



An account of the generic and specific names, and type specimens of viperid taxa described by Albert Franz Theodor Reuss (Squamata: Viperidae)

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Abstract

A complete account of nomina and type specimens of the viperid taxa described by the German herpetologist Theodor Reuss is provided. A list of new genera and subgenera created by Reuss is given. Nomina used in present Viperidae systematics are also mentioned and commented. Synonyms and chresonyms have been found in five genera: *Bitis* Gray, 1842; *Crotalus* Linnaeus, 1758; *Macrovipera* Reuss, 1927; *Montatheris* Broadley, 1996; *Proatheris* Broadley, 1996 and *Vipera* Laurenti, 1768. Forty-four taxa described by Reuss were found, and type(s) have been identified for 21 taxa. I propose the designation of lectotypes for *Vipera coronis nigroides* Reuss, 1925, *Vipera (Pelias) coronis zamenooides* Reuss, 1925, *Vipera (Mesocoronis) coronis beroides* Reuss 1927, *Macrovipera lebetina cypriensis* Reuss, 1933 and a paralectotype for *Vipera coronis nigroides* Reuss, 1925. Type material was identified in the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt (SMF), Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Torino (MZUT), Naturhistorisches Museum Basel (NMB), Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm (NRM), Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Collection Lorenz Müller, München (ZSM (SLM)) and in the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ZMB), where the main part of the Reuss material has been deposited. Remarks on the usage of Reuss's names for nomenclatural purposes are made.

Key words: Viperidae, Synonymies, Chresonymies, Nomenclature

Introduction

One of the most debated personalities in the systematics and taxonomy of the Viperidae is the German amateur herpetologist Albert Franz Theodor Reuss (1879–1958), a “self educated” zoologist from Berlin who became rather notorious for the unusual names given to the dozens of new, scientifically unfounded taxa he