

NOTE

Polynema Haliday, 1833 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): Designation of *Polynema flavipes* Walker, 1846, as the Type Species

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Abstract.—*Polynema flavipes* Walker, 1846 (= *P. ovulorum* Haliday, 1833, misidentification of *Ichneumon ovulorum* Linnaeus) is designated as type species of *Polynema*, a widespread genus of Mymaridae.

For more than 50 years it has been known that the previously designated type species of the widespread genus *Polynema* (Mymaridae, Hymenoptera) needed to be fixed by the ICZN. This is done here, using the first of the five species originally included in *Polynema* by Haliday, namely *P. flavipes*, but initially misidentified by him as *P. ovulorum* Linnaeus, 1758.

The genus *Polynema* was briefly described by Haliday (1833: 269). In the second part of his paper (1833: 347–348) he included five species in his genus: *Ichneumon ovulorum* Linnaeus and four new ones. The former species was quoted later by Westwood (1839: 78) in his “examples of species of the British genera” as a “typical species” of the genus *Polynema*, an action that was later generally understood as a formal designation of the type species of genera, as ruled in ICZN Opinion 71 (1922).

Soon after his proposal of *Polynema*, Haliday himself discovered that the Linnean species *ovulorum* could not belong to *Polynema*, not even to Mymaridae, because he (Haliday) had misidentified the species. At that time, Haliday passed many of his chalcidological notes on to Francis Walker

who eventually published them, as proved by his statement (1846: 49) “The following descriptions are, excepting a few additions, extracted from MSS kindly given to me by Mr. Haliday.” It was therefore Walker (1846: 52) who gave a new name, *Polynema flavipes*, to the species that Haliday had earlier misidentified, and added the comment “*ovulorum* olim; nomen errore ortum” [earlier *ovulorum*, the name used by mistake]. Despite this, however, the error was repeated several times before 1960, lastly in the important work by Debauche (1948), who redescribed (pp. 212–213) the species in question as *Polynema ovulorum* (L.). Debauche (1949: 6, 7) and Soyka (1956: 2, 3) further discussed the problem but without a satisfactory resolution, and Soyka (1956: 76) redescribed what he thought was *Polynema ovulorum*, based on a specimen collected by him in Austria in 1944 that he incorrectly designated as lectotype and genotype.

Another slight confusion was due to Hincks (1950: 177) who also referred to the misidentification problem. Hincks stated that the genotype [of *Polynema*] is the same as *Eutriche gracilis* Nees, 1834 (= *ovulorum* Haliday nec Linnaeus). This was accepted by Mathot (1968: 276), who also

referred to the problem. Graham (1973) found and examined one original female specimen of *Eutriche gracilis* Nees, labelled it as the lectotype, and showed that it is a species of *Polynema* not identical with *P. flavipes* Walker (*ovulorum* sensu Haliday).

The type material of *Ichneumon ovulorum* could not be examined because it has been long lost, but the recent consensus is that it belonged to the present family Scelionidae (superfamily Platygastridae) (Bouček 1981: 18; Graham 1982: 228–229; Johnson 1992: 605, and references therein).

The identity of *Polynema flavipes* Walker, a replacement name for “*ovulorum* sensu Haliday, 1833”, was objectively defined by Hincks (1950: 181–183) who designated a lectotype (in the Haliday collection, Dublin) for the species. Graham (1982: 229) also examined the lectotype and confirmed that it belongs to the present valid genus *Polynema* Haliday. He suggested that the logical course would be to invalidate Westwood’s designation of *Ichneumon ovulorum* Linnaeus as type species of *Polynema* and to designate *Polynema flavipes* Walker, 1846 (= *P. ovulorum* Haliday, 1833, misidentification of *Ichneumon ovulorum* Linnaeus) as type species of *Polynema*. We concur with Graham’s suggestion. Hence, under ICZN (1999) Article 70.3.2 (4th edition, valid from 1st January, 2000), we herewith fix *Polynema flavipes* Walker, 1846, misidentified as *Polynema ovulorum* (Linnaeus, 1758) by Haliday, 1833, as type species of the genus *Polynema* Haliday, 1833.

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