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WOOD GNATS OF THE GENUS *SYLVICOLA*
(DIPTERA, ANISOPODIDAE): TAXONOMIC STATUS,
FAMILY ASSIGNMENT, AND REVIEW OF NOMINAL
SPECIES DESCRIBED BY J. C. FABRICIUS

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Comments are given on the contents and relationships of *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780, an important genus of anisopodid gnats. *Tonnoirina* Amorim & Tozoni, 1994 is sunk as a new junior synonym. At the family-group level aspects of nomenclature, fossils and taxon/lineage definitions are dealt with, and the phylogenetic structure of extant wood gnats discussed. It is preferred to treat them all in a single family and to abandon other formal supra-generic classification. A composite maxillo-labial ‘mentum’ is a remarkable state of the adult mouthparts that seems to combine the *Mycetobia*- and *Olbiogaster*-groups. Finally, the identity of three nominal species of *Sylvicola* has been checked and lectotypes designated on basis of authentic type material. All three are from Europe and were described by J. C. Fabricius. *Sylvicola subfuscatus* Krivosheina & Menzel, 1998 is a new junior synonym of *S. fuscatus* (Fabricius, 1775) and *S. fuscatooides* sp. n. is proposed for ‘*S. fuscatus* Fabricius’ of recent authors.

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Wood gnats or Anisopodidae in the sense of Hennig (1973) and Peterson (1981), i.e. including *Sylvicola* Harris, *Olbiogaster* Osten Sacken, *Mycetobia* Meigen and related genera, are today a small family of nematocerous Neodiptera (see Michelsen 1996a) with ca. 120 species described. However, a rich fossil record suggests that the direct lineage leading to the modern family can be traced back to early Middle Mesozoic (200+ Myr). The family is rather cosmopolitan, occurring in arboreal habitats ranging from tropical to cold-temperate climates. A few species of *Sylvicola*, the so-called ‘window gnats’, are very common in domestic situations. Anisopodid larvae are terrestrial saprophages living in decaying organic matter. Rotting wood and sap runs seem favourable to many species of anisopodids, but a much wider range of breeding media, including manure and decaying vegetables, are utilised by the common window gnats.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss and clarify various topics that relate to the systematics of *Sylvicola*. The nomenclature and synonymy of the genus is considered first, followed by some supra-generic issues (family nomenclature, status of fossil names, relationships and classification of extant genera). Final-

ly, the identity of nominal species of *Sylvicola* described by J. C. Fabricius (and other 18th century authors) is assessed.

Acronyms for depositories: ZIUL, Zoological Institute, University of Lund; ZMUC, Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen.

TAXONOMIC STATUS OF SYLVICOLA HARRIS

Over time there has been consensus on gathering most species of wood gnats into a single genus based on characters of the wing: vein R_{2+3} strongly sinuous and wing membrane with macrotrichia. By that diagnosis the genus is large (about 75 extant species known) and distributed worldwide. Yet, the simple question of what name to apply for it has been a most contentious issue. Meigen (1818) ignored his own earlier (Meigen 1803, 1804) proposal of the name *Anisopus*, and all subsequent 19th century authors adopted the name *Rhyphus* Latreille, 1804. Upon the discovery of an obscure pamphlet issued by Meigen (1800), Hendel (1908, 1928) introduced the senior name *Phryne*, a course followed notably by German and French authors. However, a still older name was introduced through Coquillett’s (1910) fixation of a

type-species for *Sylvicola*. Harris (1780: 100, pl. 31) proposed that generic name for nine newly described British species of the present families Rhagionidae (7), Athericidae (1) and Anisopodidae (1). It was first given as 'Sylvicolae', but appears in proper singular form in the legend to plate 31 (on p. [4] of the 'Index'). Knab (1912) was not convinced about the validity of either of the names *Sylvicola* and *Phryne*. Instead, he adopted the name *Anisopus* on grounds that it has priority over *Rhyphus*, a course followed notably by British and American authors. Eventually, the senior name *Sylvicola* gained general acceptance by the early 1960s, probably on the influence of Melville's (1960) report leading to the suppression of all Meigen-1800 names in 1963. That report (pp. 31-32) clarified the nomenclatorial status of the oldest genus-group names in Anisopodidae.

