

"I find also under date of September 16th a request for the 13th and 14th reports of the State Entomologist's Office from the State Library of Massachusetts, showing that a knowledge of the appearance of the 14th report had begun to become general by that date.

"I am enclosing these letters, which you will kindly return when you have verified their dates."

Upon the receipt of this interesting and valuable information the writer submitted his evidence to Mr. Gahan, in response to which he replied as follows:

"Your registered letter of March 1 received, and I was very glad to see the interesting correspondence sent by Dr. Forbes. The evidence he submits seems to be very conclusive that the description of *Pteromalus fulvipes* Forbes antedates the description of *Merisus subapterus* Riley. This being the case, of course *fulvipes* is the specific name which should be used."

"P. S.: Although the dates printed on the signatures in which Riley's description of *subapterus* appeared are Sept. 14th and 17th as Forbes states, the records in the office of Correspondence and Documents of the U. S. National Museum indicate that the papers were not received from the Government Printing Office until Oct. 3.

A. B. G."

Although the author regrets to see the name *subapterus*, which is so applicable to the species, give way to the name *fulvipes*, yet the change must be made, if the rule of priority is to be strictly adhered to, and credit given the one to whom it rightly belongs.

In view of the fact that Girault erected the genus *Nemicromelus* citing *Merisus subapterus* Riley as the genotype which has now proven to be a synonym of *Pteromalus fulvipes* Forbes, the proper name to be applied to this common species of Hessian fly parasite is *Nemicromelus fulvipes* (Forbes).

THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE GENUS *HARMOLITA* MOTSCHULSKY WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES (HYMENOPTERA).

BY A. B. GAHAN, U. S. Bureau of Entomology.

Messrs. W. J. Phillips and W. T. Emery in 1919¹ published a "Revision of the Chalcid-Flies of the Genus *Harmolita* of America North of Mexico." Largely upon the advice of Mr. J. C. Crawford and the writer, the authors used the generic name *Harmolita* Motschulsky for this group of insects which constitutes the well known jointworms of grasses and grains previously going under the generic name *Isosoma* Walker. The name *Isosoma* was shown to be preoccupied, having been used by Billberg (1820) in Coleoptera. Dr. Ashmead, in his "Classification of the Chalcid Flies," had pointed out that Mot-

¹Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. vol. 55, 1919, p. 443-471.

schulsky's genus was the same as Walker's. Being the oldest synonym it should therefore take the place of *Isosoma* Walker.

In 1920,¹ Dr. R. Hedicke, a German writer, published a contribution toward a monograph of the Palearctic Isosomini in which he treats the species under the Walkerian name, *Isosoma*, but in a supplemental statement at the end of the work, having seen Phillip's and Emery's paper in the meantime, he recognizes the preoccupation and invalidity of *Isosoma* Walker but refuses to accept *Harmolita* Motschulsky as a substitute and proposes a new name, *Isthmosoma*, to replace *Isosoma* Walker.

Hedicke's reasons for refusing to accept *Harmolita* seem to have been that Motschulsky placed his genus in the family *Pteromalidae* instead of *Eurytomidae* and since Motschulsky, in the same paper, described new Eurytomids, thus showing that he knew the differences between *Pteromalidae* and *Eurytomidae*, it followed that *Harmolita* could not be a Eurytomid and hence was not the same as *Isosoma* Walker. This sounds rather logical but unfortunately science and logic do not always agree. One has but to notice the genera which Motschulsky placed in his various subfamily groups to realize that his ideas of relationship were somewhat vague. In his group *Chalcidides* we find *Chalcis*, *Brachymeria*, *Eurytoma*, *Decatoma* and *Eucharis*; in his *Thorymides* are *Callimome*, *Marietta* and *Roptrocercus*; while in his *Pteromalides* we find *Cheiloneurus*, *Encyrtus*, *Anastatus*, *Harmolita*, *Pteromalus*, *Eulophus*, *Cirrospilus*, and *Tetrastichus*. One can hardly argue from this that Motschulsky was infallible as a classifier of *Chalcidoidea*.

