

The interpretation of some Conopidae (Diptera) described by Robineau-Desvoidy

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Abstract

Conopidae material determined by Robineau-Desvoidy and held in the Hope Department of the University Museum, Oxford (UMO) has been examined. As a result, lectotypes for 13 of the species described by Robineau-Desvoidy can be designated, and the following new synonymies are proposed [**syn. nov.**]: *Myopa nana* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 = *Myopa occulta* Wiedemann in Meigen, 1824; *Myopa pellucida* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 = *Myopa fulvipalpis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1853 = *Myopa extricata* Collin, 1960; *Myopella florea* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1853 = *Myopa buccata* (Linnaeus, 1758); *Occemya nitidula* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1853 = *Zodion carceli* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1853 = *Zodion cinereum* (Fabricius, 1794); *Purpurella nobilis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1853 = *Myopa dorsalis* Fabricius, 1794. Type species are fixed for the 11 conopid genera described by Robineau-Desvoidy in accordance with Article 70.3.1 of the ICZN. It is proposed to interpret *Zodion kroeberi* Szilády, 1926 as a valid species [**stat. rev.**] and to introduce this as the valid name for *Zodion carceli* auct.

Key words: Diptera, Conopidae, Robineau-Desvoidy, Lectotypes, syn. nov., stat. rev., *Zodion*

Introduction

In his two works of 1830 and 1853 André Jean Baptiste Robineau-Desvoidy (1799–1857) described in total some 45 species and 11 genera of Conopidae. The identity of many of the species is unclear since the descriptions given by Robineau-Desvoidy do not allow unambiguous assignment to species which are recognised today. Schiner (1862: 382) has previously alluded to this situation: "Anyone who knows the works of Robineau-Desvoidy cannot other than be astonished at the army of synonyms. He takes the relationship of the length or brevity of the proboscis to the second antennal segment to support many of his species, and is not afraid to put great emphasis on minor colour differences, and so shal-