

The species of *Aspona* Stål and nomenclatural notes (Hemiptera, Cicadomorpha, Membracidae)¹

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ABSTRACT. The species of *Aspona* Stål and nomenclatural notes (Hemiptera, Cicadomorpha, Membracidae). The genus *Aspona* Stål contains now only two species: *A. bullata* Stål, 1862 (= *Aspona gibosa* Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969 **syn. nov.** = *Taunaya gibbosa* Remes-Lenicov, 1973 **syn. nov.**) and *A. quadrinodosa* (Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969) **comb. nov.** (formerly in *Cyphotes* Burmeister).

KEYWORDS. Auchenorrhyncha; Darninae; Homoptera; nomenclatural acts; taxonomy.

RESUMO. As espécies de *Aspona* Stål e notas nomenclaturais (Hemiptera, Cicadomorpha, Membracidae). O gênero *Aspona* Stål passa a ter apenas duas espécies: *A. bullata* Stål, 1862 (= *Aspona gibosa* Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969 **syn. nov.** = *Taunaya gibbosa* Remes-Lenicov, 1973 **syn. nov.**) e *A. quadrinodosa* (Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969) **comb. nov.** (antes em *Cyphotes* Burmeister).

PALAVRAS-CHAVE. Atos nomenclaturais; Auchenorrhyncha; Darninae; Homoptera; taxonomia.

Stål (1862) described the genus including in it only one species from Brazil-Rio de Janeiro, *Aspona bullata*.

Fowler (1894) added three species from Mexico and Panama: *A. turgescens*, *A. intermedia*, and *A. cuneata*. About the species he stated: "In our collection there are specimens of three species, one of which belongs to the typical form, and the second is intermediate and passes on to the third, which any one would describe as a new genus without the least hesitation, were it not for the second; after considerable doubt I have come to the conclusion that it is best to class them together under *Aspona* until more is known regarding the group, which seems to be a very scarce one."

In the catalogue of McKamey (1998), six species are listed: *A. aspera* (Walker, 1858), *A. bullata* Stål, 1862, *A. cuneata* Fowler, 1894, *A. gibosa* Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969, *A. intermedia* Fowler, 1894, and *A. turgescens* Fowler, 1894.

Of these species, in the present paper, only *A. bullata* and *A. gibosa* remain in *Aspona*. The others will be treated in a separate paper.

The genus *Aspona* Stål is classified in Darninae-Darnini as defined by Deitz (1975).

Abbreviations: **DZUP** – Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba-PR, Brazil; **MLPA** – Museo de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina; **ZMUC** – Universitets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Aspona Stål, 1862

Aspona Stål, 1862: 29 (type species: *Aspona bullata* Stål, 1862, by monotypy); McKamey, 1998: 149.

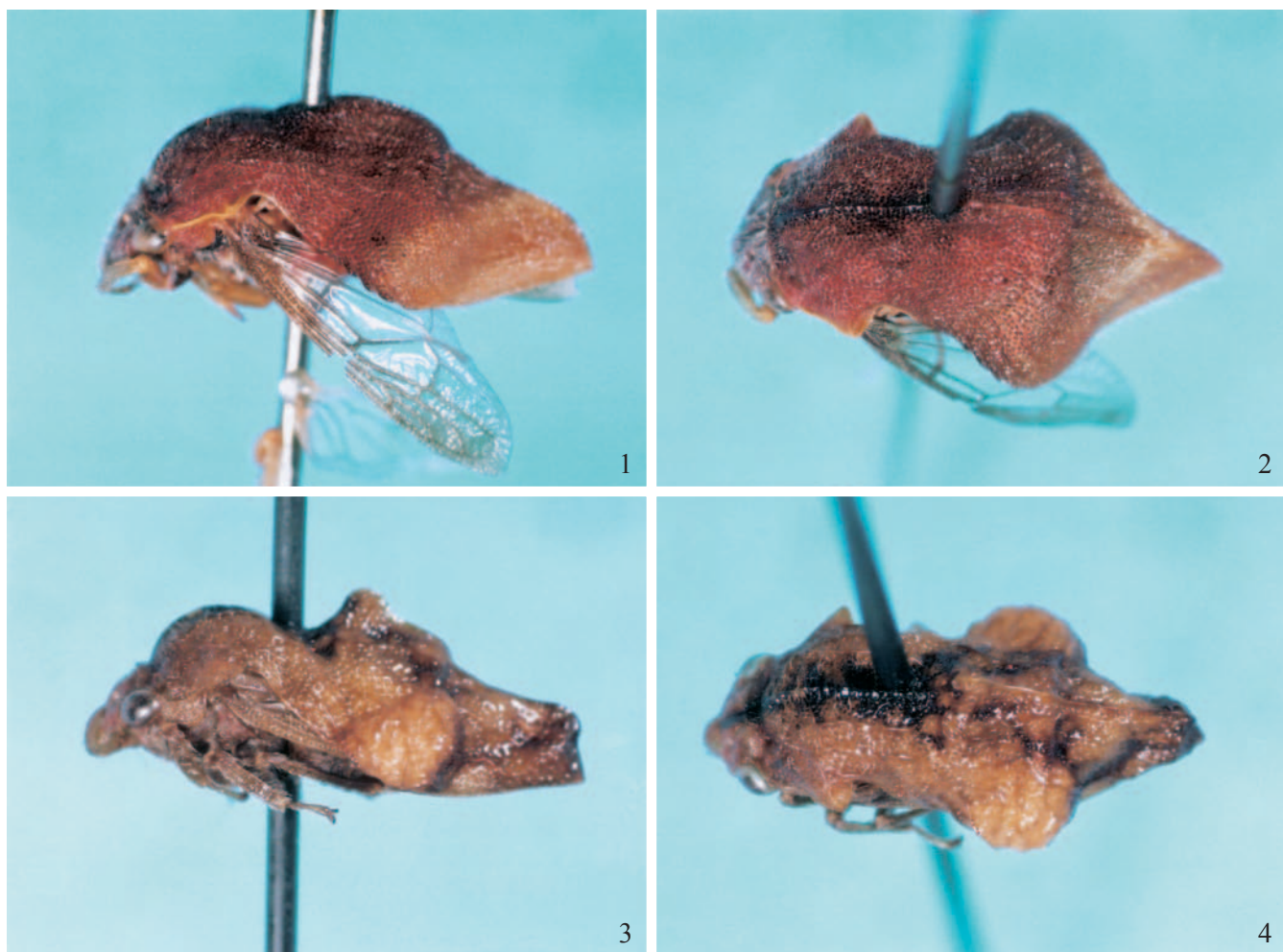
Stål (1862) defined the genus as: "Head triangular sub-obtuse, sub-projected. Thorax at each side just behind lateral angles projected, their angles sub-prominent, then backwards behind middle gradually widened, rounded at each side and posteriorly tapered, longer than abdomen, convex, apex sub-acute. Tegmina in great part covered by thorax, longitudinal veins very approximate to costal margin, five apical cells, oblong or sub-oblong, and one sub-triangular discoidal cell situated between second and third longitudinal veins just before the two internal apical cells. Legs simple, tarsi sub-equal in length." He also compared with *Oxygonia* Fairmaire, 1846 [= *Gelastogonia* Kirkaldy, 1904] and *Cyphotes* Burmeister, 1835, saying that it is much more alike the second but differing by the characters of head and tegmina.

