

**Case 2881*****Sicus* Scopoli, 1763 and *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed conservation by the designation of *Conops buccata* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Myopa***

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the universal understanding and usage of the names *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763 and *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775 (family CONOPIDAE Macquart, 1834) by the designation of *Conops buccata* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Myopa*. At present *Conops ferruginea* Linnaeus, 1758 is the valid type species of both genera. Species of *Sicus* are Palaearctic and Oriental (north India) in distribution; species placed in *Myopa* occur world-wide, except for the Afrotropical and Oceanic regions. The larvae of conopid species are solitary and internal parasites, mainly of adult bees and wasps. The adults are common on flowers.

1. Scopoli (1763, p. 369) established the genus *Sicus* for two nominal species, *Sicus buccatus* and *S. ferrugineus*. He referred to *Conops buccata* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 605; recte *buccatus* under Article 30a(ii) of the Code) in his citation of the first species. He did not give a citation for the second species but this has been identified with *C. ferruginea* Linnaeus, 1761 (p. 468; recte *ferrugineus*) by subsequent authors. Coquillett (1910, p. 605) designated *C. ferruginea* Linnaeus as the type species of *Sicus* and this has been accepted by subsequent authors (see, for example, Chvála & Smith, 1988, p. 269).

2. Fabricius (1775, p. 798) established the generic name *Myopa* and included *Sicus* in its synonymy. Among the four included nominal species were *buccata* and *ferruginea* and synonymies for these species referred to the names as used by Linnaeus (1761) and Scopoli (1763). Curtis (1838, pl. 677, text) designated *Conops buccata* Linnaeus as the type species of the genus; with the exception of Robineau-Desvoidy (1853; see para. 5 below), this has been accepted by all subsequent authors (see, for example, Coquillett, 1910, p. 573) and the genus has been used with this concept. However, in an earlier designation, Latreille (1810, p. 444) selected '*Myopa ferruginea* F.' (i.e. Fabricius = *Conops ferruginea* Linnaeus, 1761) as the type. This designation has been consistently overlooked. Its recognition would render *Myopa* a junior objective synonym of *Sicus* Scopoli; *Sicus* would become the valid name for the group of species currently included in *Myopa* and a new name would be required for *Sicus* as currently understood. For more than 130 years the names *Sicus* and *Myopa* have been used to refer to two separate genera; before then both groups of species were combined under the name *Myopa* despite this being the junior synonym. In 1861 Schiner (p. 138) used *Sicus* for the single species *ferruginea* and retained *Myopa* for the *buccata* group of species. For the name *Sicus* now to be transferred from one genus to the other would cause confusion in the nomenclature of both genera. *Myopa* is the type genus of the subfamily MYOPINAE Macquart, 1834 (p. 333; published as 'Myopariae').

3. Collin (1959, pp. 145–146) set out the problem with Latreille's (1810) type species designation for *Myopa* and noted that 'if ... Curtis' type designation be accepted, the two generic names [*Sicus* and *Myopa*] can still be retained in the sense in which they have for so long been used ... This proposition meets the expressed desires of the Zoological Commission that all confusing changes in the use of well-known generic names should always be avoided'. The problem was also recorded in BZN 18: 43 (December 1960), when it was noted: 'The plenary powers may be needed to conserve the usage of *Myopa* and *Sicus*'. Under the entry for *Myopa* in the *Catalog of the Diptera of America north of Mexico*, I (Camras, 1965, p. 630) cited *M. buccata* as the type species but noted that there was a problem: 'Long-standing usage is maintained here, and the case has been submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature'. Despite these statements an application to the Commission has not been made until now.

4. Some eight nominal species are currently placed in the genus *Sicus* and 43 are placed in *Myopa*. Both names are included in the North American and Palaearctic dipteran catalogues, which are already cited in this application (chapters by Camras, 1965 and Chvála & Smith, 1988 respectively). Both names are also included in the catalogues of South American (Papavero, 1971) and Nearctic (Smith & Peterson, 1987) Diptera. Several further recent works in which the names are used (Chvála, 1963, 1965; Smith, 1959, 1969, 1970; and Zimina, 1963, 1974, 1975, 1976) are cited in the bibliography of vol. 8 of the Palaearctic catalogue.

