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# The true identity of *Amphithectus austriacus* (Tavares, 1928): junior synonym of *Amphithectus opacus* (Thomson, 1862) n. comb.

# La veritable identitat d'*Amphithectus austriacus* (Tavares, 1928): nova sinonímia d'*Amphithectus opacus* (Thomson, 1862) n. comb.

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The Figitinae genera *Amphithectus* and *Sarothrus* were erected by Hartig (1840). He separated both genera on the evidence of the heavily compressed metasoma present in *Amphithectus.* For *Amphithectus,* only one species was described: *A. dahlbomi* Hartig, 1840, whereas three species were described for *Sarothrus: S. areolatus* Hartig, 1840, *S. canaliculatus* Hartig, 1840 and *S. laevigatus* Hartig, 1840.

The status of both genera and its species were troublesome for a long time. Reinhard (1860) synonymized *Amphithectus dahlbomi* Hartig, 1840 with *Sarothrus areolatus* Hartig, 1840, stablishing the precedence of *Sarothrus* over *Amphithectus,* the latter being a junior synonym of the former. Kieffer (1902), Dalla-Torre & Kieffer (1910), Weld (1952) and Fergusson (1986) maintained *Amphithectus* as a synonym of *Sarothrus*. However, Ronquist (1999) listed *Amphithectus* as a valid genus without any further comments, and this was followed in subsequent works (Buffington *et al.,* 2007; Paretas-Martínez *et al.,* 2012). The situation was finally fixed by Paretas-Martínez and Pujade-Villar (2013) when *Amphithectus* was formally considered a valid genus, distinct from *Sarothrus* and other genera of Figitinae by its large and laterally compressed metasoma, and comprised two species: *A. areolatus* (Hartig, 1840) and *A. coriaceous* Paretas-Martínez & Pujade-Villar, 2013. Recently, Forshage & Norlander (2018) synonymyzed *Seitneria* Tavares, 1928 with *Amphithectus*, and stablished *A. coriaceous* as junior synonym of *A. austriacus* (Tavares, 1928).

Paretas-Martínez & Pujade-Villar (2013) and Forshage & Norlander (2018) did not take into consideration in their discussions a species of *Sarothrus* described by Thomson (1862): *S. opacus*. This species has a complex taxonomic history. In Thomson (1862), *Sarothrus opacus* is described, and renamed *Scytodes opacus* Hartig, 1840 as *Amblynotus opacus* (Hartig, 1840). Kieffer (1903) later moved *Sarothrus opacus* Thomson to genus *Amblynotus,* most probably due to its coriaceous sculpture on mesosoma and head. This created a homonymy between *Amblynotus opacus* (Hartig, 1840) and *Amblynotus opacus* (Thomson, 1862), which Kieffer solved by renaming *Amblynotus opacus* (Thomson, 1862) as *A. microcerus* Kieffer, 1903.

Fergusson (1986) established *Amblynotus* Hartig, 1840 as a junior synonym of *Melanips* Walker, 1835, thus establishing *M. microcerus* (Kieffer, 1903). In the discussion on Figitinae, Fergusson (1986) made a mistake when referring to *Sarothrus opacus* Thomson, 1862 as a misidentification of *Sarothrus opacus* Hartig, 1840 – an invalid name because the Hartig species never has been included in *Sarothrus*.

When examining the type material of *Melanips microcerus* (Kieffer, 1903), we realized it has the heavily compressed and elongated metasoma (Fig. 1a) with projecting hypopygium (Fig. 1b) characteristic for genus *Amphithectus.* This leads us to consider *Sarothrus opacus* Thomson, 1862 as belonging to genus *Amphithectus*, *A. opacus* (Thomson) n. comb. It also lead us to re-establish *Amphithectus opacus* (Thomson) as a valid name, no longer a homonym, and to synonymize *Amblynotus microcerus* Kieffer, 1903 with *A. opacus* (Thomson, 1862). Furthermore, *A. opacus* n. comb. has coriaceous sculpture on the whole head and mesosoma (Figs. 1a, 1b, 1c), unlike *A. areolatus* (Hartig, 1840), the other species in this genus. This character are also mentioned in the description *A. coriaceous* Paretas-Martínez & Pujade-Villar, 2013 and was considered important enough to describe this species, and was also mentioned by Forshage & Norlander when stablishing *A. coriaceous* as junior synonym of *A. austriacus* (Tavares, 1928). Other characters considered were completely defined and deep notauli and an elongate interfoveal carina, extending along half of scutellum (Paretas-Martínez & Pujade-Villar, 2013). All these characters are also present in Thomson's type specimen of *Sarothrus opacus*. Therefore we consider *A. austriacus* (Tavares, 1928) as a junior synonym of *A. opacus* (Thomson, 1862).

