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The dating of the ornithological section of Middendorff's *Reise in den äussersten Norden und Osten Sibiriens*, with comments on the nomenclature of Pallas's Bunting *Emberiza pallasii* Cabanis (Aves: Emberizidae)

JIŘÍ MLÍKOVSKÝ

Department of Zoology, National Museum, Václavské náměstí 68, CZ-115 79 Praha 1, Czech Republic. E-mail: jiri_mlikovsky@nm.cz

Abstract

Middendorff's work on the *Säugethiere, Vögel und Amphibien*, published as part 2 of volume 2 of his *Reise in den äussersten Norden und Osten Sibiriens*, was variably dated from 1851, 1852 or 1853. I document that the work was published shortly before 15 December 1852 and I recommend using this date for the purposes of zoological nomenclature.

Due to this, *Emberiza polaris* Middendorff, 1852 has precedence over *Cynchramus pallasii* Cabanis, 1853. This bunting species thus should be called *Emberiza polaris* and its four subspecies should be called *Emberiza polaris polaris* Middendorff, 1852, *E. polaris minor* Middendorff, 1852, *E. polaris pallasii* (Cabanis, 1853) and *E. polaris lydiae* Portenko, 1929.

Key words: Alexander Theodor von Middendorff, *Säugethiere, Vögel und Amphibien*, date of publication, Aves, nomenclature, *Emberiza pallasii*, *Emberiza polaris*, Siberia

Introduction

In the present paper I revise the dating of the ornithological section of Middendorff's *Reise in den äussersten Norden und Osten Sibiriens* and discuss its impact on the nomenclature of the Pallas's or Polar Bunting, currently known as *Emberiza pallasii* Cabanis. Nomenclatural issues follow the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999; hereafter the Code).

Dating Middendorff's work

Alexander Theodor von Middendorff (1815–1894), a Baltic-German zoologist in Russian service, undertook on behalf of the Imperial Russian Academy of Sciences in 1842–1845 an expedition to eastern Siberia (Tamiksaar & Stone 2007). He returned to St. Petersburg from this highly successful expedition with large collections, which were subsequently studied and published by a variety of scientists.

Middendorff entitled the whole series of scientific studies resulting from his expedition “*Reise in den äussersten Norden und Osten Sibiriens*” (*A Journey in the Extreme North and East of Siberia*). This series was divided into volumes (*Bände*, sg. *Band*), which in turn were divided into parts (*Theile*, sg. *Theil*). Each part could be published as a single *Lieferung* or in several *Lieferungen*. Volume 2 was devoted to zoology, its Part 1 to invertebrate zoology and Part 2 to vertebrate zoology.

The first *Lieferung* on vertebrates, written by Middendorff himself, included sections on mammals, birds and amphibians (including reptiles). This *Lieferung*, entitled “*Säugethiere, Vögel und Amphibien*”, has been variably dated from 1851, 1852 or 1853 in recent literature. For example, Koblik *et al.* (2006) dated *Calidris subminuta* (Middendorff) from 1851 (p. 116) and *Locustella ochotensis* (Middendorff) from 1853 (p. 160), although both of these species were described in the same work. Similarly, Dickinson (2003: 780) dated *Emberiza pallasii minor* Middendorff from 1853 and *Emberiza pallasii polaris* Middendorff from 1851, although both were described in the same work. This prompted me to review the date of publication of Middendorff's important work.

The unnumbered first page of Middendorff's *Säugethiere, Vögel und Amphibien* bears no date. Dickinson (2011:

form of *Emberiza schoeniclus* Linnaeus, but Loskot (1987: 167) located the types of *minor*, designated a lectotype and thus fixed the taxonomic meaning of *minor* as a representative of *Emberiza pallasi*.

In erroneous belief that the specific name *pallasi* of Cabanis antedates *polaris* of Middendorff, most authors called the Pallas's Bunting *Emberiza pallasi* Cabanis and recognized *polaris* Middendorff as a subspecies thereof (e.g. Portenko 1929: 74–80; Spangenberg & Sudilovskaâ 1954: 478–482; Vaurie 1959: 697; Loskot 1987; Dickinson 2003: 780; Stepanân 2003: 721–722). Both these names are thus in “prevailing use”. Due to the corrected dating of Cabanis's (1853) and Middendorff's (1852) works, the species must be called *Emberiza polaris* Middendorff, 1852 and *pallasi* should be used for one of its subspecies.

Accepting Loskot's (1987) classification, Pallas's Bunting and its forms should be called as follows (all synonyms are listed).

***Emberiza polaris* Middendorff**

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Emberiza polaris Middendorff, 1852: 146 (Boganida River, Taymyr Peninsula, Russia).

Emberiza canescens Swinhoe, 1860: 62 (Amoy = Xiamen, China); tentatively synonymized.

***Emberiza polaris minor* Middendorff**

Emberiza polaris var. *minor* Middendorff, 1852: 144.

Emberiza alleonis Vian, 1869: 97 (Dauria, Russia); tentatively synonymized.

Emberiza pallasi latolineata Dement'ev, 1937: 113 (Pohodskoe, Lower Kolyma River, Russia).

***Emberiza polaris pallasi* (Cabanis)**

Cynchramus pallidus C.L. Brehm, 1842: col. 503 (Transbaikalia, Russia); cf. Hartert (1922: 2217).

Cynchramus pallasi Cabanis, 1853: 130, footnote (Transbaikalia, Russia).

Cynchramus pallasi montana Suškin, 1925: 22 (Chulyshman Plateau, Altai Mountains, Russia).

Emberiza pallasi suschkiniana Grote, 1931: 150 (new replacement name for *C. p. montana* Suškin).

***Emberiza polaris lydiae* Portenko**

Emberiza pallasi lydiae Portenko, 1929: 78 (Lake Orok, Mongolia).

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