

Case 2986***Dasineura* Rondani, 1840 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed designation of *Tipula sisymbrii* Schrank, 1803 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the economically important gall midge genus *Dasineura* Rondani, 1840 in the generally understood concept by designation of *Tipula sisymbrii* Schrank, 1803 as its type species. Rondani (1856) designated one of the two originally included species, *D. obscura* Rondani, 1840, as type species, but his description of both the genus and the two species was so general as to make them unrecognizable. He subsequently (1860) designated *Tipula sisymbrii* as type species and it is proposed that this designation be validated.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; CECIDOMYIIDAE; gall midges; agricultural pests; *Dasineura*; *Dasineura sisymbrii*.

1. Rondani (1840, p. 12) described the genus *Dasineura*, delimiting it by a very sketchy description that could fit almost any species now placed not only in *Dasineura* but also its related genera. He included two new species, *D. luteofusca* (p. 17) and *D. obscura* (p. 18), but did not designate either as type. Rondani later (1856, p. 200) listed *Dasineura* in a key and noted 'Spec: Typ: *Dasineura Obscura* Rndn.', thereby designating *D. obscura* as the type species.

2. *Dasineura obscura* is unrecognizable. The original description (in Latin) is: '1/3 of a line long, dark, wing reddish basally, halteres white, and legs variably colored'.

With the accompanying generic description, Rondani (1840) provided figures of parts of the male and female antennae, palpi, and a wing of an unspecified *Dasineura*. *D. obscura* has not been recognized since 1840. The type specimens are lost; they are not in the Rondani collection of CECIDOMYIIDAE in Florence, and a recent search by two of us of entomological collections in Bologna, Parma and Milan failed to uncover other Rondani specimens of CECIDOMYIIDAE (Gagné & Solinas, 1996, p. 73).

3. Loew (1850, p. 12) did not recognize Rondani's genus or species, and Kieffer (1900, p. 440) pointed out that Rondani's species of *Dasineura* were unrecognizable from their descriptions alone. For this reason Loew rejected *Dasineura* as invalid, but Kieffer (1900) thought the characterization of the short radial wing vein was enough to place the genus. Kieffer (1913, p. 72) later changed course, using *Perrisia* Rondani, 1846 in place of his earlier use of *Dasineura*, and leaving *Dasineura* as a doubtful genus with its two unrecognizable species, *obscura* and *luteofusca*. However, Felt (1915, p. 115) treated *Perrisia* as a junior synonym of *Dasineura* on account of the similarity of the short R5 wing vein of both genera, and that synonymy has been followed to the present day. However, it is now recognized that many genera of the tribe OLIGOTROPHINI, to which *Dasineura* belongs, have a wing with a short radial wing vein so it is not possible to say to which genus the specimen figured by Rondani (1840) belonged.

4. The valid type species of *Dasineura* is *D. obscura* as designated by Rondani in 1856 (see para. 1 above). However, four years later he (Rondani, 1860, p. 288) recorded against *Dasineura* 'Sp. Typ.: Tip. Sisymbri. Schr. Wntz.', making it clear that he regarded *Tipula sisymbrii* Schrank, 1803 (p. 83) as the type species. This is a well known (Möhn, 1955; Buhr, 1965; Sylvén, 1975; Sylvén & Tastás-Duque, 1993) and wide ranging European species (Skuhrová, 1986); its designation fits the concept of *Dasineura* as generally understood. However, *Dasineura sisymbrii* was not the original type species designated by Rondani and was not one of the species originally included in *Dasineura*. To maintain the accepted concept of *Dasineura* we propose that *Tipula sisymbrii* Schrank, 1803 be accepted as its type species.

5. Over 450 described species of *Dasineura* are known from all over the world, 288 from the Palaearctic Region alone (Skuhrová, 1986). Many of them are pests of economic importance, including *Dasineura alopecuri* (Reuter, 1895) on foxtail grass; *D. brassicae* (Winnertz, 1853) on cruciferous crops; *D. leguminicola* (Lintner, 1879) on clovers; *D. mali* (Kieffer, 1898) on apple; *D. oleae* (Löw, 1885) on olive; and *D. plicatrix* (Loew, 1850) on blackberries and raspberries. The name *Dasineura* appears 192 times in titles or descriptors in the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (now CAB International) database for the years 1984 to 1994 inclusive.

6. The spelling of Rondani's name *Dasineura* was emended to *Dasyneura* by Agassiz (1846, p. 11), and this spelling has sometimes been used. However, it is an unjustified emendation and also a junior homonym of another dipteran genus *Dasyneura* Saunders, 1842 (p. 60) which Saunders placed in the MUSCIDAE.

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 *Dasineura* Rondani, 1840 prior to that by Rondani (1860) of *Tipula sisymbrii* Schrank, 1803;

- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Dasineura* Rondani, 1840 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Rondani (1860) *Tipula sisymbrii* Schrank, 1803 by the ruling in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *sisymbrii* Schrank, 1803, as published in the binomen *Tipula sisymbrii* (specific name of the type species of *Dasineura* Rondani, 1840);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Dasyneura* Agassiz, 1846 (unjustified emendation of *Dasineura* Rondani, 1840 and junior homonym of *Dasyneura* Saunders, 1842).

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