

The identity of *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhal, 1813) (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) – a Nordic-Central European mismatch.

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The name *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhal, 1813) has long been used for different taxa by Nordic and Central European authors. An investigation of external morphology and male genitalia of the type specimen in Gyllenhaal's collection in Uppsala clearly demonstrated that it represents the species called *M. ambigua* Kutschera, 1862 in Central European tradition. The latter name is thus a younger synonym of *M. obtusata* (Gyllenhal, 1813). The earliest available name for *M. obtusata*, as used in Central European tradition, is *Mantura pallidicornis* (Waltl, 1839).

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The Swedish entomologist Leonard Gyllenhaal (in his scientific works styling himself Leonardo Gyllenhal) described the flea beetle *Mantura obtusata* in the third volume of "Insecta Svecica" (1813) as *Haltica obtusata*. The type material was almost certainly from Sweden, though Gyllenhaal gives no locality, only stating "Habitat in pratis graminosis, passim" (Lives in grassy meadows, here and there). Since its publication, Gyllenhaal's name has been continuously applied to the same species by Nordic authors (e. g. Thomson 1866, Grill 1896, Aurivillius 1917, Hansen & Henriksen 1927, Hellén 1939, Lundberg & Gustafsson 1986, 1995, Hansen 1996, Silfverberg 1992, 2004).

In 1942, the Swedish coleopterologist Anton Jansson pointed out, that in Central Europe, the name *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhal) had for a long time been applied to a different species, while the name *Mantura ambigua* Kutschera was used for Gyllenhaal's species (e.g. Reitter 1912). Jansson pointed out that the use of the name

Mantura obtusata for different species in different regions was unacceptable (Jansson 1942). His opinion was that in order to avoid further confusion, the name *Mantura obtusata* should be applied to the species described by Gyllenhaal, *M. ambigua* Kutschera, reduced to synonymy, and a new name applied to the species *M. obtusata* as understood by Central European authors. He also demonstrated that the latter, while being the more common species in Central Europe, was unknown in the Nordic Countries.

In 1951, the Austrian Alticine specialist Franz Heikertinger discussed this question. He accepted Jansson's opinion that *M. obtusata* (Gyllenhal) was not identical to the species so named by Central European authors at the time. Heikertinger, however, was no friend of the "wooden priority rule" and maintained that it would be extremely harmful to stability to "transfer a century-old name to another species". If we refrain from doing so, he said:

"everything will remain in ideal quietness and



Figure 1. Aedeagus of lectotype of *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhaal, 1813). The transversal rills on the ventral surface are distinctive. In *M. pallidicornis* (Waltl 1839) (= *M. obtusata* of Central European authors) the surface is completely smooth.

Aedeagus hos lektotypen av *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhaal 1813). Tvärräfflorna på undersidan är karakteristiska för arten. Hos *M. pallidicornis* (Waltl 1839) (= *M. obtusata* enligt mellaneuropeiska författare), är ytan helt slät.

limpid clarity, the past, the present and the future. Very well, you may object, but surely we could not name the species "*obtusata* Gyll." when it is not! That is also not our objective. It is enough for us that this has been the *obtusata* of the authors for a hundred years: "*obtusata* auct.". Let us call it that, and the community will never be in doubt: It is finally and clearly defined and settled in a hundred manuals and catalogues; the description by Gyllenhaal is of no use to anyone, anymore." (Heikertinger 1951: 151, translated from the German text).

When citing "the authors" Heikertinger overlooks (or prefers to overlook) the widespread and continuous use of *M. obtusata* (Gyllenhaal) in Nordic faunistic literature (which he repeatedly cites in other contexts in the same paper).

