



## Correspondence

### ***Amnestus raunoi* J. A. Lis, the only representative of the Amnestinae in the Old World: a synonym of *Amnestus pusillus* Uhler (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Cydnidae)**

CRISTINA MAYORGA MARTINEZ<sup>1</sup>, LUIS CERVANTES PEREDO<sup>2</sup> & JERZY A. LIS<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Instituto de Biología, U.N.A.M. Apartado Postal 70-153, CP 04510 Mexico, DF.  
mayorgac@ibiologia.unam.mx; and

<sup>2</sup>Instituto de Ecología, A.C. Km. 2.5 Antigua Carretera a Coatepec # 351, CP 91070 Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.  
luis.cervantes@inecol.edu.mx

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biosystematics, Opole University, Oleska 22, 45-052 Opole, Poland  
cydnus@uni.opole.pl

The genus *Amnestus* was described by Dallas in 1851, as a New World genus, and it was ratified by Froeschner (1960) in his revision for the Western Hemisphere Cydnidae.

Jerzy A. Lis (1998), in a short paper and based on one male and three females collected by Linnavouri in Iran in 1994, described *Amnestus raunoi*, as the first representative of the subfamily Amnestinae in the Old World. Later, Linnavouri collected *A. raunoi* in several regions of the Gilan Province; in the localities of Sume-eh Sara, Anzali, Dasht-e-Veel, Rasht, Seravan, also in Iran (Linnavouri, 2007). Ghahari et al. (2009) in their catalog of the Iranian burrower bugs, reported *A. raunoi* only for the Gilan Province. Lis (1998) in his paper mentioned its similarity to *Amnestus pusillus* Uhler, distributed from Canada to Guatemala.

Recently we received a loan from the Cardiff Museum with representatives of *Amnestus raunoi* that came from the same type locality where the species was described. After reviewing all the external characters and measurements, including prosternal carina, spines of legs, and other characters, and comparing it with more than 250 specimens of *Amnestus pusillus*, we now discover that all of them correspond to the same species. Males were dissected and the parameres studied, which according to our knowledge of this genus a very good character to differentiate and ratify the species. And the study of the parameres also showed that both species are the same.

Therefore, according to our findings, we conclude that *Amnestus raunoi* is a synonym of *Amnestus pusillus*, a species with wide distribution in the American continent. It may be that a few specimens of *Amnestus pusillus* were carried through the agency of man to Iran; a population was established and then it moved to several places of the Gilan Province.

There is another report of one species of the genus *Amnestus*, *A. pusio* (Stål) which was recorded in Madagascar (Froeschner, 1960), probably also introduced by man.

The type locality of Rasht is the capital of Gilan province in northwestern Iran and the largest city along the Caspian Sea coast (37°17'N 49°35'E). It is a major trade center between Caucasia, Russia and Iran using the port of Bandar-e Anzali. Rasht is also a major tourist center with the resort of Masouleh with adjacent mountains and the beaches of the Caspian as major attractions, and is a very industrial area. All the other localities wherein *A. pusillus* have been collected, are in the Gilan Province and are separated by only 30 km or so; it is possible that this insect was introduced into one place and then moved to other near-by places. This species is attracted to light, so its movement can be figured out easily. In the American continent, *A. pusillus* is a very common species, well distributed from Canada (Maw, et al. 2000), through all the United States, Mexico, to Guatemala.

## References

- Froeschner, R.C. (1960) Cydnidae of the Western Hemisphere. *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, 111, 337–680.
- Ghahari, H., Choret, F., Linnavouri, R.E. & Ostovan, H. (2009) Annotated catalogue of Iranian burrower bugs (Heteroptera, Pentatomoidea, Cydnidae) *ZooKeys*, 26, 1–31.