



### The dates of Westwood's Mecoptera (Insecta) publications reexamined and further corrected

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In a recent issue of *Zootaxa* (Somma 2011), I corrected the publication dates for one genus and 14 species of Mecoptera (1 choristid, 4 bittacids, and 9 panorpids) and resurrected *Panorpa confusa* Westwood, 1841, which made *Panorpa rufescens* Rambur, 1842, a junior synonym of *P. confusa*. Additionally, I provided a nomenclatural and taxonomic summary for these taxa, and a publication history for all of Westwood's related publications. However, there were several inaccuracies to the dates I applied to these publications that I herein correct.

The year 1841, which I (Somma 2011) had originally applied to Westwood's descriptions of mecopteran taxa in the *Journal of Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London*, is undoubtedly incorrect. At this time period, imprinted "May 5th, 1841" on Westwood's article (incorrectly given as "March" in References of Somma 2011), this series was issued as limited, separate sheets, and this specific article was not made available until sometime during an unknown day and month in 1842 as Number II (Wheeler (1912) refers to it as "sheet" II; also available through Google Books at <http://bit.ly/westwood-1842p29-31>). Thus, it should be correctly cited and referenced as Westwood [1842]. Moreover, this series for 1840 through 1846 was typically preprinted and published in *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (Wheeler 1912). I had originally applied the year 1842 for this other printing of Westwood's article (Somma 2011). However, that particular issue, No. 51, for the 1842 volume of *Annals and Magazine* is imprinted "December 1841" which was verified as the correct publication date by Wheeler (1912) and Evenhuis (2003). Additionally, Evenhuis (2003) determined 1 December 1841 as the exact date on which this issue number was mailed out. Consequently, the correct citation and reference for Westwood's original descriptions of Mecoptera is Westwood (1841).

Lastly, I had mistakenly asserted that the final reprinted version of Westwood's article was incorrectly imprinted "1864" due to a transposition error, and instead assumed and used "[1846]" (Somma 2011). I made this assumption because the article was bound within Volume 4, 1845–1847, of *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* in the copy archived in the Division of Plant Industry (DPI) Library, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. This volume also contains Westwood (1846), and the reprinting of the entire early series of *Journal of Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London* from 1840 through 1846, consisting of 132 total pages, sans imprinted issue numbers, is bound between the last page and the first plate of this *Transactions* volume. There is no binding history indicated but this is likely a binding mistake. Wheeler (1912) determined the 1840–1846 series of *Journal of Proceedings* was reprinted as a single volume in 1864. Moreover, the publisher imprinted on the DPI Library copy of the reprint is not the same as the publisher for the *Transactions*: C. Roworth and Sons. Instead, the publisher, imprinted at the bottom of page 132, is Edward Newman, a prominent, Victorian polymath, naturalist, and publisher (Somma and Dunford 2008). Additionally, complete bound volumes of the *Transactions* from 1836 through 1933, in the Library of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity (MGCL), Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), University of Florida, do not contain the 1864 reprint volume. Moreover, this reprint does not seem to be archived at The Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) (D. Goodger, personal communication, 2012), at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) (D. Mann, personal communication, 2012), or through Google Books (<http://books.google.com/bkshp?hl=en&tab=mp>). Nevertheless, Westwood (1864) is the final reprinting of his Mecoptera article (Wheeler 1912).

The corrected date of publication for the 15 mecopteran taxa described by Westwood (1841) and listed in Somma (2011) remains the same; only the journal article of priority changes. Moreover, *Panorpa confusa* Westwood, 1841, the confused scorpionfly, maintains priority over its junior synonym, *Panorpa rufescens* Rambur, 1842.