

## SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

# Nomenclatural notes in Membracidae (Homoptera): new combination and new synonymies in *Amastris* Stål, 1862<sup>1</sup>

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**ABSTRACT.** The following nomenclatural changes are made: *Amastris convoluta* (Fabricius, 1781) **comb. nov.** (formerly *Darnis*; *Hebetica*); *Amastris maculata* Funkhouser, 1922 = *Amastris fasciata* Broomfield, 1976 **syn. nov.** = *Amastris pseudomaculata* Broomfield, 1976 **syn. nov.** = *Amastris inermis* Broomfield, 1976 **syn. nov.** = *Amastris sakakibarae* Broomfield, 1976 **syn. nov.**; *Amastris elevata* Funkhouser, 1922 = *Amastris vismiae* Haviland, 1925 **syn. nov.** = *Amastris flavifolia* Funkhouser, 1927 **syn. nov.**

**KEYWORDS.** Homoptera; Membracidae; *Amastris*; nomenclatural changes.

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After examining photographs (color slides) of the type specimens of *Darnis convoluta* Fabricius, 1781 (syntype), *Amastris maculata* Funkhouser, 1922 (holotype), *Amastris elevata* Funkhouser, 1922 (holotype), *Amastris vismiae* Haviland, 1925 (holotype), and also the holotype of *Amastris sakakibarae* Broomfield, 1976, the following nomenclatural changes are introduced:

*Amastris convoluta* (Fabricius, 1781) **comb. nov.**  
(Fig. 1)

*Darnis convoluta* Fabricius, 1781:318 (type loc.: Brazil) (UZMC).  
*Darnis (Hebetica) convoluta*; Stål, 1869:32.  
*Hebetica convoluta*; Funkhouser, 1927:130; Metcalf & Wade, 1965:589.

**Comments.** The photograph of the syntype (Fig. 1) shows that the specimen is somewhat damaged, missing abdomen, part of thorax, legs, and wings; only the head and pronotum are practically entire. The basal half of the remaining right tegmen allows to see the veins R and M fused almost to middle forming a relatively large basal cell and also an external discoidal cell. These characters, together with compressed-elevated pronotum with distinct dorsal carina, permit to include the species in *Amastris*.

STÅL (1869), when described *Darnis (Hebetica)*, he included in this subgenus, *Darnis convoluta* Fabricius and *Darnis limacodes* Burmeister, 1836, two very different species. Subsequent authors considered *Hebetica* as a genus, maintaining *H. convoluta* among the species (FUNKHOUSER 1927; METCALF & WADE 1965).

*Amastris maculata* Funkhouser, 1922  
(Fig. 2)

*Amastris maculata* Funkhouser, 1922:31 (type loc.: Brazil, Amazonas) (USNM); Broomfield, 1976:406.  
*Amastris fasciata* Broomfield, 1976:375 (type loc.: Guyana) (BMNH).  
**Syn. nov.**  
*Amastris pseudomaculata* Broomfield, 1976:399 (type loc.: Panama) (BMNH). **Syn. nov.**  
*Amastris inermis* Broomfield, 1976:407 (type loc.: Brazil, Mato Grosso) (BMNH). **Syn. nov.**  
*Amastris sakakibarae* Broomfield, 1976:408 (type loc.: Brazil, Minas Gerais) (DZUP). **Syn. nov.**

