

Some notes on *Symphorobius fuscescens*

WALLENGR.

By

BO TJEDER.

In a preliminary note in this journal (7) I have stated that *Hemerobius fuscescens* WALLENGR. is the same species as *Hemerobius inconspicuus* MAC LACHL. with the right of priority to the name given by WALLENGREN. In this paper I intend to prove this statement.

In his first paper on the Swedish Neuroptera in 1863 WALLENGREN (9) describes the new species *Hemerobius fuscescens* in the following way:

»*H. fuscescens* n. sp.: framvingarne genomskinliga, gråbrunaktiga, vid pterostigma mörkare, utan alla fläckar, med bruna längd- och tvärnerver; kroppen brun; abdomen med gulaktig teckning; fötterna bleka; antennerna svartbruna med båda baslederna svarta; radialnervens grenar tre, av hvilka de tvenne innersta ej grena sig i disken; den inre tvärnervsraden tretalig, den mellersta femtalig och den yttersta fyrtalig. Liknar mycket följande¹ till storlek och färg, men skiljer sig därifrån genom de uppgivna kännetecknen. Förekommer på *Pinus*-arter i Skåne och Blekinge, der och hvar.»

or translated:

»*H. fuscescens* n. sp.: forewings translucent, greyish brown with darker pterostigma, without all spots, with brown length- and cross-veins; body brown; abdomen marked yellowish; feet pale; antennae black-brown with the two basal joints black; radial-vein with three branches, the two inmost of which do not branch in the disc; cross-veins in the inner row three, in the middlemost five and in the outmost four. In size and colour very similar to the following¹ but differing from it in the characters stated. Habitat on *Pinus*-species in Skåne and Blekinge, here and there.»

¹ *H. pygmaeus* RAMB.

This description is to be found in a key to the species of genus *Hemerobius* under the headings: »B. Tibiae spindle-shaped. — 2. Radial-vein of forewings with 3—4 branches. — b. One cross-vein between the first branch of the radial-vein and the anterior branch of the cubital-vein (second post-costal cellule open).»

In 1868 MAC LACHLAN (4) regards *H. fuscescens* WALLENGR. as a synonym of *H. pellucidus* WALKER (Brit. Mus. Cat. 284; 1853). As to the reason of his doing so he simply says: »WALLENGREN's description appears to apply to the species, but I have not seen his type.»

In his monograph on the Scandinavian *Neuroptera*, published in 1871, WALLENGREN (10) also, evidently relying on MAC LACHLAN's opinion, places his *fuscescens* as a synonym of *H. pellucidus* WALK. The conclusion that it is simply on the authority of MAC LACHLAN is easily arrived at when reading the description in his above-named work, in which he blends the characters of *fuscescens* given by himself with those given by MAC LACHLAN of *pellucidus* WALK. Thus he states to begin with that the wings are without all traces of spots, with darker pterostigma and pale-brown veins, but some few lines below he speaks of the gradate veinlets as being clouded with darker brownish-grey. Concerning the colour of the wings he does not seem to be willing to entirely give up the character »greyish brown» given for *fuscescens*, modifying it to »pale greybrown». (The real *pellucidus* WALK., however, according to MAC LACHLAN, has very pale greyish wings.) WALLENGREN thus seems to have vacillated between his own opinion and the description of *pellucidus* WALK. given by MAC LACHLAN.

It seems to me little probable that he should have had two different species to deal with. If so he would not have blended the characters just now mentioned but would rather have regarded the species as variable.

In the same paper WALLENGREN in a note on *H. pellucidus* states that *H. obscurellus*, mentioned by ZETTERSTEDT (11) also belongs to this species to judge from the original specimens. But as ZETTERSTEDT does not give a description of the species, no notice can be taken of this name.

Thus *H. pellucidus* WALK. was by WALLENGREN incorporated with the Swedish fauna. In 1908 MJÖBERG (5) records it to be found Sk.—Upl., Gtl. MJÖBERG's brief description, being the first lines of WALLENGREN's (10) slightly modified, should be referred to *H. fuscescens*. Further *H. pellucidus* WALK. by TULLGREN-WAHLGREN (8) is mentioned as common. Their brief description »unspotted wings with 3 radial-sectors» also seems to have been made from specimens belonging to *fuscescens*.

From WALLENGREN's above-cited description of *H. fuscescens*

there seems to be no doubt that the species should not be regarded as a synonym of *pellucidus* WALK. Firstly the wings are described as greyish-brown, a character which cannot be applied to *pellucidus* WALK., in which the wings, according to MAC LACHLAN (4), are »very pale greyish, iridescent». Secondly, the wings are stated to be without all spots, but in the anterior wings of *pellucidus* the gradate veinlets are »clouded with darker grey». These cloudings would scarcely have escaped WALLENGREN's attention, if he had had the true *pellucidus* WALK. before him; even if the specimens had been immature and thus the cloudings not distinct, he would not, at all events, have described the colour of the wings as brownish grey. Thirdly, he describes the length- and cross-veins of the forewings as being brown, which cannot very well be applied to *pellucidus*, in which species they are »wholly pale fuscous». The other characters (the colour of the antennae, body, feet, the number of the branches of the radial-sector, etc.), however, can be applied to *pellucidus*.

