

Short scientific note

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Cold case: Ludwig Ganglbauer (1856–1912) and his 1908–1909 manuscript on the genus *Podistra* (Coleoptera: Cantharidae)

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Abstract

The circumstances around the publication of Ganglbauer’s manuscript of 1908–1909 on the genus *Podistra* (Coleoptera, Cantharidae) are studied in detail. Considerable evidence demonstrates that the work was actually published in 1914; therefore, the 1922 date reported by the scientific community is incorrect. The taxonomic records present in this paper are the subgenus *Hemipodistra* Ganglbauer, [1914] and the species *Podistra (Absidia) pentheri* Ganglbauer, [1914], *Podistra (Absidia) caucasica* Ganglbauer, [1914] and *Podistra (Podistra) starcki* Ganglbauer, [1914]. The relevant description pages are also carefully reported. *Absidia ussuriensis* Horn, 1921 is considered in the present document as *nomen nudum*.

Key words: Ganglbauer, soldier beetles, entomological history, taxonomy.

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Introduction

Ludwig Ganglbauer (Vienna, 1 October 1856 – Rekawinkel, 5 June 1912), was a renowned Austrian entomologist and naturalist specializing in Coleoptera (Anon 1912; Spaeth 1913a, b; Dolezal 1964; Smetana & Herman 2001; Klausnitzer 2003; Bousquet 2016). Growing up in an Austrian peasant family, he attended the Schottengymnasium, and then studied at the University of Vienna where he taught for a short period (Anon 1912; Spaeth 1913a, b; Heikertinger 1931b “Ganglbauer”; Smetana & Herman 2001). He subsequently worked at and became custodian of the collection of the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna, later becoming the director of the Zoology Department (Smetana & Herman 2001; Klausnitzer 2003; Bousquet 2016), where his collection is still preserved (Bousquet 2016). He began work on “Die Käfer von Mitteleuropa” but commitments at the museum and poor health soon prevented him, with great regret, from completing it (Anon 1912; Spaeth 1913a, b). He was esteemed and had established relationships with many entomologists in Europe, and his work became a point of reference for studies on many families of Coleoptera (Spaeth 1913a, b; Heikertinger 1937). He also was highly respected for his work on the Cantharidae family, with many entomologists sending him collections for the study and identification of specimens

(Liberti 2016; Liberti & Poggi 2018). Ganglbauer recognized many new species of soldier beetles and fireflies, but due to his premature death, he was never able to describe them; thus, these taxa remain *in litteris* (Heikertinger 1937; Liberti 2017; Fanti 2022).

Materials and Methods

This paper focuses on the 1908–1909 manuscript of Ganglbauer on the genus *Podistra* (Coleoptera, Cantharidae). It also reports on the taxonomic acts present in Ganglbauer (1914), with the relative pages of description and citation (the citations in brackets). By necessity, the present paper relies heavily on information from authors subsequent to Ganglbauer, and it follows the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999).

Results

As reported by Horn (1921), in 1908–1909 Ganglbauer prepared a monograph on the genus *Podistra*, also remarking that someone (their identity is unclear) wrote on 10.2.1909 that his manuscript would probably arrive the following Sunday (but not it is clear to whom and where this work

should reach). It is therefore evident that on that February 1909 date, Ganglbauer's manuscript was already written and known, and therefore the actual redaction of the work in 1908 is to be considered likely. Horn (1921) published a short article with very little information and a table of illustrations, of the aedeagi of the genus *Podistra* present in Ganglbauer's work, figures that Ganglbauer himself had sent to him before his death. As reported by Heikertinger (1922), these figures appeared without specific names and characteristics. At Horn's request, Ganglbauer also had the figures of the copulatory apparatus redrawn by baron Schlereth for the line engravings (Horn 1921). Horn (1921) also urges, given the importance, that Ganglbauer's work be published.

