

Is the city of La Plata the collection site for *Bothriurus bonariensis* (C.L. Koch, 1843) syntypes (Scorpiones: Bothriuridae)?

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¿Es la ciudad de La Plata el sitio de recolección de los sintipos de *Bothriurus bonariensis* (C.L. Koch, 1843) (Scorpiones: Bothriuridae)?

RESUMEN. Los sintipos de *Bothriurus bonariensis* fueron descritos por C.L. Koch en 1843 quien mencionó a "La Plata" como sitio de recolección, pero esta ciudad no existió hasta 1882, lo que sugiere que se refería a la zona del Río de La Plata. También se menciona un error, tanto en publicaciones como en páginas web, que mencionan como año de publicación 1842 y no 1843.

PALABRAS CLAVE. Buenos Aires. Escorpión. Localidad típica.

ABSTRACT. *Bothriurus bonariensis* syntypes were described by C.L. Koch in 1843 who mentioned "La Plata" as the collection site, but this city did not exist until 1882, suggesting that he was referring to the Río de La Plata area. An error is also pointed out in relation to publications and web pages which mention 1842 and not 1843 as the year of publication.

KEYWORDS. Buenos Aires. Scorpion. Type locality.

Specimens of *Bothriurus bonariensis* (Arachnida: Scorpiones) were collected by Charles Henry Bescke and described by Carl Ludwig Koch in *Die Arachniden. Getreu nach der Natur abgebildet und beschrieben*, which was published between 1831 and 1848 in 16 volumes. In the 1843 volume it is named as *Brotheas bonariensis* and a detailed description of the species is made on pages 12-14, with a color printed sheet of a specimen (Tab. CCCXXIX, fig. 762) (Koch, 1843). After the description, the origin of the material is named "Vaterland. Südamerika, La Plata" (Homeland. South America, La Plata). This could have led to confusion to some authors who took the city of La Plata as the typical locality. La Plata was founded on November 19th, 1882 as the capital city of the province of Buenos Aires, being no previous toponymy recording "La Plata". That is to say, the name La Plata appears 39 years after Koch's publication. This suggests that the mentioned locality could be another city located in the territory that the species inhabits, but as the specific epithet of *bonariensis* is a reference to the province of Buenos

Aires, it limits us to the then territory that went from the south of the Arroyo del Medio, between the provinces of Buenos Aires and Santa Fe and the lands east of a North-South zigzagging line from the city of Pergamino to Bahía Blanca. In this vast territory there was no town or city with the name of La Plata (David Rumsey Map Collection, 2021). Then it can be assumed that the reference made by C.L. Koch to La Plata, could refer to the Río de La Plata (El Plata region) and not to the city. Therefore, the precise point of capture would become unknown and possibly close to the current Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

Also, it is important to correct the error made in various publications and on internet pages where it is cited as the year 1842 and not 1843 [i.e., "*Bothriurus bonariensis* (C.L. Koch, 1842)"]. This error can be found in synonymy lists or in scientific names in some publications (Buckup, 1957; Bücherl, 1958; Varela, 1961; Horn & Achaval, 2002; Ojanguren-Affilastro, 2003, 2005; Olivero et al., 2012), or on pages such as GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) (GBIF, 2021),

The Scorpion File (Rein, 2021), and Wikispecies (Wikispecies, 2021) to name some authors and some recognized internet pages.

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