

Nomenclatorial Notes on some European *Homoptera Auchenorrhyncha* (Hem.).

By

FREJ OSSIANNILSSON.

1. *The Genera Deltocephalus, Athysanus, and Thamnotettix.*—In Part III of his grand work on Fennoscandinavian *Carabidae* (1949), Professor Lindroth devotes some attention to the principles of generic nomenclature. Professor Lindroth declares as his opinion that nomenclature should be as stable as possible. He also thinks that large genera are preferable to small ones and expresses his disapproval of the tendency of splitting up old genera into small generic units which is manifesting itself so distinctly in modern entomological taxonomy. As warning examples of this tendency, Professor Lindroth (p. 14) mentions the subdivision of the large genera of *Noctuidae* recently made, and the splitting up of the old genera *Deltocephalus* Burm., *Athysanus* Burm., and *Thamnotettix* Zett. done by Ribaut (1942, 1946) and accepted f. i. by the present author in his treatment of the *Auchenorrhyncha* in the series "Svensk insektfauna" (1947) and "Catalogus insectorum Sueciae" (1948).

Similar views are vindicated by Marchand (1953). I take the liberty of citing the following lines from Page 156 in his paper: "Ausserdem halte ich es in der Zikadensystematik für verfrüht, auf die alten Grossgattungen (*Euscelis*, *Deltocephalus* u. a.) zu verzichten und statt dessen die früheren Kollektivarten zu Gattungen zu erheben. Viele Gattungen machen nicht nur das System unübersichtlich, es werden, abgesehen davon, nahe verwandte entfernteren gleichwertig gegenübergestellt . . . Ich sehe deshalb die neuen Gattungen als Untergattungen an."

I agree that large genera are better than small ones. But in the case of the three auchenorrhynchous genera above mentioned, the application of this principle is not so easy. If the genera proposed by Ribaut, Oman and others are to be considered as subgenera, how are these subgenera to be coarranged in the true genera? The revision made by Ribaut and accounted for in his papers above cited does not only show the affinities between the species within each of his new genera, it also demonstrates that the genera *Deltocephalus*, *Athysanus* and *Thamnotettix* in the old sense were very artificial systematic units and that the characters on which they were based (shape of head, length of wings,

stoutness or slenderness of body etc.) are of practically no taxonomic value. One example: the genus *Palus* De Long and Sleesman (= *Cosmotettix* Rib.) comprises four Swedish species. Two of these (*caudatus* and *edwardsi*) were formerly placed in *Thamnotettix*, while the remaining two species (*costalis* and *panzeri*) were considered as belonging to *Deltocephalus*. Is *Palus* a subgenus of *Thamnotettix*, or has it its proper position in *Deltocephalus*? And how should the large genera be defined? Their former limits have proved to be utterly arbitrary. Even non-systematists will admit that they expect generic names to suggest true affinities between congeneric species. Taxonomists will not be inclined to give up the principle that species included in the same genus must be more closely related to each other than to any species not included. A temporary abandonment of this principle will not result in a more stable nomenclature. A rearrangement of the modern Eusceline genera as subgenera of generic units of the size of the old genus *Deltocephalus* will be possible only after very thorough and time-consuming investigations on the mutual affinities of the "subgenera," if the result is to fulfil the expectations of the advocates of nomenclatorial stability.

2. *Macropsis haupti* W. WAGNER.—In 1941, W. Wagner published a paper in which he devoted some attention to the various species of *Macropsis* living on *Salix*. In the so-called *virescens* group he mentioned four *Salix*-inhabiting species, viz. *impura* Boh., *cerea* Germ., *haupti* W. Wagner, and *virescens* Fabr. By my own studies of the Swedish fauna I had also arrived to the conclusion that four species of the group in question were present in our country, and I somewhat hastily identified these with those of Wagner. Thus, in "Svensk insektfauna" (1946) I listed and redescribed our species under the names used by Wagner in his 1941 work. An examination of the type of *Pediopsis planicollis* Thomson (1870) showed that this species is identical with what I believed to be *Macropsis haupti* W. Wagner, by which I felt justified in sinking the latter name as a synonym of the former (see Ossiannilsson (1948)).

However, in a recent paper (1950), Wagner has studied the *Salix*-inhabiting species of *Macropsis* more closely. By reading this paper I soon found out that I had completely misunderstood the corresponding part of Wagner's earlier paper. The *cerea* of his 1941 work includes both my own *cerea* and my *haupti*, while the true *haupti* had not so far been found in Sweden. Synonymy of the three species involved:

- 1) *Macropsis infuscata* (J. Sahlb., 1871). Synonyms: *cerea* W. Wagner, 1941, p. p., *cerea* Ossiannilsson 1946, 1948.
- 2) *Macropsis cerea* (Germar, 1837). Synonyms: *planicollis* (Thomson, 1870), Ossiannilsson 1948, nec W. Wagner, 1950, *cerea* W. Wagner, 1941, p. p., *haupti* Ossiannilsson, 1946, nec W. Wagner 1941.
- 3) *Macropsis haupti* W. Wagner, 1941, nec Ossiannilsson 1946.