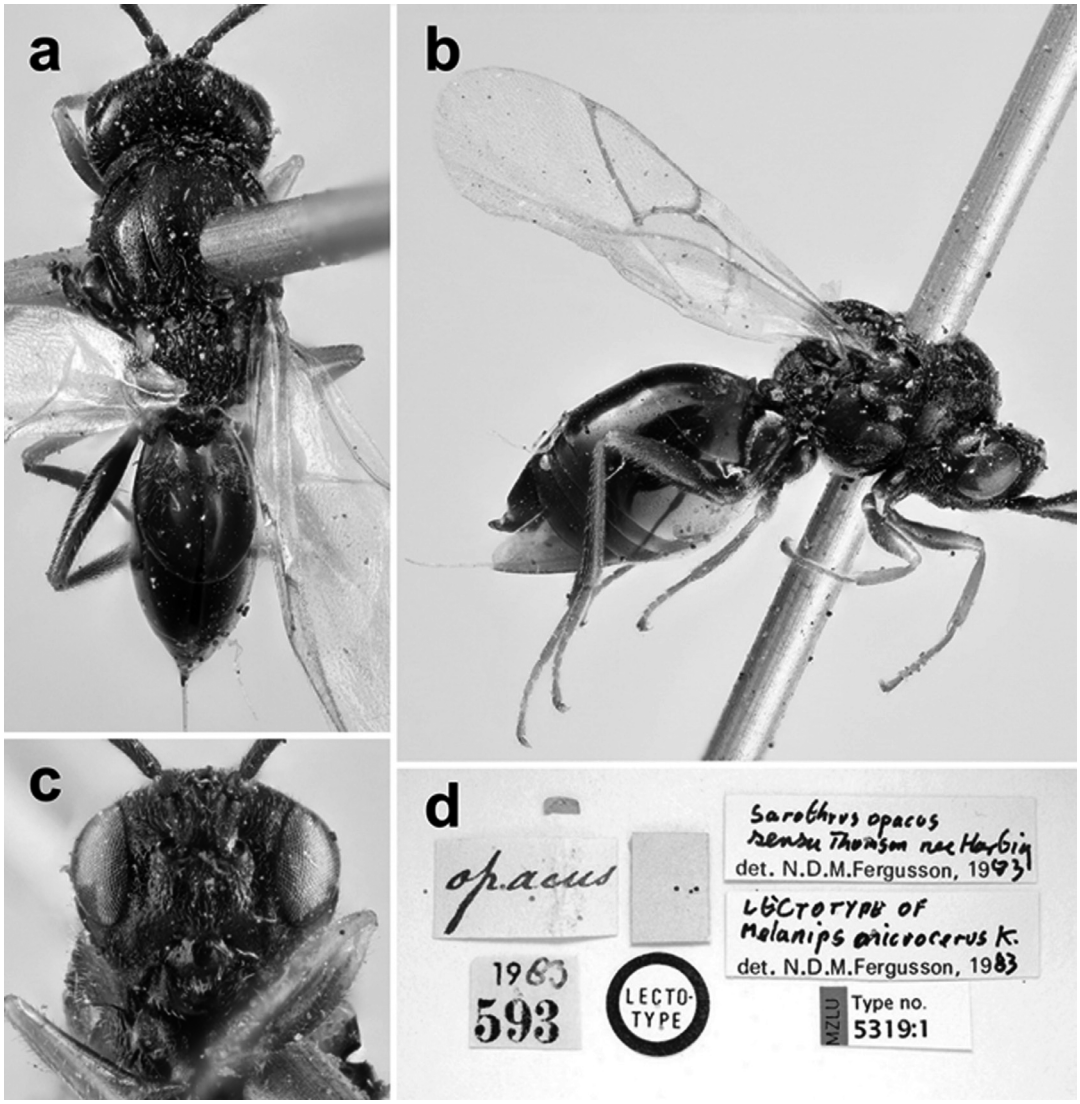


Figure 1. *Amphithectus opacus*: a) dorsal view; b) habitus; c) head in front view; d) labels.

## List of synonimies of *Amphithectus opacus* (Thomson, 1862) n. comb.

*Sarothrus opacus* Thomson, 1862 [non *Scytodes opacus* Hartig, 1840]
*Amblynotus opacus* (Thomson, 1862) Kieffer, 1903
*Amblynotus microcerus* Kieffer, 1903 [n. n. to *Sarothrus opacus* Thomson] **n. syn.**
*Melanips microcerus* (Kieffer, 1903) Fergusson, 1986
*Setineria austriaca* Tavares, 1928
*Amphithectus austriacus* (Tavares, 1928) Forshage & Norlander, 2018 **n. syn.**
*Amphithectus coriaceous* Paretas-Martínez & Pujade-Villar, 2013 [synonymized with *A. austriacus* in Forshage & Norlander (2018)]

In sumary, the genus *Amphithectus* include two species: *A. areolatus* Hartig and *A. opacus* (Thomson). These species can be recognized according to the sculpture of head and mesosoma, and the aspect and extension of notauli and interfoveal carina. In *A. areolatus*, head and mesosoma are shiny, without obvious microsculpture; sometimes oriaceous microsculpture may be present but it is weak; notauli are deep but usually incomplete, without internal sculpture, and interfoveal line is absent. On the other hand, *A. opacus* presents strong coriaceous sculpture covering whole head and mesosoma; notauli are deep and complete, with linear element inside and interfoveal line is present and long, extended till half scutellum.

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