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Clarification of the status of *Cerodontha* (*Dizygomyza*) *chaixiana* (Hering, 1956)

(Diptera, Agromyzidae)

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Dr. F. GROSCHKE, late Curator of the Department of Entomology at the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart, made a special study of the subgenus *Dizygomyza*, now included in the genus *Cerodontha*, whose larvae feed on Cyperaceae and Gramineae.

Among a number of new species discovered by Dr. GROSCHKE was a long series reared from *Poa chaixii* Vill. I am aware of 26 specimens, of which 22 are labelled by GROSCHKE as paratypes and named *chaixiana*, and 4 bear HERING's small red paratype labels. Before GROSCHKE was able to complete his paper describing this and other new species in other genera, he died suddenly in January, 1956 following an appendicitis operation.

GROSCHKE had become a close friend of Prof. E. M. HERING in Berlin and after his untimely death HERING re-examined the entire material and prepared a paper including the formal description of *Dizygomyza chaixiana*, which HERING specifically mentioned should be ascribed to GROSCHKE (GROSCHKE, 1957). The description was brief and *chaixiana* was compared to *luctuosa* Meigen. Reference was made to „♂ — Holotypus, ♀ — Allotypoid und zahlreiche Paratypeide“.

Four paratypes were subsequently presented to the Zoological Institute of the Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw (Dr. J. T. NOWAKOWSKI) and 4 also to me. When preparing a revision of Canadian Agromyzidae I identified as *chaixiana* a species from Alberta and Ontario after comparison with the paratypes in my collection and illustrated the male genitalia (SPENCER, 1969: Fig. 198). During this period Dr. NOWAKOWSKI was working on a Monograph of European species in the genus *Cerodontha* and, based on the paratypes in the collection in Warsaw, discussed *chaixiana* in two preliminary papers (NOWAKOWSKI, 1967: 643; 1972: 760) and illustrated the genitalia in the Monograph (1973: Fig. 171). It then became apparent that NOWAKOWSKI's and my interpretation of *chaixiana* differed and clearly referred to two different species. I briefly referred to this problem in my revision of Scandinavian species (SPENCER, 1976: 222).

I now have before me 22 of the 26 known specimens of *chaixiana*, all reared in the Stuttgart area from *Poa chaixii*. The species I have treated as *chaixiana* is represented by 9 ♂ and 6 ♀; this has yellow orbits and in my opinion represents *fasciata* Strobl cf. SPENCER, 1976:220), of which the host has not previously been known. The second species is darker (very close to *luctuosa* and *caricicola* Hering) and is represented by 6 ♂ and 5 ♀, including the 4 examined by NOWAKOWSKI.

In such a case the name *chaixiana* must be associated with the holotype. Unfortunately there is no trace of specimens labelled as holotype or allotype either in Stuttgart or in HERING's collection which is now in the British Museum. I find it difficult to believe that the holotype and allotype have been mislaid or lost, although this possibility cannot be entirely excluded. I believe that more probably no specimens were designated as holotype and allotype. HERING added his own small, red paratype labels to four not so far labelled by GROSCHKE and probably intended to amend these (as he did in a number of cases when he had apparently run out of Holotype and Allotype labels) by crossing out Para . . . and adding in ink Holo . . . and Allo With the pressure under which he was working at this time, it is entirely conceivable that he omitted to amend these labels as intended.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that HERING (1956) prepared a description of the larva of *chaixiana* as "*Phytobia (Dizygomyza) chaixiana* Groschke (im Druck)" and, although the name was clearly intended to be ascribed to GROSCHKE, by antedating the actual description of the adult by one year the name must formally be ascribed to HERING. No type material was of course mentioned in this earlier paper, but nevertheless the description was based on a single larva and the larval slide is now attached to a mine sheet of *Poa chaixii* in the British Museum collection. The larva described by HERING has one of the three bulbs of the posterior spiracles particularly elongate (HERING, 1956: Fig. 8) and this can be accepted as representing *chaixiana* sensu Nowakowski, rather than *fasciata* which has generally similar posterior spiracles but with the larger one less extended.

The holotype of *Dizygomyza chaixiana* is thus the larva in the slide at the British Museum and I labelled it as such on 3. XI. 77. The adults in GROSCHKE's series cannot formally be accepted as paratypes and have no status in nomenclature.

They are nevertheless of value in indicating authentic material reared by GROSCHKE. I have individually labelled 7 of these specimens as *chaixiana* (excluding those in Warsaw) and 15 as *fasciata*.

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