Upon receipt of Hedicke's paper Mr. Phillips wrote me asking my opinion as to Hedicke's conclusion. After again looking up the original description I wrote Phillips stating that in my opinion Hedicke was wrong; that Motschulsky's figure and description indicated very clearly to me that the genotype species had nothing to do with *Pteromalidae* and so far as I could see left little doubt that Ashmead was right in considering the species congeneric with *Isosoma* Wlk. I stated that the figure is nothing more than a poor habitus sketch but the shape is exactly that of a male *Isosoma* and the description, although not very complete, tallies with *Isosoma*. I stated further that Hedicke's conclusion seemed to me to have been drawn without having seen the description; that he could very well have reasoned as he did from a consultation of Dalla Torre's catalogue but had he consulted the description of *Harmolita*, I did not see how he could have said what he did and that in my opinion *Harmolita* should stand as Phillips and Emery had used it while *Isthmosoma* Hedicke should be considered a synonym.

Very unexpectedly to me and quite unfortunately the contents of my letter were communicated to Hedicke. Quite

¹Archiv. f. Naturg. Jahrg. 86A, 11, p. 165.

naturally it did not meet with his whole-hearted approval. On the contrary there appeared in *Deutsch Entomologische Zeitung*, 1923, pp. 616-618, an article by Hedicke entitled "Der systematische Stellung des Genus *Harmolita* Motschulsky 1863" in which the author quotes largely from my letter to Phillips and emphatically reaffirms his opinion that *Harmolita* Motschulsky and *Isosoma* Walker are not the same and *Isthmosoma* should stand.

In this paper, Hedicke reviews his previously given reasons for believing *Harmolita* could not be a Eurytomid but in addition cites certain statements in the original description which according to his interpretation exclude it from the *Eurytomidae*. He points out particularly the shape of the pronotum and mesonotum which Motschulsky describes as follows: "pronotum coniquement atténué en avant, obliquement imprimé de chaque côté à angles antérieurs un peu saillants; mésonotum en triangle allongé." Hedicke states that this thoracic structure excludes *Harmolita* from the Eurytomines. On the contrary when interpreted in the light of Motschulsky's figure the description agrees very well with almost any species of the joint worm flies if one will simply assume that what was meant by mesonotum was the middle lobe of the mesonotum which is always prominent and distinctly triangular in this group. Hedicke also calls attention to Motschulsky's statement that the "veine costale atteignant le côté latéral un peu au delà du milieu de l'aile" and states that this too is never true of Eurytomines. The writer is prompt to admit that this character if correctly stated by Motschulsky is unusual for the Eurytomines but I believe not more unusual than it would be for the Pteromalines. Although unusual, it is not impossible even for the Eurytomines as may be shown by a male specimen of (*Isosoma*) *Harmolita bromi* How. in the national collection. In this individual the wings are a little shorter than usual and the costal vein attains the margin a little beyond the middle of the wing. In my opinion therefore the characters cited by Hedicke do not exclude *Harmolita* from the *Eurytomidae*.

On the other hand there are certain characters given by Motschulsky which in my opinion make it practically certain that *Harmolita longicornis*, the genotype species, is one of the joint-worm flies. The description of the antennae fits exactly that of a male *Isosoma* if it be admitted that Motschulsky overlooked the ring-joints. The description of the head and thorax if taken with the figure agrees with a male joint worm fly as does the shape of the abdomen and the distinct abdominal petiole. The thing above all others, however, which establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that *Harmolita longicornis* is identical with *Isosoma* of Walker and authors is the fact that the insect is black throughout with the exception that the anterior angles

of the pronotum are testaceous. I know of no other group of the Chalcidoidea in which this peculiar combination of color is found and in the joint worms it is the rule rather than the exception.

Perhaps the only way in which the identity of *Harmolita* can be established beyond a doubt will be for some one to examine the type specimen if this is still in existence. In the meantime it is my intention to continue to use *Harmolita* in place of *Isosoma* Walker.

