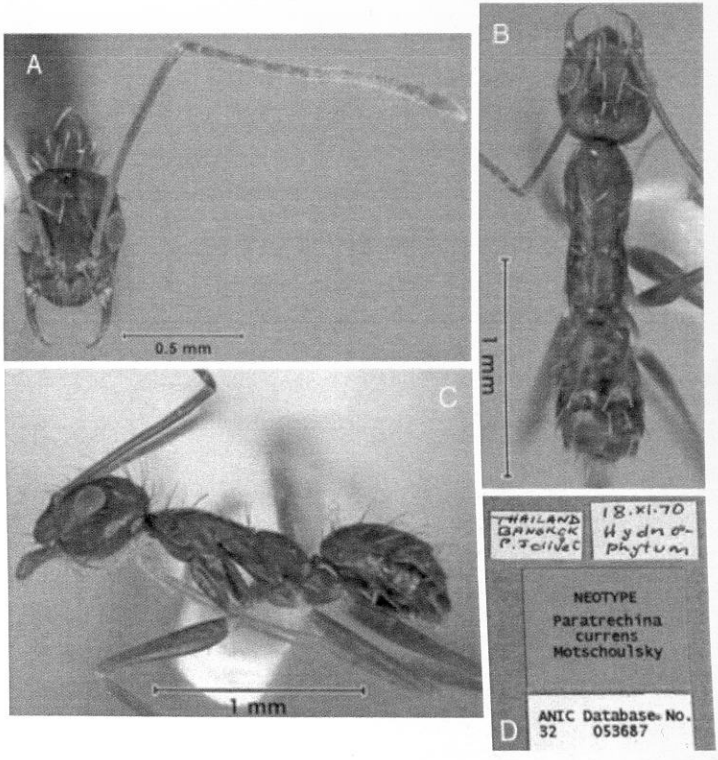

Fig. 1. Photographs of the designated neotype specimen for *P. currens* (ANIC32-053687). A. head in full frontal view; B. dorsal view; C. lateral view; D. labels associated with specimen.