Based on the small Nearctic fauna (five species only), a division of *Sylvicola* into two subgenera, *Sylvicola* s. str. and *Anisopus* was attempted by Pratt & Pratt (1980). However, as argued by Amorim & Tozoni (1994), such action probably leaves *Sylvicola* s.str. paraphyletic in terms of *Anisopus*. These authors proposed instead a division of the former genus *Sylvicola* into a Laurasian and a Gondwanan component. *Sylvicola* was maintained for the Laurasian group of about 15 species, and a new genus, *Tonnoirina* was erected to accommodate the Gondwanan group (60 Oriental, Australian, Afrotropical and Neotropical species). However, I find that classification equally difficult to accept. The only evidence given in support of the monophyly of *Tonnoirina* is the dorsally contiguous state of the male eyes. Considering the frequent occurrence of extreme male holopticism in the basal groups of Neodiptera, this is not much of an argument. Even among wood gnats, the contiguous state of the male eyes is not confined to *Tonnoirina*. It occurs at least in *Sylvicola punctatus* (Fabricius) and in all *Mesochria* Enderlein. Finally, an examination of material from Terra del Fuego, Argentina (in ZMUC) revealed that the 'Gondwanan' *Anisopus andinus* Edwards, 1930 is not a species of *Tonnoirina* but a *Sylvicola* in the sense of Amorim & Tozoni: male eyes narrowly separated dorsally; female with a single spermatheca. Edwards (1930: 115) was evidently right in suggesting that a close relationship exists between the 'Gondwanan' *andinus* and the 'Laurasian' *fenestralis*-species group.

On the above evidence, I prefer to maintain *Sylvicola* in the accustomed broad sense. The formal synonymy is as follows:

Genus *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780

- Sylvicola* Harris, 1780: 100, index [4]. Type-species *Sylvicola brevis* Harris, 1780 [= *Tipula fenestralis* Scopoli, 1763], by designation of Coquillett (1910: 610).
 [Phryne Meigen, 1800: 16. Unavailable, suppressed by I.C.Z.N. (1963: 339).]
Anisopus Meigen, 1803: 264. Type-species *Anisopus fuscus* Meigen, 1804 [= *Tipula fuscata* Fabricius, 1775], by designation of Coquillett (1910: 507).
Rhyphus Latreille, 1804: 188. Type-species *Tipula fenestralis* Scopoli, 1763 [as 'fenestrarum'], by monotypy. *Tonnoirina* Amorim & Tozoni, 1994: 531. Type-species *Anisopus festivus* Edwards, 1928, by original designation. **Syn. n.**

FAMILY ASSIGNMENT OF SYLVICOLA HARRIS: A COMMENTARY ON THE SUPRA-GENERIC CLASSIFICATION OF WOOD GNATS

Nomenclature

The following list presents, in chronological order, all the family-group names that have been proposed for extant and fossil (†) groups of anisopodid or alleged 'anisopodiform' gnats. Evenhuis (1994) should be consulted for full references to the literature on the fossil names.

