

MNAIS STRIGATA VERSUS M. PRUINOSA, A REBORN NOMENCLATORIC QUESTION (ZYGOPTERA: CALOPTERYGIDAE)

In an important and pathbreaking study, based on the results of studies on nuclear ribosomal DNA, F. HAYASHI et al. (2004, *Odonatologica* 33: 399-412) revised the taxonomy of the Japanese *Mnais* taxa. Two good species, *M. costalis* Selys, 1869 and *M. strigata* Selys, 1853 were recognized and *M. nawai* Yamamoto, 1956 was downgraded to synonymy with *M. costalis*. The authors claimed that *Mnais strigata* is the correct name of the taxon traditionally called *M. pruinosa* Selys, 1853 and presented the latter as a synonym. The act was justified as follows: "... *M. strigata* appeared before *M. pruinosa* in Selys's (1853) paper; so by page precedence *strigata* is the valid name.... in accordance with Oguma (1913), who used the name *pruinosa* as one of the forms of *M. strigata*". *M. strigata* has been used as the valid species name at least in the following articles by the same authors: F. HAYASHI et al. (2004, *Aeschna* 41: 1-14; 2004, *Tombo* 47: 13-24) and R. FUTAHASHI et al. (2004, *Tombo* 47: 41-46). Recently also at least K. HOSHIDE & J. JANOVI (2002, *Acta Protozoologica* 41: 17-22) have used the name *M. strigata*.

As already pointed out by M. HÄMÄLÄINEN & J. VAN TOL (2004, *Tombo* 47: 12) the act downgrading *pruinosa* to synonymy of *strigata* is not in agreement with the Code of zoological nomenclature (ICZN, 1999, *International code of zoological nomenclature (Fourth edition)*). The descriptions of *M. strigata* and *M. pruinosa* were printed on p. 20 and 20-21, respectively, in Selys's Synopsis des caloptérygines [E. DE SELYS LONGCHAMPS, 1853, *Bull. Acad. r. Belg.* 20 (Annexe): 1-73]. When these taxa are ranked as synonyms, the correct name must be selected according to the rules of Article 24 (Precedence between simultaneously published names, spellings or acts). Art. 24.2.1 determines that the precedence is fixed by the action of the first author citing in a published work those names or acts and selecting from them; this author is termed the "First Reviser". In this case E. DE SELYS LONGCHAMPS [1873, *Bull. Acad. r. Belg.* (II)35: 469-519] was the "First Reviser", since on p. 473 (p. 9 in re-

print) he explicitly considered *costalis* and *strigata* as varieties of *Mnais pruinosa*, thus giving precedence to the name *pruinosa*. Consequently:

Mnais pruinosa Selys, 1853

Syn. *Mnais strigata* Hagen in Selys, 1853

In fact the name *pruinosa* was originally introduced before that of *strigata* in E. DE SELYS LONGCHAMPS (1853, p. 20), where above the descriptions of *strigata* and *pruinosa* the "Groupe unique: (M. PRUINOSA.)" was defined. In practice here Selys selected *pruinosa* as the type species of his (sub)genus *Mnais*, a decision later adopted by W.F. KIRBY (1890, *A synonymic catalogue of Neuroptera Odonata, or dragonflies*).

In "Les odonates du Japon", the first synopsis of the Japanese odonates, E. DE SELYS LONGCHAMPS (1883, *Annls Soc. ent. Belg.* 27: 82-143) formally listed *pruinosa* and *strigata* as separate species, but with some hesitation: "*Ce [strigata] n'est peut-être qu'une race de la pruinosa*". On the other hand *costalis* was formally listed as race of *pruinosa*. K. OGUMA (1913, *J. Coll. Agric. Hokkaido imp. Univ.* 5: 149-163; 1913, *Zool. Mag.* 25: 307-321) considered the known three Japanese *Mnais* taxa to form one polymorphic species *M. strigata*, with three forms "*typica*", *costalis* and *pruinosa*. Thereafter the species name *Mnais strigata* was universally used in Japan [but *M. pruinosa* elsewhere] until S. ASAHINA (1975, *Kontyû* 43: 401-411; 1975, *Tombo* 18: 27-41) started to use the name *M. pruinosa* as "the basic Japanese taxon of *Mnais*" and the name *strigata* got established as the hyaline winged male form of *M. pruinosa*. ASAHINA's nomenclatoric usage was correct, although his grounds for favour of the name *pruinosa* were not based on the rules of the taxonomic nomenclature. Hopefully the recent introduction of the incorrect species name *M. strigata* remains only a temporary nomenclatoric lapsus and does not gain a foothold in the Japanese odonatological literature.

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