Motschulsky (1863, p. 94) described *Corixa albifrons* apparently from a single specimen collected from Ceylon (‘environs de Colombo’). The specimen remained in Motschulsky’s private collection which, by the beginning of the 20th century, had ended up at the Zoological Museum, Moscow State University. Professor G. A. Kozhevnikov, who was the director of the museum at that time, sent most of the exotic Heteroptera from Motschulsky’s collection to Finland for inspection by Dr E. Bergroth. However, because the collection was badly damaged by dermestids, Professor Kozhevnikov did not send all the specimens and evidently overlooked some of the material including the remnants of the type of *C. albifrons*.

2. Bergroth (1921) published a paper on Motschulsky’s types of exotic Heteroptera. For all the species described by Motschulsky and not sent to Finland by Professor Kozhevnikov Bergroth stated that the type material ‘must be regarded as lost’. Of *C. albifrons* he further stated that it cannot be a synonym of *Micronecta striata* (Fieber, 1844) [= junior secondary homonym of *Sigara striata* (Linnaeus, 1758), renamed as *S. siva* Kirkaldy, 1897] as had been suggested by Kirkaldy (1897) but would be conspecific with *M. lucina* Distant, 1910 (the latter name thus being a synonymic one).

3. Hutchinson (1940, pp. 379–380) quoted the original description and discussed the identity of the species. He also gave drawings of what he thought to be *M. albifrons* (Motsch.) and included the species in his key of the Micronectinae of India.

4. Wróblewski (1962, p. 323) indicated that *M. albifrons* (Motsch.) sensu Hutchinson (1940) was in fact *M. ludibunda* Breddin, 1905. He further indicated that another species from the area, *M. fascioclavus* Chen, 1960, ‘agrees better in the pronotal pattern with the diagnose of Motschulsky, 1863’. Wróblewski continued by stating that ‘the identity of *M. albifrons* (Motsch.) and *M. fascioclavus* Chen cannot be proved, as the type of the first exists no more in the collection of Motschulsky in Moscow (I have verified personally, that there remains only the pin with the labels’.

5. Wróblewski (1968, pp. 764–765) designated the neotype and a series of paraneatypes for *M. albifrons* (Motsch.). The neotype is a macropoterous male on a microscope slide labelled, ‘Ceylon, Colombo, Jan. 29. 1896, Madrasz leg.’, and is deposited in the Museum of Natural History, Wroclaw University, Poland. As well as designating the neotype, Wróblewski also synonymised *M. fascioclavus* Chen to *M. albifrons* (Motsch.).
6. Zhelokhovtzev & Zimina (1968) published a list of the types of Motschulsky’s Heteroptera, indicating that the type specimen of Corixa albifrons had been destroyed.

7. Kerzhner & Jansson (1985, p. 35) discovered remnants of Motschulsky’s original specimen of Corixa albifrons in the Moscow University collections. They consisted of parts of the right hind tibia with complete tarsi and claw, part of the left hind tibia, and part of a middle tibia. These fragments were evidently overlooked by Wróblewski (1962).

8. Measurements made from the remnants revealed that M. siva (Kirkaldy) is a much larger species, and the original specimen falls within the size range of the species from which Wróblewski (1968) selected the neotype of M. albifrons (Motsch.). However, because the remnants are not sufficient for giving any further information for positive recognition of the species, Kerzhner & Jansson (1985, p. 35) recommended acceptance of the neotype designation by Wróblewski (1968).

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

(1) to rule under Article 75h that the name-bearing type of Corixa albifrons Motschulsky, 1863 is the neotype designated by Wróblewski (1968);

(2) to place the specific name albifrons Motschulsky, 1863, as published in the binomen Corixa albifrons, and as defined by the neotype confirmed in (1) above, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

REFERENCES


