European Rhogogaster s. str., with notes on several Asian species
(Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae)

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Abstract

The European Rhogogaster s. str. species are revised, and several nominal taxa from Asia discussed. The taxonomic identity of the type species Tenthredo viridis Linnaeus, 1758 is different from that assumed in the past. Tenthredo dryas Benson, 1943 is syn. nov. of R. viridis. The name Rhogogaster scalaris (Klug, 1817), species revocata, is to be applied to Rhogogaster viridis auct. New subjective junior synonyms of R. scalaris (Klug, 1817) are R. chlorosoma podkumokensis Muche, 1973, syn. nov. and Tenthredo (Rhogogaster) carpatica Zhelochovtsev & Zinovjev, 1988, syn. nov. Rhogogaster magniserrula Viitasaari, spec. nov. is described from Finland and Russia. The former synonym of R. viridis auct., Tenthredo hebraica Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785, is treated as species incertae sedis within Rhogogaster. The Asian Rhogogaster viridis var. sibirica Enslin, 1912 is regarded as a valid species, Rhogogaster sibirica Enslin, 1912, stat. nov., and Rhogogaster kudiana Rohwer, 1925 is a subjective syn. nov. of R. sibirica. A key to the European Rhogogaster s. str. with special emphasis on Fennoscandia is given.

The following nominal taxa are excluded from Rhogogaster: Rhogogaster viridis forma montana Betrem, 1933, is syn. nov. of Tenthredo olivacea Klug, 1817; Sciapteryx virescens Jakowlew, 1887, is Tenthredo (Eurogaster) virescens (Jakowlew, 1887), comb. nov.; Tenthredo interrupta Fabricius, 1804 (nomen oblitum) is syn. nov. of Tenthredopsis testellata (Klug, 1817) (nomen protectum). Tenthredo viridis Podá, 1761, Tenthredo straminea Schrank, 1776, Tenthredo annalicornis [sic!] Gimelin, 1790, and Tenthredo chlorosom Rudow, 1871 are considered to be species incertae sedis within Tenthredinidae.


Key words: Symphyta, sawflies, Palearctic, new species, new synonyms, key

Introduction

Rhogogaster Konow, 1884 in a broader sense currently comprises nearly 40 valid sawfly species. It is restricted to the northern hemisphere. Live imagines are usually mainly green, and more or less black marked. The pale color may be partly, especially dorsally, yellowish green (Fig. 1a–1b). After death, the pale color tends to become yellowish to straw. Exceptionally, the green coloration is completely replaced by yellow also in live specimens. The identification of Rhogogaster species remains frequently uncertain, even although at most a handful of species is to be found in any one area. The proportion of Rhogogaster specimens in sawfly collections from northern European localities is usually much higher than in samples from central or southern Europe. After an examination of about 500 northern European Rhogogaster s. str. by the first author (AT), the identification of many specimens remained doubtful. To tackle this problem, the diagnostic characters of the group were evaluated, several types were studied, and a key to the northern European species of the group was designed. Independently, the second author (MV) already recognized a hitherto undescribed species from Finland some years ago. In this paper we combine the results of our studies. To avoid confusion in the subsequent text, we point out now, that the name...