

BIANOR AEMULUS (GERTSCH, 1934), NEW COMBINATION (ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE). Wayne Maddison

I here propose that *Sassacus aemulus* Gertsch be placed in the genus *Bianor* Peckham and Peckham, for the reasons that follow.

S. aemulus should not be in the genus *Sassacus*. The type species of *Sassacus*, *S. papenhoei* Peckham and Peckham, has a palpus and epigynum resembling those of *Dendryphantes*, *Phidippus*, *Tutelina*, and other "dendryphantines." *S. aemulus* has a quite different palpus and epigynum (Gertsch, 1934; Fig. 1), superficially at least resembling those of *Pellenes*. This suggests that *S. aemulus* should be moved out of *Sassacus*.

S. aemulus and the European *Bianor aurocinctus* (Ohlert) are congeneric. Their close relationship is shown by palpus and epigynum (*S. aemulus*: see Gertsch, 1934, and Fig. 1; *B. aurocinctus*: see Locket and Millidge, 1951, under *Bianor aenescens*), and by habitus and courtship display (*S. aemulus*: W. Maddison, unpublished observations; *B. aurocinctus*: see Bristowe, 1958, under *B. aenescens*). Thus *S. aemulus* and *B. aurocinctus* should be kept in the same genus.

But should this genus be *Bianor*? The Australasian *B. maculatus* (Keyserling) is the type species of the genus *Bianor*. I have seen, in the Canadian National Collection, a male salticid labeled "*Bianor maculatus* (Keys.) male, det. CLARK

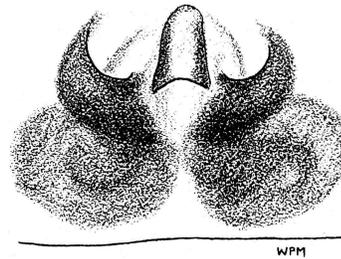


Figure 1. *Bianor aemulus*, ventral view of epigynum. Collected 30 August, 1975, Port Cunnington, Muskoka District, Ontario, Canada by D. Maddison.

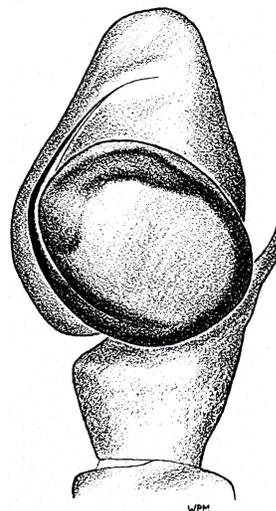


Figure 2. *Bianor maculatus*, ventral view of palpus. The vial containing this specimen was in a rack with Australian salticids in the Canadian National Collection.

1968, ?= *B. albobimaculatus* (Lucas)." The palpus (Fig. 2) does not exclude a relationship, nor does the general form of the carapace. The first legs are not swollen as in *S. aemulus* and *B. aurocinctus*. Other characters were not studied. I have seen no specimens of *Bianor* species other than *S. aemulus* and *B. maculatus*.

Thus *S. aemulus* should not be in the genus *Sassacus*, and a placement in *Bianor* is not unreasonable. Some workers could argue that placing *S. aemulus* in *Bianor* at the present time is likely to cause instability in nomenclature, because both *S. aemulus* and *B. aurocinctus* might eventually be moved somewhere else. I would disagree. First, the relationship between *S. aemulus* and *B. aurocinctus* should be indicated. Second, a long time will likely pass before sufficient studies are done to remove *B. aemulus* and *B. aurocinctus* from *Bianor*. Third, in the event that *B. aurocinctus* is removed from *Bianor*, *B. aemulus* can simply "tag along for a ride," at little cost. Gertsch and Ivie previously came to the independent, unpublished conclusion that *S. aemulus* should be in *Bianor* (Gertsch, 1976, pers. comm.).

With the placement of *S. aemulus* in the genus *Bianor*, *B. aemulus* becomes the only known Nearctic species of *Bianor*. Proszynski (1976, p. 50) states that *Bianor* is represented in the Nearctic, apparently because of my personal communication to him about the placement of *S. aemulus* in *Bianor*. *B. aemulus* is a wide-ranging though uncommonly collected species. I have seen one female from Alberta, two males from Manitoba, four males, two females, and four immatures from Ontario, and two females from New Brunswick.

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 PROSZYNSKI, J. 1976. Studium systematyczno-zoogeograficzne nad rodzina Salticidae (Aranei) Regionow Palearktycznego i Nearktycznego. *Wyzsza Szkola Pedagogiczna w Siedlcach Rozprawy Nr 6, Siedlce*: 1-260 (450 figs., 219 maps).