

***Synallaxis whitneyi* Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995 is a synonym of *Synallaxis cinerea* Wied, 1831**

Bret M. Whitney¹, e José Fernando Pacheco^{2, 3}

¹ Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, USA

² Rua Visconde de Ouro Preto, 71 ap. 103. 22250-180, Rio de Janeiro, RJ jfpcbc@ax.apc.org
Pós-graduação em Biologia Animal, UFRRJ, Seropédica, RJ.

³ Bolsista da CAPES.

Recebido em 26 de março de 2001

RESUMO. *Synallaxis whitneyi* Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995 É UM SINÔNIMO DE *Synallaxis cinerea* Wied, 1831. Um reexame dos seis sítipos de *Synallaxis cinerea*, depositados no AMNH, revelou que três deles e *Synallaxis whitneyi* representam a mesma forma. O macho AMNH 6813, em melhores condições de conservação que os demais exemplares, deve ser designado como lectótipo de *Synallaxis cinerea* Wied, 1831. Os três outros correspondem a dois exemplares de *Synallaxis frontalis* e, possivelmente, a um imaturo de *Synallaxis albescens*. Dado que *Synallaxis* é feminino, o nome correto do táxon deve ser *Synallaxis cinerea*.

Key Words: birds, Brazil, Furnariidae, valid name, *Synallaxis cinerea*, *Synallaxis whitneyi*.
Palavras-Chave: aves, Brasil, Furnariidae, nome válido, *Synallaxis cinerea*, *Synallaxis whitneyi*.

In their description of *Synallaxis whitneyi*, Pacheco and Gonzaga (1995:10) considered the possibility that the name *Synallaxis cinereus* Wied, 1831 applied to the apparently unnamed spinetail they had found in montane southern Bahia, Brazil. Wied's name was based on a series of five or possibly six specimens held at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York, USA, which Allen (1889:243) had determined to comprise two species. LeCroy and Sloss (2000:19) confirmed Allen's judgement that three of the specimens (AMNH 6811, 6812, 6813) closely matched Wied's description and were referable to *Synallaxis ruficapilla* Vielliot, 1819; the other two (AMNH 6814, 6815), and a sixth specimen (AMNH 5204) not explicitly labeled by Wied but almost certainly belonging with the series, were identified as *Synallaxis frontalis* Pelzeln, 1859 (Allen's *S. azarae*).

Pacheco and Gonzaga (1995) deduced that Wied's specimens were collected inland from Ilhéus in southern Bahia (and see LeCroy and Sloss [2000]), thus remote from the distribution of *S. ruficapilla* but potentially within the range of the form they had found. Furthermore, Wied's description of the underparts of his male (AMNH 6812, 6813) as being "dark ash gray" suggested that these specimens were representative of the form they had found rather than *S. ruficapilla*, which has pale brownish underparts. As it was not possible to compare their specimens to Wied's series directly, Pacheco and Gonzaga compared them to photographs of Wied's specimens sent by personnel at AMNH. They judged Wied's specimens to fall within the range of variation of *S. ruficapilla*. Thus, Pacheco and Gonzaga (1995) introduced the new name *S. whitneyi* (Bahia Spinetail).

On a visit to AMNH in April, 2000, BMW had an opportunity to examine and make digital videotape recordings of Wied's series of *S. cinereus*. These images were compared with digital videotape recordings of the holotype, and some other specimens and live individuals of *S. whitneyi*. Number AMNH 6811 is an immature *S. cinereus*,

which shows a few adult crown feathers. Wied's two males are somewhat faded, and the gray of the underparts is less evident than in the recent specimens, which had complicated matching them to either *ruficapilla* or *infuscata*. It is clear, however, that the two series represent the same form. Thus, we recommend that *Synallaxis whitneyi* Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995 be placed in the synonymy of *Synallaxis cinereus* Wied, 1831. Wied's male number AMNH 6813, which is in better condition than the other male *S. cinereus* (AMNH 6812), will serve as the lectotype of *Synallaxis cinereus*. The name should be changed to *cinerea*, as an adjective of the feminine *Synallaxis*. The English name Bahia Spinetail remains appropriate for *Synallaxis cinerea*, although the species is now known to occur in extreme northeastern Minas Gerais as well (Ribon *et al.* in press).

The identification of the several specimens comprising Wied's series has been confused over the years, so it seems worthwhile to point out that it appears to include not two but three currently recognized species. As reported by LeCroy and Sloss (2000), AMNH 6815 and AMNH 5204 are *S. frontalis*. (Pacheco and Gonzaga [1995] recommended, and LeCroy and Sloss [2000] concurred, that *S. cinereus* be considered inapplicable to *S. frontalis*). It appears that AMNH 6814 is an example of *Synallaxis albescens* Temminck, 1823. It is an immature, showing several adult crown feathers posterior to a gray forehead. It has rufous upperwing-coverts that contrast with the dull brownish remiges, and a similarly dull brownish tail. The underparts are just slightly paler whitish-brow. The tail color precludes this specimen being either *S. cinerea* or *S. frontalis*, both of which have rufous tails in all plumages, but it is consistent with *S. albescens*, and the other plumage characteristics indicate that this is the correct identification. Temminck's name (fortunately) antedates Wied's *S. cinereus*, so the matter is of no nomenclatural consequence. All three of the species represented in the Wied series may be found today in fairly close proximity in the region of southern Bahia inland from Ilhéus. In the early 19th Century, when Wied made his collections and before widespread anthropogenic alteration of habitats in southern Bahia, it probably would have been more difficult to encounter all three of the above species anywhere very near a locality having *S. cinerea*. Thus, it is probable that Wied united specimens from two or three geographically (and certainly ecologically) distinct localities.

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