Heikertinger's words had great impact and his view is reflected in many manuals and catalogues on alticines (Mohr 1966, Doguet 1994, Döberl 1994, Gruev & Döberl 1997, Warchalowski 2003, Cox 2007). All these authors apparently accepted Heikertinger's opinion, but evidently not his insight that Gyllenhaal was not the author of the species: All use the mistaken combination *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhaal) for

this species, while applying the name *Mantura ambigua* Kutschera to Gyllenhaal's species. Doguet (1994) was aware of the problem and writes in a note: "the species described by Gyllenhaal should probably be attached to *M. ambigua* Kutschera". At the same time Nordic authors correctly synonymised *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhaal) with *M. ambigua* Kutschera (Lundberg & Gustafsson 1986, 1995, Silfverberg 1992, 2004, Hansen 1996). As Jansson (1942) had indicated, and contrary to the promise of Heikertinger, the long-lasting use of the name *Mantura obtusata* for two different taxa, has led to much confusion, regarding the biology and distribution of the two species (See e.g. Gruev & Döberl 1997).

Typification of *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhaal, 1813)

Nobody (not even Anton Jansson) had checked Gyllenhaal's type material and there existed a small chance that the species might be described from extra-Swedish material and actually represent the Central-European taxon.

The type material of the Coleoptera species, described in *Insecta Svecica* (Gyllenhaal 1813 and 1827) is preserved in the Gyllenhaal collection of the Museum of Evolution, Uppsala, Sweden. *Haltica obtusata* Gyllenhaal is there represented by a single specimen only, a male. It was mounted obliquely on a comparatively thick pin and bears no original label but has a red label with the text: "Uppsala Univ. Zool. Mus. Gyllenhals saml. TYP nr 1290" and a smaller label marked "a": lectotype hereby designated.

For definitive identification I have remounted the specimen and extracted the aedeagus. Its shape and texture confirms the identification of the species (Fig. 1). As expected, this specimen belongs to the taxon *Mantura ambigua* Kutschera, 1862, as identified by Central European authors. There exists no ground, in this case, for reversal of precedence according to ICZN Article 23.9 (1999). *Mantura ambigua* Kutschera, 1862 is therefore to be considered a junior synonym of *M. obtusata* (Gyllenhaal, 1813). The oldest available name for the species referred to as *Mantura obtusata*, by Central European coleopterologists is *Mantura pallidicornis* (Waltl, 1839).

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Sammanfattning

Jordloppan *Mantura obtusata* beskrevs 1813 av Leonard Gyllenhaal (som i sina vetenskapliga verk kallade sig Leonardo Gyllenhal). Den svenske koleopterologen Anton Jansson påpekade redan på 1940-talet att detta namn i Mellaneuropa, till exempel av Reitter (1913) felaktigt användes för en helt annan art, medan vår art där gick under namnet *Mantura ambigua* Kutschera 1862. Janssons slutsats accepterades av den tidens främste alticinspecialist Franz Heikertinger. Denne var emellertid ingen vän av namnbyten utan ansåg att eftersom så många författare följt den mellaneuropeiska traditionen skulle ett namnbyte bara ställa till problem. I trots mot den zoologiska koden rekommenderade han därför att den mellaneuropeiska namntraditionen skulle fortsätta att gälla. Heikertingers rekommendation har också sedan dess mangrant följts av mellaneuropeiska koleopterologer. Ingen (inte ens Anton Jansson) hade dock undersökt Gyllenhaals typexemplar. En undersökning av denna visar nu som man kunde vänta att den nordiska traditionen varit korrekt och att namnet *Mantura obtusata* avser vår art (den som i Mellaneuropa kallas *M. ambigua*). Det enda exemplaret i Gyllenhaals samling i Uppsala utvaldes därför som lectotyp för arten. Det äldsta namnet för den art som i Mellaneuropa gått under namnet *M. obtusata* är *Mantura pallidicornis* (Waltl, 1839). Eftersom nordiska entomologer hela tiden använt det korrekta namnet är det också det som enligt den zoologiska koden ska gälla. Om man redan efter Anton Janssons påpekande för över 60 år sedan gjort denna förändring hade mycken ytterligare förvirring undvikits.