A new combination for *Sternodontus contestor* Kiritshenko, 1966 (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae)

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Sternodontus contestor is transferred to *Oplistochilus* on the basis of several common characters of external structure and the male genitalia and absence of real unique characters shared with *Sternodontus*. The main taxonomic characters of closely related genera are considered.

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The paper is based on material from the collections of Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg (ZISP), and National Museum of Natural History, Prague (NMPC).

Sternodontus contestor has been described on the basis of three females from Iran and placed in *Sternodontus* without substantiation. I consider *S. contestor* to be a species of the genus *Oplistochilus*.

Oplistochilus contestor (Kiritshenko, 1966), comb. n. (Figs 5, 7, 8, 13)

Sternodontus contestor Kiritshenko, 1966: 799.

Material examined. Iran: 1 9 (holotype), Baluchestan, northern foothills of Kuh-e Taftan, Sargad, 24.V.1955 (Steinberg) (ZISP); 2 9 (paratypes), Kerman Prov., sands of Gahkom, 30 km S of Hajiabad, 27.IV.1955 (Steinberg) (ZISP); 1 σ , Baluchestan, Damen N. Iranshahr, 24.IV.1969 (Hashemi & Pazuki) (NMPC).



Figs 1-6. Humeri, dorsal view. 1, Ancyrosoma leucogrammes (Gmel.); 2, Oplistochilus pallidus; 3, O. subcarinatus, holotype; 4, O. subcarinatus, paratype; 5, O. contestor, holotype; 6, Sternodontus binodulus Jak. 1, 2, 4-6 – original, 3 – after Hoberlandt (1984).

O. contestor shares several unique characters with other species of *Oplistochilus* (O. pallidus Jakovlev, 1887 and O. subcarinatus Hoberlandt, 1984), but not with Sternodontus (the main taxonomic characters of Oplistochilus and closely-related genera are given in the Table). Unique characters of three species of *Oplistochilus* are: (1) smooth longitudinal carinae on dorsal surface of body (O. contestor has more or less distinct median carina on pronotum and 3 carinae on scutellum; pronotum of O. pallidus and O. subcarina*tus* usually without carinae, three carinae on their scutellum less distinct than in O. contestor); (2) lateral process of hypophysis of paramere absent (Figs 7-10); (3) vesica strongly protruding beyond margins of medial penial plates (Figs 13-15). I consider independent events the disappearance of lateral process of hypophysis of paramere in Op*listochilus* and *Graphosoma – Tholagmus* and lengthening of vesica in Oplistochilus and Derula. Oplistochilus differs from Sternodontus in the angulate humeri. O. pallidus (Fig. 2) has long and acute humeri, as in Ancyrosoma (Fig. 1). Humeri of O. contestor are short and obtuse-angled (Fig. 5). Among two paratypes of O. subcarinatus received from the NMPC, the male has humeri resembling those of O. contestor (Fig. 4), but humeri of female are almost as in O. pallidus (Fig. 3). Sternodontus has widely rounded humeri (Fig. 6). Both O. pallidus and O. subcarinatus have distinct denticles on antero-medial angles of propleurites, but they are clearly shorter than those in species of Sternodontus. Both O. contestor and Ancyrosoma have hardly discernible denticles on propleurites. The scutellum of all species of Oplistochilus is widely rounded apically; this character is shared with Sternodontus, but distinct from

	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
O. pallidus	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
O. subcarinatus	2	2 (3)	3	3	2	2	2	2
O. contestor	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Ancyrosoma	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
Sternodontus	2	1	2	3	3	1	2	1
Graphosoma	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Tholagmus	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Derula	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Dybowskyia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table. Main taxonomic characters of species of Oplistochilus and closely related genera.

Explanation to the Table. **A.** Head: 1, short and wide, triangular; 2, long and strongly narrowed forwards. **B.** Humeri: 1, widely rounded; 2, long and acute; 3, short and obtuse-angled. **C.** Longitudinal carinae on dorsal surface of body: 1, absent; 2, distinct; 3, strongly smoothed. **D.** Denticles on antero-medial angles of propleurites: 1, absent; 2, small; 3, large. **E.** Third abdominal sternum: 1, smooth; 2, with longitudinal impression; 3, with applanate tubercle. **F.** Lateral process of hypophysis of paramere: 1, developed; 2, absent. **G.** Parandria: 1, plate-like, coalescing with margins of pygophore; 2, free, small, conic. **H.** Vesica: 1, not protruding beyond margins of medial penial plates; 2, protruding beyond them. Cells with unique characters of species of *Oplistochilus* are shaded.



Figs 7-16. Paramere, aedeagus and pygophore, lateral (7, 9, 11, 13, 14), ventral (15) and dorsal view (8, 10, 12, 16). 7, 8, *Oplistochilus contestor*, paramere; 9, 10, *O. pallidus*, paramere; 11, 12, *Sternodontus ampliatus* Jak., paramere; 13, *O. contestor*, aedeagus; 14, *O. pallidus*, aedeagus; 15, *O. pallidus*, vesica and medial penial plates; 16, *Ancyrosoma leucogrammes*, pygophore. *pr. lat*, lateral processus of hypophysis of paramere; ves, vesica; *pd*, parandrium. Scale line: 0.25 mm.

Ancyrosoma, in which the scutellum is more narrowly rounded apically. The scutellum of *Oplistochilus, Sternodontus* and *Ancyrosoma* is strongly wide on all length as against of closely related genera. Undoubtedly, the group *Oplistochilus – Sternodontus – Ancyrosoma* is a natural one; it differs from closely related genera and the tribe Ventocorini in the long and strongly narrowed forwards head and small conic parandria located on membranous area separated from the genital aperture of pygophore by a narrow sclerotized bridge (Fig. 16).

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