- Rhyphidae Newman, 1834: 379, 387 [as Rhyphites]. Type-genus *Rhyphus* Latreille, 1804.
 Mycetobiinae Winnertz, 1863: 657 [as Mycetobinae]. Type-genus *Mycetobia* Meigen, 1818.
 †Protorhyphidae Handlirsch, 1906, Fossilen Insekten: 487. Type-genus *Protorhyphus* Handlirsch, 1906 (Lower Jurassic).
 Anisopodidae Knab, 1912: 111 [as Anisopidae]. Type-genus *Anisopus* Meigen, 1803. Replacement name for Rhyphidae.
 [Phrynidae Hendel, 1928: 9, 63 [as Phryneidae]. Type-genus *Phryne* Meigen, 1800. Unavailable replacement name for Rhyphidae, type-genus suppressed for the purposes of zoological nomenclature.]
 Olbiogastridae Hennig, 1948: 78 [as Olbiogasteridae]. Type-genus *Olbiogaster* Osten-Sacken, 1886.
 †Oligophrynidae Rohdendorf, 1962, [Fundament. Paleont.] 9: 332 [as Oligophryneidae]. Type-genus *Oligophryne* Rohdendorf, 1962 (Lower Jurassic).
 †Protolbiogastridae Rohdendorf, 1962, [Fundament. Paleont.] 9: 332. Type-genus *Protolbiogaster* Rohdendorf, 1962 (Lower Jurassic).
 [Sylvicolidae Hennig, 1954: 290. Type-genus *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780. Unavailable, published as a synonym of Phryneidae.]
 Sylvicolidae Alexander, 1962: 3, 7. Type-genus *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780. Replacement name for Anisopodidae.
 †Crosaphididae Evans, 1971, Mem. Queensl. Mus. 16: 146. Type-genus *Crosaphis* Evans, 1971 (Upper Triassic).
 †Limnorhyphidae Hong, 1983, [Middle Jurass. Ins. N. China]: 132. Type-genus *Limnorhyphus* Hong, 1983 (Middle Jurassic).
 †Siberhyphidae Kovalev in Kalugina & Kovalev, 1985, [Dipt. Ins. Jurass. Sib.]: 123. Type-genus *Siberhyphus* Kovalev in Kalugina & Kovalev, 1985 (Middle Jurassic).

Lobogastrini Amorim & Tozoni, 1994: 530. Type-genus *Lobogaster* Philippi, 1865.
 Eogastrini Amorim & Tozoni, 1994: 530. Type-genus *Eogaster* Amorim & Tozoni, 1994.
 Valeseguyinae Amorim & Tozoni, 1994: 533. Type-genus *Valeseguya* Colless, 1990.
 Mesochrini Amorim & Tozoni, 1994: 533. Type-genus *Mesochria* Enderlein, 1910.

The priority principle of the Zoological Code does not in itself suggest that the valid family-group name for wood gnats is indeed Anisopodidae. This follows from another provision of the Code (Article 40, Section b): Knab (1912) replaced the name Rhyphidae Newman, 1834 by Anisopodidae on the ground that *Rhyphus* Latreille, 1804 is a junior subjective synonym of *Anisopus* Meigen, 1803. As the name Anisopodidae was introduced before 1961 and has won general acceptance, it takes precedence of the replaced name and is to be maintained with its own author. According to Recommendation 40A of the Code the name is correctly cited as 'Anisopodidae Knab, 1912 (1834)'.

Alexander (1962) attempted to replace Anisopodidae by Sylvicolidae on the ground that *Anisopus* Meigen, 1803 is a junior subjective synonym of *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780. By taking place after 1960, this action was not valid (see the Code, Article 40, Section a). Even if an earlier, pre-1961 use of Sylvicolidae might be found in the literature, this would not make Sylvicolidae a valid family-group name, as it has never won general acceptance.

Fossil wood gnats: the lineage Anisopodidae

There are two reasons for the high number of supra-generic names proposed in the small family of wood gnats. First, a rich and varied record of 'anisopodiform' fossils (mostly wing impressions) from Mesozoic sediments has given rise to several family-group names. Second, a very elaborate supra-generic classification that formally ranks extant wood gnats as a superfamily (Anisopodoidea) consisting of no less than three families, four subfamilies and four tribes (see below) has been proposed by Amorim & Tozoni (1994).