In conclusion I must call Dr. Hedicke's attention to the fact that in attempting to correct the reference to the original description of *Harmolita* given by Gahan and Fagan in their genotype list of the Chalcidoidea,¹ which is admittedly wrong as to the year and which he makes the basis for the suggestion that one might suspect that the authors had not seen Motschulsky's diagnosis, he has himself committed a more serious error by citing the wrong volume, the correct citation being Bull. Soc. Nat. Moscow, vol. 36, pt. 2, 1863, p. 58 instead of vol. 35.

Very recently I received from Mr. T. Ishii of the Imperial Plant Quarantine Station at Nagasaki, Japan, specimens of two phytophagous species of Eurytomidae which proved of unusual interest. As the locality record is new for both species and the host plant record new for one it is worth while to make a note of them at this time.

***Harmolita phyllostachitis* Gahan.**

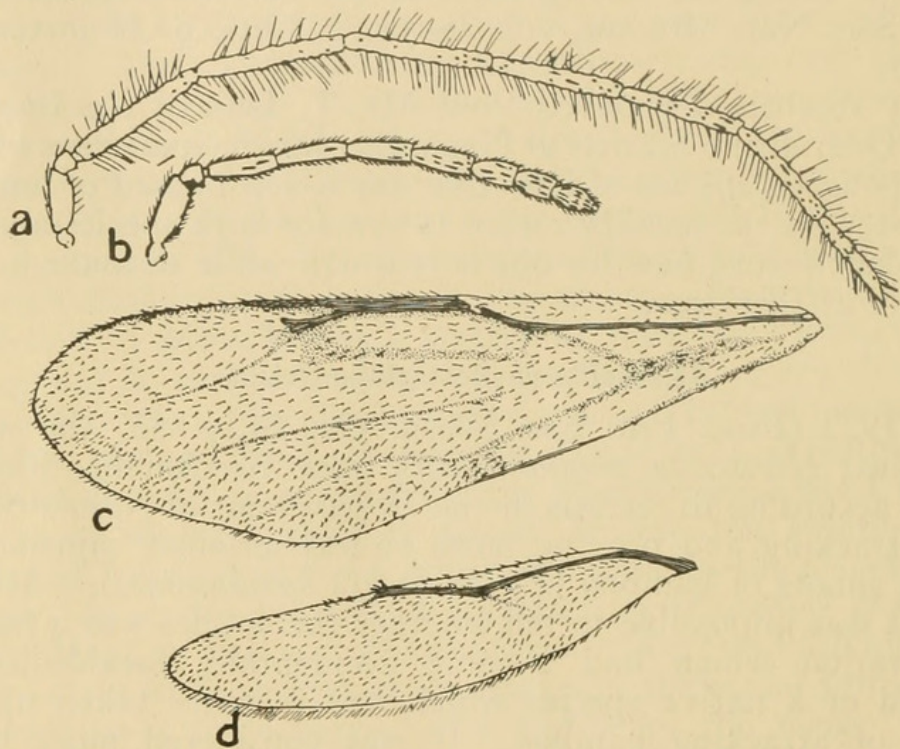
In 1922 (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash. vol. 24, p. 55) the writer described *Harmolita phyllostachitis* from Brooksville, Florida, where according to records of the Department of Agriculture it was attacking and proving more or less seriously injurious to young shoots of bamboo (*Phyllostachys bambusoides*). At that time it was impossible to tell whether the species was a foreign importation which had become accidentally established in Florida or a native species which had recently taken up the habit of attacking bamboo. It was considered more likely that its presence in Florida was due to accidental importation but this could not be proven.

In the Ishii sending was a single female which he had tentatively determined as *H. phyllostachitis* and upon comparing it with the types I have no hesitancy in pronouncing it that species. The presence of the species in Japan indicates that country as the possible original source of the Florida infestation. At any rate *phyllostachitis* is certainly not a native of Florida. In all probability its original home was in China or Japan and it was established in Florida through the importation of infested bamboo cuttings for propagation.