If thus the important characters contained in the colour of the wings and veins cannot possibly in my opinion be applied to the true *pellucidus* WALK., as MAC LACHLAN describes this species, there is, however, nothing to contradict the supposition that *fuscescens* is the same species as *H. inconspicuus* MAC LACHL., described in the above-cited paper (4). On the contrary; according to MAC LACHLAN the wings in *inconspicuus* are »uniformly pale smoky fuscous; pterostigma with a brownish tinge; neuration fuscous, without dots, strongly hairy; in the anterior wings are three sectors; four veinlets in the outer gradate series, five in the inner, three towards the base». If these characters are compared with the corresponding characteristics in WALLENGREN's above-cited description one cannot fail to be immediately convinced that it is *fuscescens*, that MAC LACHLAN describes under the name *inconspicuus*.

Being convinced of the fact I tried to get an opportunity of examining WALLENGREN's type-specimens of *fuscescens*, and Mr. KJELL ANDER, Amanuensis in Lund, visiting the Museum of Malmö, at my request most kindly looked through WALLENGREN's collection; there is, he tells me, not a single specimen labelled *fuscescens* in the collection. However, this can easily be explained; WALLENGREN, when he came to regard *fuscescens* as a synonym of *pellucidus*, has probably also removed the labels »*fuscescens*» and placed the types under the label »*pellucidus* WALK.», under which label the collection contained four specimens, which by the kind permission of Mr. Y. LÖWEGREN, Intendant in Malmö, were sent me for examination. These four specimens all belong to *inconspicuus* and thus it is evident that it was this species WALLEN-

GREN considered to be *pellucidus* WALK. after having previously described it under the name *fuscescens*.

I accordingly consider it to be proved that *fuscescens* and *inconspicuus* represent the same species, and as *fuscescens* is the one first described this name should have the right of priority. As the genus *Hemerobius* by BANKS(1) was split up into three and the species in question may be placed in *Symphherobius* BANKS, it should be cited as follows:

Symphherobius fuscescens WALLENGR.

Hemerobius obscurellus ZETTERSTEDT, Ins. Lapp., 1050 (1840)
nom. nud.

» *fuscescens* WALLENGREN, Öfvers. Vet. Akad. Förh.
1863, I, 22.

» *inconspicuus* MAC LACHLAN, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.
1868, II, 177—178, Pl. X, fig. 2. (et aut.).

» *pellucidus* WALLENGREN (*nec* WALKER), K. Vet.
Akad. Handl. 9, No. 8, 38 (1871).

» *pellucidus* MJÖBERG (*nec* WALKER), Ent. Tidskr. 30,
1909, 146. (Svensk Insektf. 8: 1; 18.)

Symphherobius pellucidus TULLGREN-WAHLGREN (*nec* WALKER),
Svenska Ins. 178 (1920—1922).

The species does not seem to be uncommon in southern Sweden. Farthest north I know it from Dalecarlia, where I have captured a single specimen (Floda, July 1922, on *Pinus silvestris*). Further I know specimens from the following provinces: Skåne, Blekinge, Halland, Småland, Öland, Gotland, Gotska Sandön, Östergötland, Västergötland, Närke, Södermanland and Uppland. The specimens from the Gotska Sandön and Närke were recorded by JANSSON (2) as *S. inconspicuus* MAC LACHL.

The true *S. pellucidus* WALK. does not in all probability occur in Sweden. This very scarce species has not yet been found north of Germany and southern England. SCHÖYEN (6) records it from Norway (Kristiania) but his specimens most probably also belong to *fuscescens* WALLENGR.

Note: In 1922 Professor KRÜGER (3) splits up the genus *Symphherobius* BANKS into four genera and places *inconspicuus* and *pellucidus* in the new genus *Lachlanius*. However, his genera are built up solely on characters in the wing-venation and until comparisons also in other respects between the type of *Symphherobius* (*S. amicus* FITCH.) and the European species have been made I think it better to retain *fuscescens* in *Symphherobius*.

Literature cited.

1. BANKS, NATHAN: A Revision of the Nearctic *Hemerobiidae*. — Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. XXII, pp. 21—47, Dec. 1905.
2. JANSSON, ANTON: Die Insekten-, Myriopoden- und Isopodenfauna der Gotska Sandön. Örebro 1925.
3. KRÜGER, LEOPOLD: *Hemerobiidae*. Beiträge zu einer Monographie — — —. Stett. Ent. Zeit. 83. 1922, pp. 138—172.
4. MAC LACHLAN, R.: A Monograph of the British *Neuroptera-Planipennia*. — Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1868. II, pp. 145—222.
5. MjöBERG, ERIC: Svensk Insektfauna, 8, *Neuroptera*. I, *Planipennia*. — Ent. Tidskrift, 30, 1909, pp. 129—161.
6. SCHÖYEN, W. M.: Fortegnelse over de i Norge hidtil observerede *Neuroptera Planipennia*. — Chr. Vidensk.selsk. Forh. 1887, 13.
7. TJEDER BO: Preliminary notes concerning *Hemerobius fuscescens* WALLENGR. and *Raphidia laticeps* WALLENGR. — Ent. Tidskr. 49, 1928, p. 162.
8. TULLGREN, ALB. och WAHLGREN, EINAR: Svenska Insekter, Stockholm, 1920—1922.
9. WALLENGREN, H. D. J.: Bidrag till kännedomen af Sveriges *Neuroptera*. — Öfvers. Kongl. Vet. Akad. förhandl. 1863, 1, pp. 15—26.
10. ———, Skandinaviens *Neuroptera*. I, *Neuroptera Planipennia*. — Kongl. Sv. Vet. Akad. Handl. Bd. 9, No. 8, 1871.
11. ZETTERSTEDT, J. W.: *Insecta Lapponica*. Lipsiae, 1840.