Precise ideas on the relationships of Mesozoic 'anisopodiform' fossils may never be obtained considering the limited number of available characters that almost exclusively refer to aspects of the wing. Therefore, all fossil family-group names of the above list may by necessity be referred *incertae sedis* to the lineage Anisopodidae. Following Michelsen (1996b), such lineage is defined as the stem-based or 'most inclusive' clade that contains only wood gnats among its recent species. The true family or taxon Anisopodidae, according to Michelsen (1996b), is defined as the node-based or 'least inclusive' clade that contains

all recent species of wood gnats. Evenhuis (1994: 559) gives Lower Jurassic as minimum age for the family Anisopodidae. However, that information is of little use in the absence of criteria for what makes a fossil qualify as an anisopodid. It appears to me that 'Anisopodidae' in the sense of Evenhuis is more inclusive than the taxon but less inclusive than the lineage by that name. This concern is surely relevant, considering that the age difference between the lineage and the taxon Anisopodidae could possibly amount to a hundred million years.

Extant wood gnats: the taxon Anisopodidae

It is widely acknowledged that extant wood gnats are monophyletic and can be partitioned into three primary subgroups as follows: (1) a widespread group of *Sylvicola* only, (2) a pantropical group of *Olbiogaster* and some smaller genera, and (3) a widespread group of *Mycetobia* and some smaller genera. Strong synapomorphies for the Anisopodidae are the deep sensory vesicle of palpomere III of the maxilla and the missing male tergite IX (= epandrium). Among the subgroups only the *Sylvicola*-group and the *Mycetobia*-group are obviously monophyletic: the first on account of a long, basally coiled aedeagus, the second due to the fusion of palpomeres I-III of the maxilla and the missing cell d and vein M_3 of the wing. The *Mycetobia*-group was initially nested within Mycetophilidae (s.lat.) based on resemblance in the wing venation, but Edwards (1916) and Keilin (1919) remedied that mistake on strong morphological evidence from both adults and immatures.

Amorim & Tozoni (1994) considered the *Olbiogaster*-group as standing outside the *Sylvicola* + *Mycetobia*-groups. The presence of maximally two spermathecae in the *Sylvicola* + *Mycetobia*-groups (three in the *Olbiogaster*-group) speaks in favour of this scheme, while additional evidence given by the authors appears subtle or poorly documented. A different scheme, in which the *Sylvicola*-group stands outside the *Olbiogaster* + *Mycetobia*-groups, is favoured here on basis of characters of the adult mouthparts. A remarkable, perhaps plesiomorphic state in wood gnats is the presence of a setose postlabial plate apparently representing the mentum. This structure in *Sylvicola* and *Mycetobia* is finely illustrated by Peterson (1916: pl. V, figs. 80 and 90). In *Sylvicola* the mentum is moderate-sized and unmusculated, lying in a membrane between the maxillary cardines and stiptes. In *Mycetobia* the mentum is enlarged and anterolaterally merged with the maxillary cardines + stiptes. Evidence for such fusion comes from my observation that the anterolateral angles of this 'mentum' receive two sets of maxillary muscle, the tentorial adductors of cardo and stipes respectively. The 'mentum' in *Mycetobia* further gives rise to a set of

maxillary muscle, the stipital abductor of palpomeres I-III (in *Mycetobia* – unlike *Sylvicola* and *Olbiogaster* – the three basal-most maxillary palpomeres are joined into a single segment). I have not been able to study specimens of the *Olbiogaster*-group, but it is obvious from Edwards' (1916) comparative study that the exceptional fusion of labial and maxillary parts is also characteristic of that group. Additional evidence for the monophyly of the *Olbiogaster* + *Mycetobia*-groups is provided by the straight vein R_{2+3} that distally strongly approaches R_1 . However, ample support for the monophyly of the *Olbiogaster*-group is still wanting.

Cladistic ambiguity, especially with respect to the *Olbiogaster*-group, makes me prefer to recognise but a single family of extant wood gnats. This contrasts with the opinion of Russian dipterists (see Krivosheina 1997a, 1997b) and Amorim & Tozoni (1994) that the *Mycetobia*-group, or the *Mycetobia*- and *Olbiogaster*-groups, should be ranked as families. Under the circumstances I also see no point in adopting any formalised supra-generic classification.