Synonyms: *cerea* Haupt 1935, nec Germar 1837, *planicollis* W. Wagner 1950, nec Thomson 1870.

3. *Sonronius dahlbomi* (ZETT.).—In my 1947 and 1948 papers I used the name of *Macrosteles quadripunctatus* (Fall.) for this species, overlooking the fact that *Cicada quadripunctata* Fallén, 1806, is a homonym of *Cicada quadripunctata* C. de Villers (Linn. Ent.), 1789, and of *Cicada quadripunctata* Fabricius, 1794.

4. *Macrosteles nubilus* (OSSIANNILSSON).—I originally described this form as a distinct species (Ossiannilsson 1936 c). Later (1947, 1948) I treated it as a form of *horvathi* (W. Wagner), to which it is certainly very closely related. In a recent paper (1953), however, Dr. Kontkanen claims that *nubilus* is a distinct species. This may or may not be the case. Personally I would rather be inclined to regard it as a subspecies of *horvathi*. But Dr. Kontkanen also states that *nubilus* is identical with the Nearctic species *Macrosteles osborni* (Dorst, 1931). This is a mistake.

Dr. Kontkanen seems to base his opinion exclusively on a comparison of the aedeagus of *nubilus* (from his own Finnish material) with Fig. 86 in a recent paper (1952) by Dr. Bryan P. Beirne in Ottawa. By a corresponding comparison I for my part arrived at the opposite result. In my Swedish specimens of *nubilus*, the stem of the aedeagus distally of its middle carries a pair of small but distinct triangular ventral projections (cf. Figs. 11–12 in my paper 1936 c). These are clearly homologous to the pair of better developed projections present on the corresponding place of the aedeagus of *horvathi* (see f. i. Fig. 6 in my paper just cited). In Dr. Beirne's figure 86 of the aedeagus of *osborni* nothing similar can be discovered. On the contrary, a pair of projections are visible near the apex of the aedeagus of *osborni*. These correspond to similar structures in f. i. *variata*, but they are completely absent in *nubilus* as well as in *horvathi*. I have sent Dr. Beirne two males of *nubilus* from the north of Sweden. After comparing these to specimens of *Macrosteles osborni* from Alaska, Dr. Beirne agrees that *osborni* and *nubilus* are not conspecific. "The difference is too great," he writes, "to be accounted for by individual or geographical variation of a single species."

5. *Limotettix striatulus* (FALL.).—*Cicada striatula* Fallén, 1806, is a homonym of *Cicada striatula* Fabricius, 1794. The species of Fallén is identical with *Limotettix corniculus* (Marshall, 1866), as redescribed by Ribaut (1952).

6. *Limotettix orichalceus* (THOMS.).—The types of this species belong to the species *L. intractabilis* Kontk. (= *striatulus* Edwards, 1894, nec Fallén, 1806) in the sense of Ribaut (1952).

I am much indebted to Dr. Bryan P. Beirne in Ottawa for his kind cooperation in the case of *Macrosteles nubilus*, and to Professor Lindroth in Lund, who lent me the type material of *Limotettix orichalceus* (Thoms.).

References.

- Beirne, Bryan P. (1952). The Nearctic Species of *Macrosteles* (Homoptera: Cicadellidae). Canadian Entomologist LXXXIV, Number 7, pp. 208-232.
- Kontkanen, P. (1953). Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Zikadenfauna Finnlands. VII. Ann. ent. Fenn. 19, No. 4, pp. 190-198. Helsinki.
- Lindroth, C. H. (1949). Die fennoskandischen Carabidae. Eine tiergeographische Studie. III. Allgemeiner Teil. Medd. Göteb. Mus., Zool. Avd., 122. Stockholm.
- Marchand, H. (1953). Heuschrecken und Schnabelkerfe als Indikatoren verschiedener Graslandtypen. Beitr. z. Ent. 3, Nr. 1/2. Berlin.
- Ossiannilsson, F. (1936 c). Über einige schwedischen Arten der Gattung *Cicadula* (Homoptera Cicadina). Opusc. ent. 1, pp. 6-11. Lund.
- (1946). 7. Halvvingar. Hemiptera Stritar Homoptera Auchenorrhyncha. Svensk insektfauna utgiven av Ent. För. i Stockholm. Pp. 1-150. Stockholm.
- (1947). Same paper, continued. Pp. 151-270.
- (1948). Homoptera Auchenorrhyncha. Catalogus insectorum Sueciae VIII. Opusc. ent. 13, pp. 1-25. Lund.
- Ribaut, H. (1942). Démembrement des genres *Athysanus* Burm. et *Thamnotettix* Zett. Bull. Soc. Hist. nat. Toulouse LXXVII, pp. 259-270.
- (1946). Démembrement du genre *Deltocephalus* Burm. Ibid. 81, pp. 81-86.
- (1952). Homoptères auchénorhynques. II (Jassidae). Faune de France 57. Paris.
- Wagner, W. (1941). Die Zikaden der Provinz Pommern. Dohrniana 20, pp. 95-184. Stettin.
- (1950). Die salicicolen Macropsis-Arten Nord- und Mitteleuropas. Notulae ent. XXX, pp. 81-114. Helsingfors.