

**The name *Synallaxis whitneyi* Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995,
is not a synonym of *Synallaxis cinereus* Wied, 1831
(Aves: Passeriformes: Furnariidae)**

RENATA STOPIGLIA & MARCOS A. RAPOSO

Museu Nacional, Departamento de Vertebrados, Setor de Ornitologia, Quinta da Boa Vista, s/n, 20940-040,
Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. E-mail: stopiglia@mn.ufrj.br

Abstract

Synallaxis whitneyi Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995, was described from specimens collected in Bahia, Brazil. Some years later, following analysis of the specimens used by Wied (1831) to describe *Synallaxis cinereus*, Whitney and Pacheco (2001) considered *S. whitneyi* a junior synonym of *S. cinereus* because three of the specimens in Wied's series were identical to those collected in Bahia by Pacheco and Gonzaga (1995). They also designated a lectotype for *Synallaxis cinereus*. Our analysis of the description of *Synallaxis cinereus* reveals that Wied was merely providing a new name for *Parulus ruficeps* Spix, 1824, to avoid problems of homonymy (Wied 1831). The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is explicit in such cases, stating that if an author proposes a new species-group name as a replacement (*nomen novum*) for an earlier available one, then the two names are objective synonyms and have the same name-bearing type. Thus, the syntypes of *S. cinereus* are the specimens previously used by Spix in describing *Parulus ruficeps* and not those used by Wied (1831) in his description (and subsequently referred to as syntypes in the literature). The lectotype of *Synallaxis cinereus* proposed by Whitney and Pacheco (2001) is invalid, as it is not a former syntype. Therefore, the correct name for the Bahia Spinetail is *Synallaxis whitneyi* Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995.

Key words: Synonymization, *Synallaxis cinereus*, *Synallaxis whitneyi*, *Parulus ruficeps*

Resumo

Synallaxis whitneyi Pacheco e Gonzaga, 1995 foi descrita com base em espécimes provenientes da Bahia, Brasil. Alguns anos mais tarde, ao analisarem o material utilizado por Wied (1831) para a descrição de *Synallaxis cinereus*, Whitney e Pacheco (2001) decidiram sinonimizar *S. whitneyi* em *S. cinereus* dado o fato de três dos espécimes pertencentes a série de Wied serem idênticos aos coletados na Bahia por Pacheco e Gonzaga (1995). Esses autores também designaram um lectótipo para *Synallaxis cinereus*. Após reavaliarmos a descrição de *Synallaxis cinereus* verificamos que