

THE STATUS OF THE GENERIC NAME OF THE  
GRASS AND GRAIN JOINT-WORMS  
(HYMENOPTERA, EURYTOMIDAE).

By A. B. GAHAN, College Park, Maryland.

Genus HARMOLITA Motschulsky

- Isosoma* Walker, Ent. Mag. I, p. 13, 1832. (Not Billberg 1820.)  
*Harmolita* Motschulsky, Bul. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 36, Pt. 2, p. 58, 1863.  
*Philachyra* Walker, Notes on Chalcid., Pt. 1, p. 7, 1871.  
*Isosomocharis* Ashmead, Ent. Amer., 4, pp. 42, 43, 1888; Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 21, p. 331, 1894.  
*Xanthosoma* Ashmead, Ent. Amer., 4, pp. 42, 43, 1888; Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 21, p. 320, 1894.  
*Isosoma* Walker, Howard, U. S. Dept. Agr., Div. Ent. Tech. Ser. 2, p. 7, 1896.  
*Harmolyta* Dalla Torre, Cat. Hym., 5, p. 154, 1898.  
*Isosoma* Walker, Ashmead, Mem. Carnegie Mus. I, No. 4, pp. 259, 376, 378, 1904.  
*Urios* Girault, Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc. 19, p. 175, 1911.  
*Harmolita* Motschulsky, Phillips & Emery, Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., 55, pp. 433-471, 1919.  
*Isthmosoma* Hedicke, Archiv. f. Naturg., Jahrg. 86 A, H. 11, p. 165, 1921 (1920); Deutsch. Ent. Zeit. 1923, pp. 616-618.  
*Harmolita* Motschulsky, Gahan, Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., 61, Art. 24, p. 7, 1922; Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., 26, p. 224, 1924.  
*Harmolita* Motschulsky, Gahan & Fagan, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bul. 124, pp. 69, 76, 1923.  
*Harmolita* Motschulsky, Phillips, U. S. Dept. Agr. Tech. Bul. 518, pp. 1-26, 1936.  
*Harmolita* Motschulsky, Peck in Muesebeck et al., U. S. Dept. Agr. Monog. 2, p. 568, 1951.

Ashmead, in his Classification of the Chalcid Flies, apparently was first to record the fact that *Isosoma* Walk. and *Harmolita* Mots. were the same. He failed to note that *Isosoma* Walk. was preoccupied. Phillips and Emery called attention to the preoccupation and used the name *Harmolita* instead of *Isosoma* in a revision of the North American species of the genus. In a revision of the European species in 1921, Hedicke recognized the preoccupation of *Isosoma* but declined to accept *Harmolita* as a substitute name and proposed the new name *Isthmosoma* instead. In 1923, Hedicke discussed the systematic position of *Harmolita* and reit-



erated his belief that it belonged in Pteromalidae where Motschulsky had placed it and that it could not be the same as *Isosoma*. A short paper by Gahan in 1924 dealing with the same subject contended that the description and figure of *Harmolita* by Motschulsky agreed with a male of *Isosoma* Walk. and reaffirmed the use of this name in place of *Isosoma*. Phillips' second revision of the species (1936) again used *Harmolita* as the generic name. Notwithstanding the fact that *Harmolita* has been quite generally accepted as the proper name for this group of grass and grain joint worms (having been used by Waterston, Ferrière, Tshesnokov, Balachowsky, James, Mani, Muesebeck, Ishii, and others) at least a few individuals still are using the generic name *Isthmosoma* for these insects, e.g. Shinji (Galls and Gall Insects, Tokyo, 1944, p. 428); Wahlgren (Ent. Tidskr. A. 65, h. 3-4, p. 97, 1944); and Van Leeuwen (Ent. Ber. XIII, p. 23, 1950).

Since this genus of insects is economically important, it is desirable that the matter of its proper name be clearly established if possible. It is with this object in view that the following observations are added to what has previously been said regarding the identity of Motschulsky's genus *Harmolita*.

In 1927, it was my privilege to visit several of the large European museums. The late Dr. James Waterston and I had had considerable correspondence relative to *Harmolita* prior to my departure for Europe. Upon my arrival at the British Museum, I was very pleased to learn that, through the good offices of Dr. B. P. Uvarov, Waterston had received from Moscow the type specimen of *Harmolita longicornis* Motschulsky, the genotype species. This specimen, together with others of Motschulsky's types, had been located in an attic at Moscow University. The specimen was mounted on a card and was in good condition except for the loss of one wing. It bore the name on a handwritten label and the locality label "Ceylon." It agreed in every respect with the original figure and description and there could be no doubt of its authenticity as the actual type specimen.

Waterston and I were agreed that this specimen was a typical male of the genus *Isosoma* Walker. Dr. Waterston intended to prepare and publish a redescription of this type, but because of declining health which finally culminated in his untimely death in 1930, he was not able to do so. Knowing Waterston's intention to publish a redescription, I made no detailed notes on the type. However, there is no longer any doubt that *Harmolita* Motschulsky and *Isosoma* Walker are the same genus and that *Harmolita* instead of *Isthmosoma* is the name that should be applied to the group of grass and grain joint-worms.



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Gahan, A. B. 1957. "The status of the generic name of the grass and grain joint-worms. (Hymenoptera, Eurytomidae)." *Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society* 52, 82–84.

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