Heikertinger (1922) reported that Ganglbauer's unfinished manuscript was given to Karl Daniel and delivered before the start of World War I for publication in the journal *Münchener Koleopterologische Zeitschrift*, Band 4, 1. Lieferung. Unfortunately, due to problems at *Münchener Koleopterologische Zeitschrift* and the outbreak of the war, Volume IV was never published (Volume III was from 1906–1908). Therefore, Ganglbauer's manuscript was not published as part of this planned volume. However, excerpt / special prints ("Sonderdrucke") were made which have the pagination 69–79 (Heikertinger 1922, 1931a "Ganglbauer") in 1914. Fulfilling Horn's previous request, Heikertinger (1922) then published a large part, *i.e.*, a sort of excerpt (Heikertinger 1931a "Ganglbauer"), of Ganglbauer's work, using a special print of the work that Richard Hicker showed him. Subsequently, in 1931, Heikertinger published (Heikertinger 1931a "Ganglbauer"), unchanged, apart from some insignificant changes in spelling, the Ganglbauer's entire work, never published in Volume IV of the *Münchener Koleopterologische Zeitschrift*.

Heikertinger (1931a) also reported that the excerpts / special prints ("Sonderdrucke") of the Ganglbauer's manuscript in the *Münchener Koleopterologische Zeitschrift* - Volume 4, which he received from his friends Karl Holdhaus and Richard Hicker, had also been published around 1914. However, at the time only a few entomologists had seen the excerpt / special prints (Heikertinger 1931a "Ganglbauer"); therefore, the article must be considered unpublished (Heikertinger 1922, 1931a, b "Ganglbauer"), as previously also believed by Horn (1921).

However, the "Separat-Abdruck" of 1914 was published in accordance with the Code (ICZN 1999) and therefore the taxonomic acts reported therein are available and valid. These kinds of *separata* were normally printed and then published and distributed (to coleopterological associates and friends: Heikertinger 1931b "Ganglbauer") by the magazine's editorial board; Hicker (1925: Under Ganglbauer's species he inserts the acronym "MZIV") and Jäch et al. (2007) considered them legitimately published. The *separata* (ICZN 1999: Glossary), in fact, satisfies all the articles of the Code to be considered validly published (ICZN 1999 (and emendations): Art. 8, in particu-

lar 8.1., 8.4. and Art. 9; Cianferoni 2012). The fact that Heikertinger (1931a) noted that the reprints were sent to a few entomologists does not prevent the work from being considered effectively published in 1914. We know, *e.g.*, that Holdhaus and Hicker possessed it, and the present author learned that it was also sent to Agostino Doderò (Società Entomologica Italiana; Antonio Rey & Roberto Poggi pers. comm.), a friend of Ganglbauer with whom he had assiduous exchanges and entomological discussions (Liberti & Poggi 2018). Thus, there could be many other people around Europe who read or had access to this article.

The date of publication of the *separata* is 1914 (in particular 31 December 1914 based on ICZN 1999 Art. 21.3.), because Heikertinger suggests that was the year it was printed (Heikertinger 1931a). In particular, the author of the reprint that the magazine names is "L. Ganglbauer †" and which was therefore necessarily published after his death on 5 June 1912. Furthermore, it is also worth noting that another article by Ganglbauer (with page numbers following those of the work on the genus *Podistra*), focused on the genus *Zabrus* (Coleoptera, Carabidae), again never published in *Münchener K. Z.*, was validly published around 1915 as a *separata* with pagination 88–137 (Heikertinger 1931b "Ganglbauer"; Società Entomologica Italiana). This manuscript reached the editorial team in a similar way as the one on the genus *Podistra*; in this instance, thanks to the gift of a copy by Eugenie Ganglbauer (Eugenie Starke, the wife of Ludwig Ganglbauer) and Albert Winkler, with the consent of Prof. Karl Daniel and of the editorial team, through the mediation and reprinting carried out by Dr. Karl Holdhaus (Heikertinger 1931b "Ganglbauer").

It should be noted that Volume IV of the *Münchener K. Z.*, if published, would have had the cover date: 1909–1914/1915 (Heikertinger 1931b "Ganglbauer"; Jäch et al. 2007; https://www.zobodat.at/publikation_series.php?id=20616) and that each volume of the *Münchener K. Z.* reports both cover dates (on the title page) and specific publication dates of each issue and related pages, as follows:

Volume I (1902–1903): Issue I pages 1–136, 10 June 1902; Issue II pages 137–264, 25 January 1903; Issue III pages 265–320, 5 March 1903; Issue IV pages 321–422, 28 July 1903.

