

Letter

Taxonomic status of *Panstrongylus herreri* Wygodzinsky, 1948 and the number of Chagas disease vectors

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Dear editor:

A recent Short Communication published by Franzim-Junior et al.¹ in the RSBMT [Franzim-Junior E, Mendes MT, Anê ACBM, Pelli A, Silva MV, Rodrigues-Junior V, Sales-Campos H, Oliveira CJF. The development of *Panstrongylus herreri* under fluctuating environmental conditions. Rev Soc Bras Med Trop. 2017;50(1):121-5], presented an important study on the one species of the genus *Panstrongylus* (classified as *Panstrongylus herreri* Wygodzinsky, 1948). The article included the following statement “*P. herreri*, also described as *P. lignarius*” and the article by Marcilla et al.² was cited; however, we clarify that the species *P. herreri* was synonymized with *P. lignarius* (Walker, 1873) by Marcilla et al.². By the Principle of Priority (Article 23 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted-sites/iczn/code/>) that states “the valid name of a taxon is the oldest available name applied to it...”, Franzim-Junior et al.¹ presented the development of *P. lignarius* under fluctuating environmental conditions.

In addition, Franzim-Junior et al.¹ stated “The Triatominae subfamily is comprised of approximately 140 species...”, neglecting almost a decade of Triatominae taxonomy, in which nine species were described (*Rhodnius zeledoni* Jurberg et al., 2009³, *P. martinezorum* Ayala, 2009⁴, *Mepraia parapatrica* Frias-Lasserre, 2010⁵, *R. montenegrensis* Rosa et al., 2012⁶, *R. barretti* Abad-Franch et al., 2013⁷, *Triatoma jatai* Gonçalves et al., 2013⁸, *T. pintodiasi* Jurberg et al., 2013⁹ and *R. marabaensis* Souza et al., 2016¹⁰, *R. taquarussuensis* Rosa et al., 2017¹¹), one subspecies and one species were revalidated (*T. b. macromelasoma* Galvão, 1956¹² and *T. bahiensis* Sherlock and Serafim, 1967¹³), and two fossil species were discovered (*T. dominicana* Poinar, 2005¹⁴ and *P. hispaniolae* Poinar, 2013¹⁵), with a total of 153 species in the Triatominae subfamily distributed in five tribes and 18 genera (Table 1).

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TABLE 1

Review of the number of species in the subfamily Triatominae.

Tribe	Genus	Species (n)
Alberproseniini	<i>Alberprosenia</i>	2
Bolboderini	<i>Belminus</i>	8
	<i>Bolbodera</i>	1
	<i>Microtriatoma</i>	2
	<i>Parabelminus</i>	2
Cavernicolini	<i>Cavernicola</i>	2
Rhodniini	<i>Psammolestes</i>	3
	<i>Rhodnius</i>	21
Triatomiini	<i>Dipetalogaster</i>	1
	<i>Eratyrus</i>	2
	<i>Hermanlenia</i>	1
	<i>Linschosteus</i>	6
	<i>Meccus</i>	6
	<i>Mepraia</i>	3
	<i>Nesotriatoma</i>	3
	<i>Panstrongylus</i>	15
	<i>Paratriatoma</i>	1
	<i>Triatoma</i>	74
Total		153

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