THE NOMINAL SPECIES OF SYLVICOLA DESCRIBED BY J. C. FABRICIUS

Wood gnats of the genus *Sylvicola* Harris include several species that are common throughout most parts of North and Middle Europe. The modern era of taxonomic treatment of the genus started with Edwards (1923), who identified five European species (in *Anisopus*) on the basis of diagnostic characters of the male terminalia: *fenestralis* Scopoli, *cinctus* Fabricius, *zetterstedti* Edwards, *limpidus* Edwards and *punctatus* Fabricius. In a subsequent treatment of the world fauna of Anisopodidae, Edwards (1928) added a sixth species, *fuscatus* Fabricius, from continental Europe. Lindner (1930) recognised the same species (in *Phryne*) in a revision of the Palaearctic species, while Freeman (1950) gave an illustrated key to the four British species (in *Anisopus*). In a review of the Nearctic species of *Sylvicola*, Stone (1965) concluded that three out of five species (*S. punctatus*, *S. fuscatus* and *S. fenestralis*) are Holarctic and were first described from Europe. Pratt & Pratt (1980) gave a taxonomic up-date of the same species. Pedersen (1968), in a review of Danish *Sylvicola*, added differences in the female terminalia as a means of species separation. Hancock (1989) and Söli (1992) reviewed the taxonomy and faunistics of the Scottish and Norwegian species. Haenni (1997), in a paper on Swiss *Sylvicola*, described a new species (*S. baechlii*) from Switzerland and France. Finally, in a Palaearctic revision of *Sylvicola*, Krivosheina & Menzel (1998) added two new species to the European list (*S. stackelbergi*, *S. subfuscatus*) but missed, for obvious reasons, the species de-

scribed by Haenni (1997). Thus, a total of nine species of *Sylvicola* are presently recorded from Europe.

Despite the impressive amount of recent systematic work on European wood gnats, a newly introduced misconception needs to be remedied. It concerns the misidentification of *Tipula fuscata* Fabricius, 1775, a name always considered valid in the Anisopodidae. The opportunity is taken also to report on two other nominal species of wood gnats described by Fabricius and both currently assigned to *Sylvicola*.

The identity of *Tipula fuscata* Fabricius

Sylvicola fuscatus (Fabricius, 1775)

[*Musca nigricans*; *alis antice albo nigroque variis* Linnaeus, 1746: 314, 1761: 553. Unavailable, non-binominal.]

Tipula fuscata Fabricius, 1775: 755, 1781: 410; Zimsen 1964: 453.

Rhagio fuscatus (Fabricius): Fabricius 1787: 332, 1794: 273. *Musca nigricans* Villers, 1789: 509. Synonymized by Thompson & Pont 1993: 100.

Musca fuscata (Fabricius): Gmelin 1790: 2865.

Anisopus fuscus Meigen, 1804: 103, pl. 6 (4). Synonymized by Meigen 1818: 322.

Sciara fuscata (Fabricius): Fabricius 1805: 58.

Rhyphus fuscatus (Fabricius): Meigen 1818: 321, pl. 11(18); Meigen in Morge 1975: 395, 486, pl. 25 (1a-g).

Anisopus fuscatus (Fabricius): Edwards 1928: 13, 17.

Phryne fuscata (Fabricius): Lindner 1930: 6.

Sylvicola fuscatus (Fabricius): Michelsen 1996a: 85, figs. 13, 14; Haenni 1997: 183; Kassebeer 1999: 16.

Sylvicola (Anisopus) subfuscatus Krivosheina & Menzel, 1998: 206, 215, figs. 3, 12-15. **Syn. n.**

Sylvicola subfuscatus Krivosheina & Menzel: Haenni 1998: 148.

