

The identity of *Acantholyda populi* auct. (Hymenoptera: Pamphiliidae)

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ACHTERBERG, C. VAN, 1987. THE IDENTITY OF *ACANTHOLYDA POPULIA* AUCT. (HYMENOPTERA: PAMPHILIIDAE). – *ENT. BER., AMST.* 48(11): 162-164.

Abstract: The identity of *Acantholyda populi* auct. (nec Linnaeus, 1767) is discussed, and *A. populi* auct. is synonymized with *A. serbica* Vasič, 1962. *Tenthredo populi* Linnaeus, 1767 is treated as a nomen dubium.

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Introduction

The name *Tenthredo populi* Linnaeus, 1767 has been used for a species of the genus *Acantholyda* Costa since Brischke & Zaddach (1865) as first revisors redescribed the species, based on specimens from the Banat region (Romania). The most important character mentioned by Brischke & Zaddach (1865: 118) is the presence of two pre-apical spurs on the fore tibia (fig. 4). The species was not reported again until Pesarini & Pesarini (1976) mentioned a specimen from S. Italy (Calabria). The presence of an occipital carina cited by Brischke & Zaddach (1865: 118) was doubted by Pesarini & Pesarini (1976) and this proved to be correct after my examination of the same material from the Banat region examined by Brischke & Zaddach. For the revision of the European Pamphiliidae (Van Achterberg & Van Aartsen, 1986: 13) the interpretations of Brischke & Zaddach and Pesarini & Pesarini were used.

Tenthredo populi Linnaeus

The series used by Brischke & Zaddach (1865) for their interpretation of *Tenthredo populi* (kindly loaned by Dr. F. Koch, Berlin Museum) showed (too) many discrepancies with the original description by Linnaeus. *T. populi* should have the head and the thorax bluish-black, the abdomen yellowish with dark patches, only its fore tibia yellowish, and the body medium-sized. According

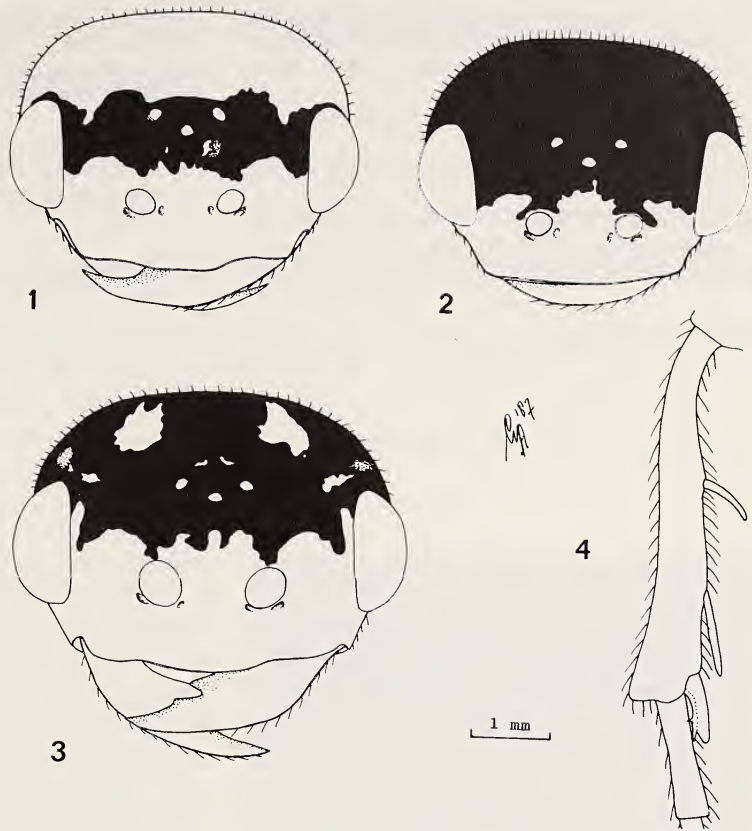
to Fabricius (1804: 44) it is found on *Populus* in N. Europe.

Acantholyda populi auct. has the head more or less yellowish (♀: figs. 1, 3) or largely black with clypeus and part of frons yellowish (♂: fig. 2), abdomen black with at most yellowish marginally, fore and middle tibiae and most of hind leg yellowish, body comparatively long and occurs in the Balkan region and S. Italy on *Pinus*.

Obviously two species are involved; one of which only the description is available and the other on which Brischke & Zaddach based their description. The first, *Tenthredo populi* Linnaeus (1767: 927) can be characterized as follows: medium-sized North-European species with multi-articulate antenna, head (except oral region and palpi) and thorax bluish-black, abdomen yellowish with dark patches, wings infuscated, and occurring on (or in habitat with) *Populus*. Unfortunately, the type of *T. populi* Linnaeus, 1767 is lost (Malaise & Benson, 1934; Day & Fitton, 1978), and the interpretation of the species is, according to Malaise & Benson, enigmatic. For the moment this name should be treated as a nomen dubium.

Acantholyda populi auct.

The second species needs a valid name because the interpretation of *populi* by Brischke & Zaddach is unacceptable. Dr. M.



Figs. 1-3. Variation of the colour of the head of *Acantholyda serbica* Vasič, left ♀, right ♂, frontal aspect. Fig. 4. Fore tibia with two pre-apical spurs of same species, lateral aspect. 1, 4, paratype, ♀, Yugoslavia, Goč; 2, paratype, ♂, Goč; 3, dark ♀, Yugoslavia, Konjica.

Brajković (Beograd) drew my attention to *Acantholyda serbica* Vasič, 1962, which was accidentally omitted from the revision of the European Pamphiliidae (Van Achtenberg & Van Aartsen, 1986). Paratypes of *A. serbica* were given to Dr. Brajković by Prof. Dr. K. Vasič (Beograd). These specimens of *A. serbica* proved to be *A. populi* auct. (nec Linnaeus, 1767) and this second species should be named *A. serbica* Vasič. It is known from the Balkan region (Romania, Yugoslavia) and S. Italy (Calabria). Because of its synonymy, the biology of this scarcely collected species is now known (Vasič, 1966).

Biology

The larvae of *Acantholyda serbica* Vasič live in big opaque larval nests, most often in rather old trees of the Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra* Arn. var. *austriaca* A. & G.), occupying

especially the top branches. The imagines appear two weeks later than *A. erythrocephala* (Linnaeus). *A. serbica* is distributed only in the hilly and mountainous regions, from 300 m above sea level onwards (Vasič, 1966).

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Drs. M. Brajković and K. Vasič (Beograd) for the specimens and information provided, Dr. F. Koch (Berlin) for the loan of the specimens, and Dr. D. R. Smith (Washington) for his remarks on the first draft.

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Accepted 4.viii.1987