

Case 2748

***Plusia falcifera* Kirby, 1837 (currently *Anagrapha falcifera*; Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific name of *Anagrapha falcifera* (Kirby, 1837), a North American noctuid moth which is a pest commonly known as the celery looper. The unused name *Autographa norma* Hübner, [1821] is an undoubted senior synonym for this species, and we propose the suppression of Hübner's name *norma*.

1. The moth currently known as *Anagrapha falcifera* was first described and illustrated by Cramer ([1777], pp. 106–107, pl. 165, fig. c) as a supposed North American occurrence of *Phalaena (Noctua) jota* Linnaeus, 1758. While the specimen illustrated is no longer extant, the coloured illustration leaves no doubt as to the identity. The locality was stated to be Virginia, U.S.A.

2. Jacob Hübner ([1821], p. 251 of his 1816–[1826] *Verzeichniss bekannter Schmettlinge*) proposed the specific name *norma*, in his new genus *Autographa*, for 'Jota Cram. 165c'. The name *norma* has not been used since.

3. Kirby (1837, p. 308) described *Plusia falcifera* from Nova Scotia, Canada. The description leaves no doubt that this is the species that was illustrated by Cramer and named *Autographa norma* by Hübner.

4. Guénée (1852, p. 346) described *Plusia simplex* from New York; he listed 'Jota Cr.165c (non Lin.)' in its synonymy but was evidently unaware of Hübner's name *norma*. Ottolengui (1902, p. 74) synonymized *falcifera* and *simplex*, and the former name has been used ever since.

5. McDunnough (1944, p. 202) proposed the generic name *Anagrapha* for *Plusia falcifera* on the basis of peculiarities of the male and female genitalia.

6. The larva of this moth, commonly known as the celery looper, is an economically important pest in North America. The specific name *falcifera* Kirby, 1837, in combination with the generic names *Plusia* Ochsenheimer, 1816, *Syngrapha* Hübner, [1821], or *Anagrapha* McDunnough, 1944, has been used in very many publications. Among the more important recent ones are Covell (1984), Eichlin & Cunningham (1978), Hodges et al. (1983), Kitching (1985), Nye (1975), Poole (1989) and Werner (1982), and further references have been given to the Commission Secretariat.

7. We are currently preparing a revision of the moth subfamily PLUSIINAE to be published as a fascicle in *The Moths of America north of Mexico* series, and we seek the stabilization of the specific name of this species as *falcifera* Kirby, 1837.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *norma* Hübner, [1821], as published in the binomen *Autographa norma*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *falcifera* Kirby, 1837, as published in the binomen *Plusia falcifera*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *norma* Hübner, [1821], as published in the binomen *Autographa norma* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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Lafontaine, J D and Poole, Robert W. 1991. "Plusia flacifera Kirby, 1837 (currently *Anagrapha falcifera*; Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 48, 41–42.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.670>.

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