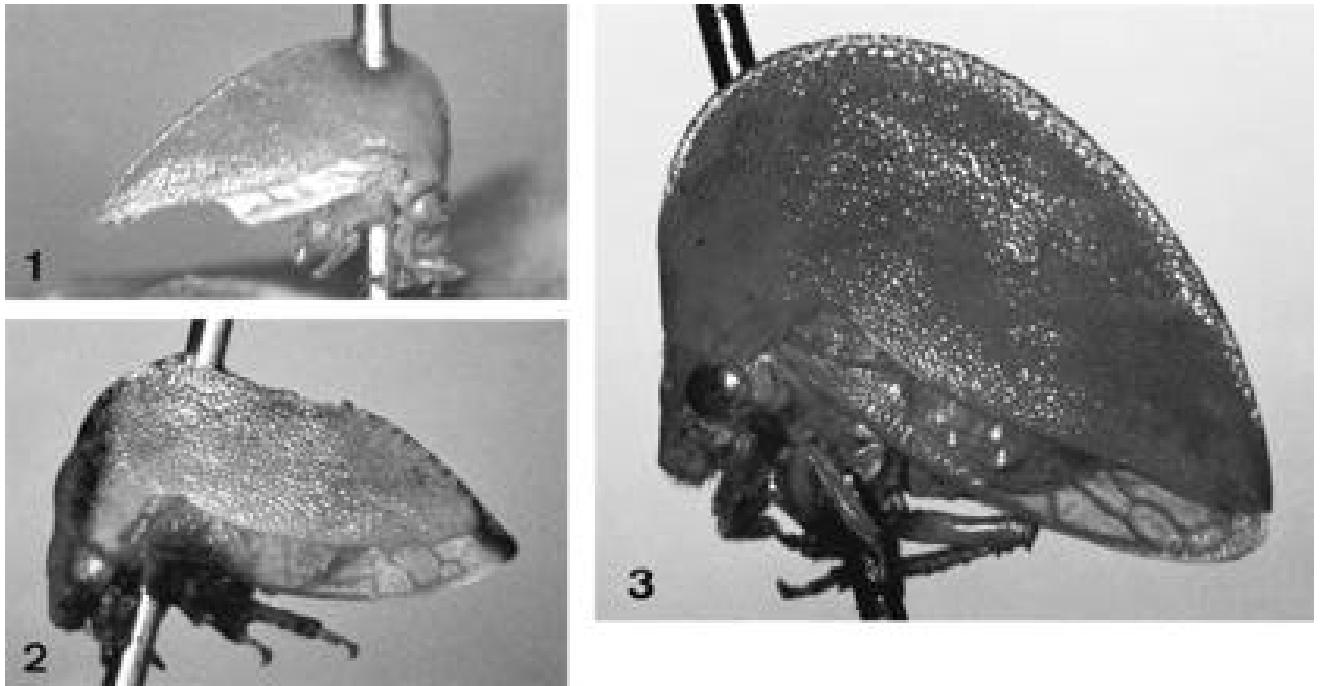
**Comments.** *A. maculata* is distinguished from other species by having the pronotum, in side view, slightly sinuated above metopidium and then regularly arched to the apex. The metopidium is frequently tinted with black forming a more or less triangular spot; the dorsal carina also blackish or black

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**Fig. 1-3.** Type specimens. **1,** *Darnis convoluta* Fabricius, 1781 – syntype. **2,** *Amastris maculata* Funkhouser, 1922 – holotype, female. **3,** *Amastris elevata* Funkhouser, 1922 – holotype, female.

dotted. Sometimes a weak black stripe is found, vertically, at each side just behind the humeral angles. The tegmina present, at their apices, a distinct smoky brown patch. All these characters are somewhat variable within the species.

*Amastris elevata* Funkhouser, 1922

(Fig. 3)

*Amastris elevata* Funkhouser, 1922:27 (type-loc.: Peru, Napo River) (USNM); Broomfield, 1976:410.

*Amastris vismiae* Haviland, 1925:252 (type-loc.: Guyana, Kartabo) (BMNH); Broomfield, 1976:371. **Syn. nov.**

*Amastris flavifolia* Funkhouser, 1927:302 (type-loc.: Surinam) (RNHL); Broomfield, 1976:370. **Syn. nov.**

**Comments.** *A. vismiae* and *A. flavifolia* are considered synonyms of *A. elevata*. Comparing the type specimens, *A. elevata* is bigger than two others; this difference in size, however, was considered as a mere variation. No important character was found at all to maintain them as distinct species.

**Abbreviations:** **BMNH** – The Natural History Museum, London. **DZUP** – Departamento de Zoologia-UFPR, Curitiba-PR, Brazil. **MZSP** – Museu de Zoologia-USP, São Paulo-SP, Brazil. **RNHL** – Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden. **USNM** – National Museum of Natural History, Washington.

**UZMC** – Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen.

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