5. Collin (1959, p. 145) recorded the unnamed species in the illustration (pl. 120, figs. 1–3) on which the name *Stomoxoides* Schaeffer, 1766 (ref. 1766a) was based as a specimen of *Conops ferruginea* Linnaeus, 1761. The generic name was used subsequently only by Schaeffer ([1766b], [1779]), when further unnamed taxa were included. Panzer ([1794], pl. 24) identified Schaeffer's illustration ([1779], pl. 261, fig. 3) of *Stomoxoides* 'quintus' as *Myopa ferruginea*; further taxa were identified as species of *Myopa* by Panzer (1804). Following Panzer's ([1794]) action, under the Code the name *Stomoxoides* is an objective synonym of both *Sicus* and *Myopa* (junior to *Sicus* but senior to *Myopa*). Approval by the Commission of the designation of *C. buccata* as the type of *Myopa* will allow *Stomoxoides* to be placed on the Official Index as a junior objective synonym of *Sicus*. Collin (1959, p. 146) also noted that in a revision of the MYOPINAE, Robineau-Desvoidy (1853, p. 113) accepted Latreille's (1810) designation of *C. ferruginea* as the type (and only species) of *Myopa* and (p. 93) designated *M. picta* Panzer, 1798 (pl. 22) as the type of *Sicus*; since *picta* was not originally included in the genus this designation is invalid. Robineau-Desvoidy (p. 98) proposed the new name *Myopella* for *M. buccata* (Linnaeus), and included a further nine nominal species in the genus. Approval by the Commission of this application will render *Myopella* a junior objective synonym of *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775.

6. The name *Coenomyia* Latreille, 1796 (p. 159) was proposed for a genus without included species. Subsequently, Latreille (1802, p. 439) included the single species *Sicus ferruginea* 'F.' (i.e. Fabricius), thereby rendering *Coenomyia* a junior objective synonym of both *Sicus* and *Myopa*. Lioy (1864, p. 1327) proposed the name *Cylindrogaster* for the single species *Conops ferruginea* Linnaeus and thus this name also is a junior objective synonym of *Sicus* and *Myopa*. Following approval by the Commission of this application the names *Coenomyia* and *Cylindrogaster* will be

placed on the Official Index as junior objective synonyms of *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763. The existence of two junior homonyms of *Sicus* Scopoli has previously been noted (BZN 18: 43). The type species of *Sicus* Latreille, 1796 (p. 158) by subsequent monotypy of Latreille (1805, p. 312) is *Musca cimecoides* Fabricius, 1779 (p. 253) and the generic name is an invalid senior objective synonym of *Tachydromia* Meigen, 1803 (p. 269; see BZN 18: 35–36). The name *Tachydromia* (family EMPIDIDAE) is currently in use (see, for example, Melander, 1965, p. 474). No type designation is known for *Sicus* Fabricius, 1798 (pp. 547, 554); '*ferruginea*' was one of the included species but this was cited without an author and from the listed synonymies the name may well not refer to Linnaeus's taxon (see Collin, 1959, p. 145). It is proposed that the names *Sicus* Latreille, 1796 and *Sicus* Fabricius, 1798 be placed on the Official Index.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775 prior to the designation by Curtis (1838) of *Conops buccata* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Coquillett (1910) *Conops ferruginea* Linnaeus, 1761;
  - (b) *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Curtis (1838) *Conops buccata* Linnaeus, 1758, as ruled in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *ferruginea* Linnaeus, 1761, as published in the binomen *Conops ferruginea* (specific name of the type species of *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763);
  - (b) *buccata* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Conops buccata* (specific name of the type species of *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *Stomoxoides* Schaeffer, 1766 (a junior objective synonym of *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763);
  - (b) *Coenomyia* Latreille, 1796 (a junior objective synonym of *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763);
  - (c) *Cylindrogaster* Lioy, 1864 (a junior objective synonym of *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763);
  - (d) *Myopella* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1853 (a junior objective synonym of *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775);
  - (e) *Sicus* Latreille, 1796 (a junior homonym of *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763);
  - (f) *Sicus* Fabricius, 1798 (a junior homonym of *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763).

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