

Case 2755***Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889 (Insecta, Homoptera): proposed confirmation of *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 as the type species, and designation of a neotype for *E. bicincta***

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to designate a neotype in accordance with current usage for the eurymelid leafhopper species *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842, the type species of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889. Recognition of the syntypes would cause nomenclatural confusion within the family EURYMELIDAE Amyot & Serville, 1843.

1. Ashmead (1889, p. 126) established the genus *Eurymeloides* without included species. Kirkaldy (1906, p. 354) designated *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 (p. 286) as the type species of the genus, admitting the species was unknown to him. He referred 14 species to the genus, six of them new. Later, Kirkaldy (1907, p. 29) recognised that there were discrepancies between Ashmead's diagnosis and the species he (Kirkaldy) had previously referred to the genus. He proposed the new name *Eurymelias* for *Eurymeloides* sensu Kirkaldy (1906), stating the latter was 'apparently not of Ashmead', and designated *Eurymeloides hyacinthus* Kirkaldy, 1906 (p. 351) as the type species of *Eurymelias*.

2. Distant (1908, p. 101) incorrectly assumed that Kirkaldy (1907) had proposed two names (*bicincta* and *hyacinthus*) for the type species of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, and (1908, pp. 101–104; 1917, p. 188) added six new species to the genus. Evans (1933, p. 83) considered '*Eurymela bicincta*' (see below) and *Eurymeloides hyacinthus* to be congeneric and thus *Eurymelias* a junior subjective synonym of *Eurymeloides*; he added a further two new species to *Eurymeloides*. Evans's definition of *Eurymeloides* and understanding of *Eurymela bicincta* have been the sense in which the generic name has been used until the present time.

3. Two syntypes of *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 have recently been located in the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität in Berlin; they are conspecific with *Eurymela semifascia* Walker, 1851 (p. 643), the type species of *Platyeurymela* Evans, 1933 (p. 78).

4. At present 12 species are recognised in *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, and it is thus the largest genus included in the EURYMELIDAE. Of these 12 species, type specimens have

been examined for all but two species by one of us (M.M.S.). They are congeneric with each other but not with the syntypes of *Eurymela bicincta*. Several of the species are widespread, well known, and abundantly represented in collections (see, for example, Evans (1933, 1966) and Stevens (1985); a list of a further six papers by Evans is held by the Commission Secretariat). Some are currently the subject of ecological and biological investigation (Stevens, 1985; Rozario, 1989). Recognition of the specimens in the Humboldt Museum as the syntypes of *Eurymela bicincta* would necessitate the recognition of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889 as a senior subjective synonym of *Platyeurymela* Evans, 1933, the use of the unused generic name *Eurymelias* Kirkaldy, 1907 for all 12 species now referred to *Eurymeloides*, and the species previously thought to be *Eurymeloides bicincta* (Erichson) would become *E. bicinctellus* (Kirkaldy, 1906) (see next para.). Such action would cause unwarranted taxonomic confusion.

5. To stabilise the present usage of the names *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889, *Platyeurymela* Evans, 1933 and *bicincta* Erichson, 1842, and so avoid nomenclatural confusion, we propose that a specimen in the collection of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. should be designated the neotype of *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842. The specimen is male and pinned. It has five labels, as follows:

(1) Sydney, N.S.W. Austr. m [letter 'm' in red] 1-1905. (2) Coll. Koebele. (3) Type of *E. bicinctellus* Kirk [on maroon paper, species name handwritten]. (4) *Eurymelias bicinctellus* 544 (Kirk.) ['544' in pencil, label apparently in the handwriting of G.W. Kirkaldy]; (5) Neotype *Eurymela bicincta* (Erichson). The specimen is a syntype of *Eurymeloides bicinctellus* Kirkaldy, 1906 (p. 352), a taxon considered to be identical to *E. bicincta* (Erichson) as defined by Evans (1933, p. 83; 1966, p. 62) and current usage. Medler (1987, p. 115) detailed the significance of certain features of the labels carried by the Kirkaldy type specimens. The red letter 'm' on label 1 refers to Mittagong, New South Wales. Label 3, implying lectotype status, was apparently placed on the specimen by F. Muir. However, designation of a lectotype for *E. bicinctellus* has not been published and Kirkaldy's type specimens (this specimen and a female specimen) are syntypes. We now designate this specimen as the lectotype of *bicinctellus* with the result that *bicincta* Erichson, 1842 and *bicinctellus* Kirkaldy, 1906 are objective synonyms.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 and to confirm the neotype designation proposed in para. 5 above;
- (2) to confirm that the nominal species *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 is the type species of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Kirkaldy (1906) *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *bicincta* Erichson, 1842, as published in the binomen *Eurymela bicincta* (specific name of the type species of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889), and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above.

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