One of the characteristics given by Stål (1862) was the presence of one discoidal cell in the tegmina. Coincidentally, in *A. gibosa* Fonseca & Diringshofen, *Taunaya gibbosa* Remes-Lenicov, *Cyphotes quadrinodosa* Fonseca & Diringshofen, and also in the specimen of *A. bullata* here examined, only one discoidal cell was observed, the internal one (the external cell disappears because the transversal vein is missing). Then, we consider it as a good character, though much more material is needed to confirm the constancy of this type of venation.

Aspona bullata Stål, 1862

Figs. 1–2

Aspona bullata Stål, 1862: 29 (type loc.: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro); Metcalf & Wade, 1965: 618; Deitz, 1975: 70; McKamey, 1998: 150.



Figs. 1-4. Species of *Aspona* Stål (lateral and dorsal views): 1-2, *A. bullata* Stål, 1862 (male); 3-4, *A. quadrinodosa* (Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969) (female).

Aspona gibosa Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969: 154, fig. 8 (type loc.: Brazil, Santa Catarina: Rio Vermelho); McKamey, 1998: 150. **Syn. nov.**

Taunaya gibbosa Remes-Lenicov, 1973: 137 (type loc.: Argentina, Misiones); McKamey, 1998: 155. **Syn. nov.**

Stål (1862) described the species based on a male specimen, from Rio de Janeiro, characterizing as follows: "Yellowish-olive, thorax densely punctate, obscurely subferruginous at disc, with median percurrent carina, paler and distinct, at each side provided with many irregular and furcate carinae; head and legs at underside blackish. B&. Long. $6\frac{1}{3}$, Lat. $3\frac{1}{4}$ Mill."

Fonseca & Diringshofen (1969) proposed a new species, *Aspona gibosa*. The type material, a female specimen, was collected in Santa Catarina, Rio Vermelho.

Remes-Lenicov (1973) described *Taunaya gibbosa*, a species from Argentina, Misiones. The type material consisted of three female specimens. In the comments about the species, she declared: "Close to *T. rugosa* Fonseca; it differs by the uniform coloration of head and metopidium, the greater size, and the dorsal protuberance; the surface of pronotum less

rugose; the humeral angles acute and also by the type of venation."

Both the species, *Aspona gibosa* Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969 and *Taunaya gibbosa* Remes-Lenicov, 1973, though classified in distinct genus, they actually belong in *Aspona* Stål. Morphologically they differ slightly from *A. bullata* Stål. This difference, however, is due to the sex: the first two were based on females, and the last one on male. They are, then, considered here as new synonyms.

Material examined. BRAZIL. Santa Catarina: Benedito Novo, 1 male (DZUP).

A photograph of syntype of *Aspona bullata* Stål, 1862 (ZMUC).

A photograph of *Taunaya gibbosa* Remes-Lenicov, 1973 (MLPA).

***Aspona quadrinodosa* (Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969)
comb. nov.**

Figs. 3-4

Cyphotes quadrinodosos [sic] Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969: 155 (type loc.: Brazil, Santa Catarina: Rio Vermelho).

Cyphotes quadrinodosus [sic] Fonseca & Diringshofen, 1969: 156; McKamey, 1998: 150.

The species was based on a female specimen collected in Santa Catarina, Rio Vermelho, the same locality of *Aspona gibosa* Fonseca & Diringshofen.

A. quadrinodosa is very similar to *A. bullata*, especially in dorsal view; it differs, however, in the surface of pronotum which is more sculptured, and the raised lines irregularly disposed. It is transferred to *Aspona* because of the morphology and the type of tegmina venation, i. e., presenting one discoidal cell.

Material examined. BRAZIL. *Santa Catarina*: Nova Teutônia, 1 female (DZUP).

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