¹Bull. 124 U. S. Nat. Mus., 1921, p. 69.

Aiolomorphus rhopaloides Walker.

This genus and species described by Walker in 1871 (Notes on Chalcid. pt. 1, p. 12) from a male specimen collected in the region of Hong Kong, China, apparently has not been mentioned in the literature since, except in catalogs. In the Ishii sending were two specimens, a male and a female, which my correspondent suggested seemed to be quite identical with Walker's species and after comparing the specimens with the description I am convinced that they are in fact that species. Mr. Ishii states that the species attacks the shoots of bamboo (*Phyllostachys bambusoides* and *P. mitis*) and is quite common in Japan. The national collection contains an additional female specimen taken at quarantine in Washington, D. C., January 25, 1923, from a box containing bamboo cuttings received by the Department of Agriculture from Nishighara, Japan.



Aiolomorphus rhopaloides Walker; a, antenna of male; b, antenna of female; c, forewing; d, posterior wing.

Aiolomorphus rhopaloides Walker is a close relative of some species of the genus *Harmolita* Motschulsky (the common jointworms of grains and grasses). It is remarkable for the presence of vestigial basal, median, radial, and other veins in the forewing (see fig. 1.). It differs from *Harmolita* also in having the parapsidal grooves deeply impressed anteriorly but entirely effaced on the posterior one-third of the mesoscutum, and in having in the female a 6-jointed funicle with a very short 3-jointed club. The abdomen of the female is more strongly

compressed from the sides than in most species of *Harmolita* and the fourth tergite is the largest. The male has unusually long antennae, these being very nearly as long as the whole body, 10-jointed with one ring joint, the first flagellar joint fully twice as long as the scape, following joints subequal to the first, the two apical ones very slightly shorter. The head and thorax in both sexes are rather coarsely shagreened with some indistinct umbilicate punctures, the face with convergent striae.

ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE GENERA COLLYRIA SCHIÖDTE AND ISCHNOCEROS GRAVENHORST (HYMENOPTERA).

BY R. A. CUSHMAN, U. S. Bureau of Entomology.

In a paper on the "Holarctic Tribes of the Ichneumon-flies of the Subfamily Ichneumononinae (Pimplinae)"¹ Cushman and Rohwer eliminated the genus *Collyria* Schiödte from the subfamily Ichneumoninae and expressed the opinion that it should form a distinct subtribe in the tribe Mesoleptini, subfamily Tryphoninae. Further critical study of the genus, however, indicates that this conclusion is wrong and that the genus should more properly be restored to the Ichneumoninae.

In the tribal keys of Cushman and Rohwer, both in that based on females and in the general key, *Collyria* runs best to the tribe Odontomerini. In several of the key characters it resembles the Labenini: the form of the propodeum and first abdominal segment and the position of the insertion of the latter on the propodeum and the form of the hind coxae; but otherwise apparently has little in common with that tribe. The Odontomerini, on the other hand, it resembles in the swollen head with the eyes nonemarginate and distant from the mandibles, in the strong notauli, in the lack of the areolet and in the venation of the wings generally, in the stout hind femora, and somewhat in the form of the abdomen beyond the first segment.

But, in addition to the characters by which it resembles the Labenini, it differs from the Odontomerini in the incompletely areolated and mutic propodeum, the normal tibiae in the female, the form of the ovipositor, and the hairy eyes.

Were *Collyria* to be included in the Odontomerini it would destroy the homogeneity that characterizes that group; and I believe that the best disposition to be made of it is to erect a new tribe for its sole reception.

Tribe COLLYRIINI, new tribe.

The keys of Cushman and Rohwer cited above will have to be modified as follows for the inclusion of this tribe. Under the

¹Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 57, 1920, p. 395.



Gahan, A. B. 1924. "The systematic position of the genus |Harmolita| Motschulsky with additional notes (Hymenoptera)." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 26, 224–229.

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