



New generic synonyms in the Chloropidae (Diptera, Acalyptratae), with additional taxonomic notes

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Abstract

Myrmemorpha Dufour, 1833 and *M. brachyptera* Dufour, 1833 are considered as synonyms of *Elachiptera* Macquart, 1835 and *E. brevipennis* (Meigen, 1830), respectively (Oscinellinae). *Pachychoeta* Bezzi, 1895, *Melanochaeta* Bezzi, 1906 and *Pachychoetina* Hendel, 1907 are considered as synonyms of *Oscinella* Becker, 1909 as the type-species of these genera, *Pachychoeta aterrima* Bezzi, 1895 (= *Oscinis capreolus* Haliday, 1838), is transferred to the genus *Oscinella* Becker, 1909. *Lasiochaeta* Corti, 1909 (type-species *Elachiptera pubescens* Thalhammer, 1898) is resurrected from synonymy with *Melanochaeta* Bezzi, 1906. Currently an application is with the ICZN (case 3576) to conserve *Oscinella* Becker, 1909 by reversed precedence of both *Melanochaeta* Bezzi, 1906 and *Pachychoetina* Hendel, 1907. Wing reduction in Chloropidae is also discussed.

Key words: Brachyptery, Chloropidae, *Cynodon*, Diptera, *Elachiptera*, Hybotidae, *Lasiochaeta*, *Melanochaeta*, *Myrmemorpha*, *Oscinella*, *Pachychoetina*, *Pachychoeta*, *Stilpon*

1. *Myrmemorpha* Dufour and *Elachiptera* Macquart

Dufour in 1833 described a brachypterous fly in the genus *Myrmemorpha* with a species *brachyptera* from Spain and included it within the family “athéricères” and tribe “muscides de Latreille”. The descriptions of the genus and species are rather short and are illustrated by the poor drawing of an antenna. The description of the antenna (composed from three segments) occupies three-quarters of the whole generic description. Dufour wrote that the insect looks like an ant or a small wingless ‘ichneumon’, but examination through a magnifying glass had assured him that the insect was a species of Diptera. Dufour placed the new genus not far from *Mosillus* in Muscidae [now in Ephydridae].

Macquart (1835) considered the genera *Myrmemorpha* and *Elachiptera* separately, each containing a species with reduced wings, he placed *Myrmemorpha* after *Elachiptera*.

Afterwards Schiner (1862, 1864) discussed the affinity of *Myrmemorpha brachyptera* and concluded that *Myrmemorpha brachyptera* is a fly known to him as *Elachiptera brevipennis* Meigen and synonymized them. He assumed that Dufour had not seen the first segment of the antenna and wrongly had taken the arista as the third antennal segment. He repeated the generic synonymy in 1868 as well, using the corrected name *Myrmeconomorpha* Dufour (an unjustified emendation created by Blanchard, 1840). Further unjustified and identical emendations were used by many later authors, mentioning the taxon wrongly also with Dufour, Agassiz or Corti as authors.

Lioy (1864: 1317–8) did not repeat the synonymy of *Myrmemorpha* Dufour and *Elachiptera* Macquart but included both separately in his family Heteromyziti, in which his subfamily Elachipterini is characterized by rudimentary wings. Lioy later (1895: 293) kept up this classification in his altered family-group taxon Elachipteri, sub-ordered to his retained family Heteromyziti.

Bezzi (1900) in his review on the phenomenon of wing reduction in Diptera accepted the synonymy of *Myrmemorpha brachyptera* Dufour and *Elachiptera brevipennis* Meigen.

The genus and species of Dufour were listed in the Palaearctic catalogue in synonymy with *Elachiptera* Macquart, 1835 and *E. brevipennis* (Meigen, 1830), correspondingly (Becker et al., 1905). This catalogue repeated the synonymy which was already published (and later repeated) by Schiner (1862: 431; 1864: 231), Neuhaus (1886: 295, 304), Gobert (1887: 43) and Bezzi (1900).