Note. – In the second edition of 'Fauna Svecica', Linnaeus (1761: 545-556) gave a list of insect and other invertebrate species cited verbatim from his non-binominal first edition of 'Fauna Svecica' (Linnaeus 1746). The list contains species that he could no longer identify and thus intentionally excluded from further systematic treatment (see Thompson & Pont 1993: 12-13). Fabricius (1775: 755), when describing *Tipula fuscata*, evidently attempted to resurrect one of the Linnean species of that list ('2310. MUSCA nigricans; alis antice albo nigroque variis', p. 553), but for unknown reasons he emended the original diagnosis in his reference to Linnaeus: 'Musca fuscata nigricans... Linn. Fn. Sv. 2310.' The name *Musca nigricans* appears subsequently as a proper binomen in the third edition of 'Fauna Svecica' by Villers (1789: 509).

Type material. – Lectotype, ♂, by present designation, 'Suecia' [= Sweden], in Coll. Fabricius [= 'Kiel' of Zimsen 1964: 453] (ZMUC). The lectotype, on a

short pin with a Fabrician label reading 'fuscata', is in bad shape due to an old dermestid attack: only parts of the thorax, most of the wings, basal half of the abdomen, left mid tibia and most of left hind leg remain. The alleged origin from Sweden and the reference to Linnaeus suggest that the lectotype could be an authentic Linnaean specimen that Fabricius obtained during his visit to Uppsala in 1762.

Identity. – The remains of the lectotype belong to a species of *Sylvicola*. The slender proportions of the abdomen and the inflated 1st tarsomere of hind leg show that it is a male. The thick 1st tarsomere of the hind leg, absence of dark markings behind and distal to vein R_{2+3} , common origin of M_1 and M_2 from the discal cell, and large size (wing 8.2 mm, hind tibia 4.2 mm) leave no doubt that this species was correctly identified by Meigen (1818) and most subsequent European authors.

Unfortunately, when Krivosheina & Menzel (1998) realised that two additional species with a *fuscatus*-like wing pattern occur in the northern outskirts of Europe, they followed Andersson (1967) in misapplying the name *fuscatus* for a species recorded only once from northern Sweden and elsewhere found only in the Far East of Russia. The well-known Central and East European species – for which the Fabrician name *fuscatus* had been correctly applied since Meigen (1818) – was described as a new species, *S. subfuscatus*, by Krivosheina & Menzel (1998). A hasty action indeed, considering the existence of another available name, *Anisopus fuscus* Meigen, 1804 (type locality: Germany, Stolberg).

It is strange though that the occurrence of true *S. fuscatus* (Fabricius) in Sweden, as evidenced by the identity of the lectotype, has not subsequently been confirmed. Also, Pedersen (1968) did not know the species from Denmark. Both circumstances might suggest that Fabricius (1775) gave the type locality 'Suecia' by mistake. However, I am able to confirm that the distribution of *S. fuscatus* – at least today – covers the southernmost parts of Scandinavia. First, on searching through the collections of Swedish Anisopodidae in the ZIUL, I found 1 ♂ of this species collected 3.vii.1995 in Lund (Scania) by H. Andersson. Second, based on own observations I consider that *S. fuscatus* in recent years has become a fairly common insect in gardens and parks in the Copenhagen area (NE Zealand), where from I first discovered it in April 1990.

Distribution. – Europe, ranging from France and Italy to southern Scandinavia, eastward to Russian Transcaucasus.

A record from Finland (Hackman 1980) almost certainly refer to either *S. stackelbergi* Krivosheina &

Menzel or *S. fuscatooides* sp. n. (see below). North American records (Stone 1965, Pratt & Pratt 1980) might either refer to *S. stackelbergi* or some undescribed, endemic species.

Sylvicola fuscatooides sp. n.

[*Sylvicola (Anisopus) fuscatus* (Fabricius): Andersson 1967: 121, fig. 1; Krivosheina & Menzel 1998: 202, 215, figs. 1, 5-6. Misidentifications.]