Volume II (1904–1906): Issue I pages 1–104, 16 February 1904; Issue II pages 105–388, 29 December 1904; Issue III pages 389–403, 15 January 1906.

Volume III (1906–1908): Issue I pages 1–120, 15 January 1906; Issue II pages 121–208, 1 October 1906; Issue III pages 209–410, 23 March 1908.

Therefore, it is evident that pages 69–79 that contained Ganglbauer's article, had his paper been published in *Münchener K. Z.*, 4 (1) as planned, would have had a cover date of 1909–1914/1915 (Heikertinger 1931b "Ganglbauer"; Jäch et al. 2007). It would probably have had a specific publication date of 1909, but it is not possible now to trace the actual planned day and month. As seen above, the first reference year of each volume was usually indicated on the title page,

and over 100 pages of the journal were always published at a time. Since Ganglbauer's work was never published in this *Münchener K. Z.*, the 1914 reprint of Ganglbauer's work (Ganglbauer 1914) is therefore the first validly published.

Taxa published by Ganglbauer (1914) with related pages of description:

Subgenus *Hemipodistra* Ganglbauer, [1914]: 70, (71), 76

Type species: *Absidia birnbacheri* Krauss, 1894 (by original designation)

Podistra (Absidia) pentheri Ganglbauer, [1914]: (71), 73 and Figs 11–12, 76

Podistra (Absidia) Pentheri Ganglbauer, [1914]

Podistra (Absidia) caucasica Ganglbauer, [1914]: (71), 74 (name) and Figs 7–8, 73–74 (description), 76

Podistra (Podistra) starcki Ganglbauer, [1914]: (70, 71), 75 and Figs 19–20, (76)

Podistra (Podistra) Starcki Ganglbauer, [1914]

All 1922 dates, and some related page numbers (*e.g.*, Delkeskamp 1939, 1977; Kazantsev & Brancucci 2007; Kazantsev 2023a, b), for these taxa listed above are therefore incorrect.

Podistra caucasica Ganglbauer, [1914] is currently considered in the nominotypical subgenus *Podistra* (Kazantsev 2023a, 2023b), while *Podistra pentheri* is currently named *Pakabsidia pentheri* (Ganglbauer, [1914]) by Kazantsev (2023a).

Absidia ussuriensis Horn, 1921 *nomen nudum*

Abs. ussuriensis Horn, 1921: 98. Loc. typ.: “ostasiatischen”.

Note. This East Asian species, present in the original Ganglbauer manuscript (1908–1909), is cited by Horn (1921), but by no other entomologist subsequently. This taxon was overlooked by subsequent authors, simply because the title of Ganglbauer's work refers to European and Caucasian species. It is clear that the original manuscript was slightly different from the publication that later appeared. Thus, *Absidia ussuriensis* Horn, 1921 should be considered a *nomen nudum*.

Manuscript:

Ganglbauer L. [1908–1909]. Die europäischen und kaukasischen Arten der Gattung *Podistra* s. lat.

Posthumous works:

†Ganglbauer L. [1914]. Die europäischen und kaukasischen Arten der Gattung *Podistra* s. lat. *Münchener Koleopterologische Zeitschrift*, 4(1), Separat-Abdruck (Verlag der

Redaction): [1] + 69–79. [*separata* of 1908–1909 Ganglbauer's manuscript. Publication date: 1914: *fide* Heikertinger, 1931a [31 December 1914].

Heikertinger F. 1922 (†Ganglbauer L.). Eine Tabelle Ganglbauers über die europäischen und kaukasischen *Podistra*-Arten (Coleopt., Cantharid.). Als Antwort auf Dr. W. Horns Artikel, Et meminisse 4. Über Erichson, Seidlitz und Ganglbauer.“. *Entomologische Mitteilungen*, 11(2): 69–76.

†Ganglbauer L. 1931 (Heikertinger F.). Die europäischen und kaukasischen Arten der Gattung *Podistra* s. lat. *Koleopterologische Rundschau*, 16(6): 244–254.

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