Observations on the Chilean Pilipalpus (Coleoptera, Pyrochroidae) including new synonymy and transfer from Anthicidae (*sensu lato*)*

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I had earlier note dthat *Pilipalpus* could only be placed in one of the two families of Heteromera: Pyrochroidae or Anthicidae (Abdullah, 1964). My only reason for placing it in the latter family was the suposed absence of appendiculate tarsal claws in the former family. Subsequently, I have discovered a fossil pyrochroid genus. *Palaeopyrochroa* Abdullah, where the tarsal claws are appendiculate (Abdullah, 1965 b). Dr. Roy A. Crowson recently informed me that he had collected the larvae of *Techmessa* Bates in New Zealand and that they are definitely Pyrochroid (*in litt.*). Although the confirmatory evidence from the immature stages of *Philipalpus* is yet to come, there is good reason on the basis of the anatomical characters of the adults for placing *Pilipalpus* in the family in which *Techmessa* is placed (Abdullah, 1965 a and c). Consequently, the genus *Pilipalpus* Fairmaire is transferred to Pyrochroidae.

In conjunction with my studies of the material of *Incollogenius* Pic received from the Paris Museum, I have presented my conclusions on the primitive and derivative characters of the family Pyrochroidae (Abdullah, 1965 c). I can now confirm that *Pilipalpus* has all those characters that I regard primitive.

The following additional characters of generic value were discovered in this study. Mandible with reduced prostheca; molar area developed. Maxilla as in fig. 2. Wing with closed radial and anal cells — characters to be incorporated in the definition of the family. Fourth anal vein present. Metendosternite with anterio rtendons arising on arms, much above its junction with laminae.

Dr. Guy Colas of the Paris Museum kindly presented me the opportunity of examining the types of *Copobaenus ater* Pic, 1942 (male, author's no. 669) and *C. maculicollis* Pic, 1942 (male, author's no. 668). I noticed that they are species of *Pilipalpus* and synonyms of *P. dasytoides* Fairmaire, 1876 and *P. darwini* Abdullah, 1964 respectively. I regard Pi's names as *nomina nuda* as the descriptions are bad and the mentioned characters do not serve to

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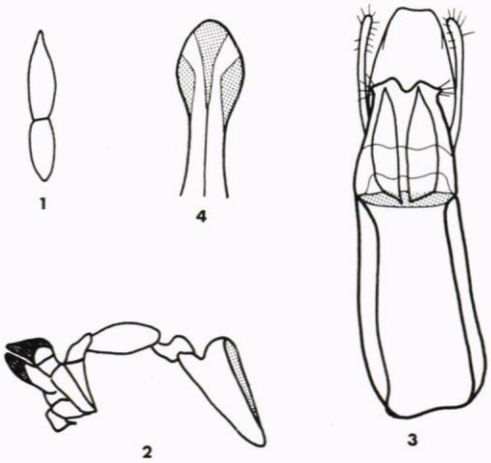

Figs. 1—4: *Pilipalpus darwini* Abdullah (holotype of *Copobaenus muculicollis* Pic, *nomen nudum*), male: 1, Apical two antennal segments; 2, maxilla; 3, tegmen, ventral view; 4, apex of median lobe, ventral view.

distinguish the taxa or to place them in the right genus. In my opinion the requirements of the article 13 a of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 1961 are not fulfilled. The two specific names (*nomina nuda*) should be transferred from Anthicidae (Pedilidae *sensl* Pic) to Pyrochroidae (*sensu mihi*) and from the genus *Copobaenus* Fairmaire and Germain, 1863 to *Pilipalpus* Fairmaire, 1876.

It may be mentioned that in the holotype of *C. ater* as well as in another male specimen of this specific name from 'Chile', also in the Paris Museum

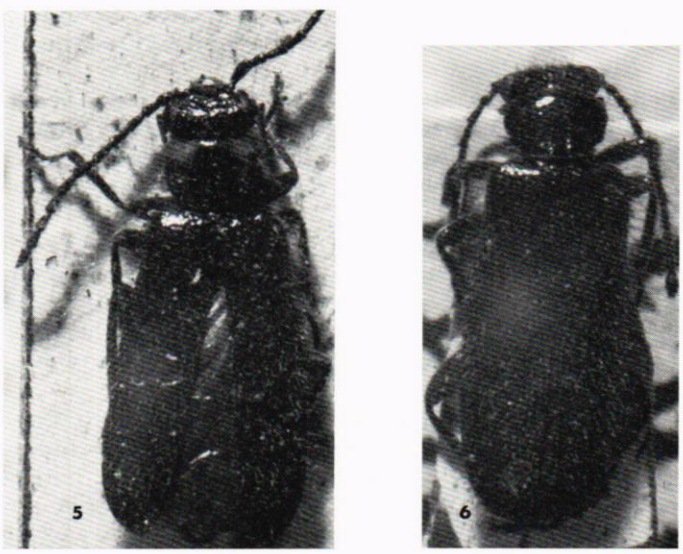

Fig. 5: *Pilipalpus darwini* Abdullah (holotype of *Copobaenus maculicollis* Pic, *nomen nudum*), male.
Fig. 6: *P. dasytoides* Fairmaire (holotype of *Copobaenus ater* Pic, *nomen nudum*), male.

collection, the eleventh antennal segments show variation from the distinctly tapering condition to a condition where the distinction is nearly lost. This suggests that this character should not be heavily relied upon in specific identification. In the holotype of *C. maculicollis* Pic, the eleventh antennal segment is tapering at apex (fig. 1) and not blunt as in the holotype of *P. darwini* Abdullah, and the aedeagus looks as in figs. 3 and 4. The distinctions are slight and what one would expect in a population and explain as due to individual variation within a species. The type locality of *P. darwini* is 'Chiloe Island' and there is no information on the specific locality of Pic's specimens. In the light of the present observations and in the absence of any further evidence to the contrary, I would not regard Pic's *maculicollis* a third species of *Pilipalpus*.

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