Type material. – Holotype ♂, Sweden: Jämtland, Undersåker, Vallbo, 13.vii.1935, O. Ringdahl (ZIUL). Paratype ♂ (abdomen missing), Sweden: Lycksele Lappmark, Tärnasjön, Strutejokk near Skidbäcksbarracken, 14.vii.1963, leg. Andersson, Enckell & Hylltén-Cavallius (ZIUL).

Description. – For a detailed description of the present species, I refer to '*Sylvicola fuscatus*' of Krivosheina & Menzel (1998). The absence of dark wing markings behind and distal to vein R_{2+3} combined with the simple, acutely pointed male hypoproct will serve to identify males the present species. Females cannot presently be reliably separated from the very similar *S. fuscatus* (Fabricius) and *S. stackelbergi* Krivosheina & Menzel.

Distribution. – Sweden: Jämtland; Lycksele Lappmark (Andersson 1997). Russia (Far East): Primorskiy Krai (Krivosheina & Menzel 1998).

The identity of *Rhagio punctatus* Fabricius

Sylvicola punctatus (Fabricius, 1787)

Rhagio punctatus Fabricius, 1787: 333, 1794: 274; Zimsen 1964: 453.

Sciara punctata (Fabricius): Fabricius 1805: 59.

Type material. – Lectotype, ♀, by present designation, 'Kiliae' [= Kiel, Germany], 'Daldorf' [= D. K. Daldorff], in Coll. Fabricius [= 'Kiel' of Zimsen 1964: 453] (ZMUC). Only the left wing remains, mounted upside down on a piece of cardboard on a short pin with a Fabrician label reading 'punctatus'.

Identity. – The lectotype belongs to a species of *Sylvicola*. The length:width ratio of the existing wing (<2.9) indicates that it belongs to a female. The characteristic dark pattern of the wing also confirms that Meigen (1818) and subsequent authors have identified this species correctly.

The identity of *Rhagio cinctus* Fabricius

Sylvicola cinctus (Fabricius, 1787)

Rhagio cinctus Fabricius, 1787: 333, 1794: 275; Zimsen 1964: 453.

Sciara cincta (Fabricius): Fabricius 1805: 60.

Type material. – Lectotype, ♂, by present designation, 'Kiliae' [= Kiel, Germany], 'Daldorf' [= D. K. Daldorff], in Coll. Fabricius [= 'Kiel' of Zimsen 1964: 453] (ZMUC). Only the wings and some leg fragments remain of the lectotype, attached to a short pin with a Fabrician label reading 'cinctus'.

Identity. – The lectotype belongs to a species of *Sylvicola*. The length:width ratio (> 3.0) indicates that the wings are of a male. The wing pattern fits either of two common and widespread European species presently known as *Sylvicola fenestralis* (Scopoli, 1763) and *S. cinctus* (Fabricius, 1787). These species are very similar and cannot be reliably separated on external facies. Accordingly, *cinctus* was considered a junior synonym of *fenestralis* during the first half of the nineteenth century. Zetterstedt (1850: 3437) reinstated *cinctus* as a valid species and distinguished it from *fenestralis* on smaller size and lighter colouring. Subsequent authors accepted this course. Actual proof of the existence of two species came first with Edwards (1923) who found stable differences in the male terminalia (females remained inseparable until the work of Pedersen 1968). Edwards also noted that light-coloured specimens were generally males of one species while dark-coloured males might belong to either of the two. His use of the name *cinctus* for the overall smaller and more lightly coloured species gains support from what is left of the lectotype combined with a sentence of the original description: 'Thorax testaceus, immaculatus.' (Fabricius 1787: 333).

The current identity of *fenestralis*, as established by Edwards (1923) will remain a matter of convention. Scopoli (1763: 322) described *Tipula fenestralis* from 'Carniolica' [= Carniola, = Crain], an ancient duchy that equals the present Slovenia. All that can be deduced from the name and description is that of a species of *Sylvicola*. The same goes for another old name, *Sylvicola brevis*, described and illustrated by Harris (1780: 104, pl. 31). It has, since Kertész (1902: 304), been treated conveniently as a junior synonym of *fenestralis*.

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