

Anisops marazanofi Poisson, a synonym of *A. crinitus* Brooks (Heteroptera: Notonectidae)

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Abstract: The synonymy of *Anisops marazanofi* Poisson with *A. crinitus* Brooks is established. A key to European *Anisops* is given.

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Within the framework of preparing a survey of European water bugs a male and female paratype of *Anisops crinitus* Brooks from Corfu were studied. They proved to be the same species known as *A. marazanofi* Poisson which was considered to be an Iberian endeme (Nieser et al., 1994). The type series of *A. crinitus* contains in addition specimens from various places in India and New Caledonia. The holotype is from the same locality and series as the paratype studied (Brooks, 1951). We get the following synonymy:

Anisops crinitus Brooks

Anisops crinita Brooks, 1951: 443-444, fig. 68.
Anisops marazanofi Poisson, 1966: 775-777, fig. 1.

The most reliable specific characteristics in the Anisopinae are, as a rule, found in the chaetotaxy of the male fore leg, and in *Anisops* especially those of the tibia and tarsus. Figure 1 illustrates the fore leg of a specimen from Spain, Pontevedra (in author's collection) and fig. 2 the fore leg of the male paratype from Greece, labelled "Corfu, J. Sahlb[erg] ex Kirkaldy collection" (deposited in the Snow Entomological Museum, University of Kansas, U. S. A.). As can be seen they are nearly identical and fall within intraspecific variability of species in *Anisops*. The rostral prong and measurements of the specimens also agree. Brooks (1951) states that the synthlipsis is one sixth to one seventh of the anterior width of vertex, and according to Poisson

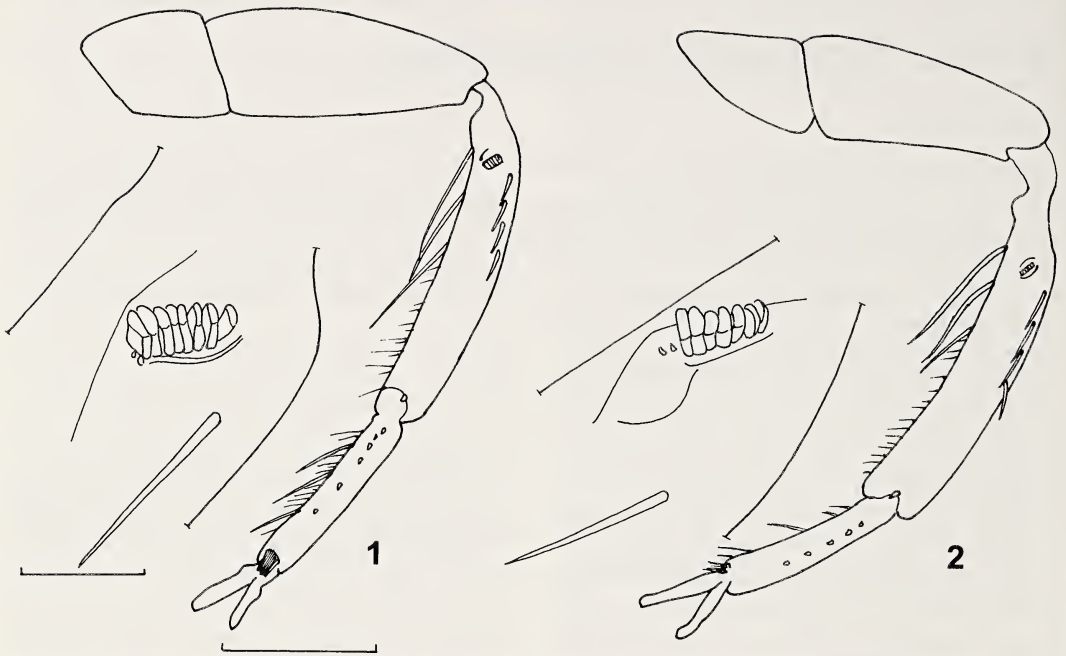
(1966) this ratio is about one third. According to my measurements this ratio is 0.20-0.25. The reason for these differences is that the absolute value of the synthlipsis is about 0.05 mm, so small differences in the way it is measured or in rounding off may cause considerable differences in the perceived value of the ratio.

Distribution: Spain, Greece, Iran, Iraq, India and Pakistan (Polhemus, 1995), and in addition a single male from New Caledonia (Brooks, 1951).

Apart from this species and *A. sardeus* Herrich-Schaeffer, a widespread species common in South Europe, there is a third *Anisops* represented in South Europe: *A. debilis perplexus* Poisson, which also has a narrow synthlipsis. This is a North African species, reaching Iran, South Spain, the Balearic Islands and Sicily (Nieser et al., 1994; Polhemus, 1995). It belongs to a complex of closely related taxa, mostly African in distribution, treated by Lansbury (1964).

The European species of *Anisops* can easily be separated by the following key:

1. Larger species, length 7-9 mm, male with a cephalic projection in front of eyes
..... *A. sardeus*
– Smaller species, length 6.5 mm or less, males without cephalic projection in front of eyes 2
2. Head twice as wide as long (1.5/0.7 mm),



Figs 1-2. Fore leg of male *Anisops crinitus* Brooks (scale 0.5 mm), and detail with tibial comb (scale 0.1 mm). 1, specimen from Spain, Pontevedra; 2, paratype from Greece, Corfu.

- male tibial comb with over 20 teeth, width of synthlipsis about 0.1 mm in both sexes *A. debilis perplexus*
 – Head one and a half times as wide as long (1.3/0.85 mm), male tibial comb with 6-9 teeth, width of synthlipsis about 0.05 in males, 0.07 in females *A. crinitus*

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