
_Aedes (Ochlerotatus) pix_ Martini 1935 a synonym of _Aedes (O.) taeniorhynchus_ (Wiedemann 1821)

In 1935 Erich C. W. Martini (Los Mosquitos de Mexico, Mex. Dep. Salubr. Publica, Bol. Tec. Ser. A 1:55-56) described _Aedes pix_ from two females collected in Belice, British Honduras [Belize]. Mattingly (1955, R. Entomol. Soc. Lond., Proc. Ser. B 24:29) marked these two specimens, received from the Hamburg Institute in 1950, as cotypes and stated that “one of them is now in the Washington Museum [USNM]”; he erroneously stated that “other specimens probably went to Dresden and may have been destroyed” although Martini definitely stated that _pix_ was described from two females. Stone and Knight (1956, Wash. Acad. Sci., J. 46:224) stated that one of the specimens was in USNM and was labeled as lectotype by John Lane. This specimen was deposited in the USNM collection by Dr. Fritz Weyer of the Hamburg Institute. The first valid published designation of this specimen as the lectotype was by Lane and Cerqueira (in Lane, J., 1953, Neotropical Culicidae p. 652) although these authors mistakenly stated that the specimen was deposited in BMNH. The labels on the pin are: //Co/-type//Anopheles/vexans//Dampf coll./8315//Belize Brit./Hond. 6-11-25//lectotype/selected by J. Lane X-50//. To these I have added the following label: //LECTOTYPE/Aedes pix/Martini/By Lane & Cerq 53/>. No additional specimens of _pix_ are known. Careful examination of the lectotype reveals that it is undoubtedly a very dark specimen of _Aedes (Ochlerotatus) taeniorhynchus_ (Wiedemann 1821). Such melanic mutants are known in several populations of _taeniorhynchus_. Except for the subdued light tarsal markings the lectotype of _pix_ agrees well with the characteristic scaling of _taeniorhynchus_. For this reason _Aedes pix_ Martini 1935 is here considered to be a junior synonym of _Aedes (Ochlerotatus) taeniorhynchus_ (Wiedemann 1821).—John N. Belkin, Dept. Biology, Univ. California, Los Angeles, CA 90024 (Contribution from project “Mosquitoes of Middle America” supported by U.S. Public Health Service Research Grant AI-04 379 and U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Research Contract DA-49-193-MD-2478).