

Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle «Grigore Antipa»	Vol. LII	pp. 293–295	© Octobre 2009
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SYNTORMON MONILIS (HALIDAY, 1851) AND *S. SILVIANUM* PÂRVU, 1989 (DIPTERA: DOLICHOPODIDAE)

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Abstract. It is presented a detailed history and discussions which establish the statute of distinguished species for *Syntormon monilis* (Haliday, 1851) and *S. silvianum* Pârvu, 1989.

Résumé. On fait un historique détaillé et une discussion qui établit le statut d'espèces distinctes pour *Syntormon monilis* (Haliday, 1851) et *S. silvianum* Pârvu, 1989.

Key words: status, bona species, discussion, *Syntormon*, *monilis* Haliday, *silvianum* Pârvu.

INTRODUCTION

Summarily described by Haliday, in 1851, and in the absence of some type specimens, the *Syntormon monilis* was wrongly considered *S. silvianus*, a species described by me (Pârvu, 1989). This confusion was made for the first time in „Faune de France” (Parent, 1938). In his turn, Hodge (1993) remarked that in the Great Britain there are the two species, under the name *monilis* and Chandler (1998), included them in the reviewed checklist of the dipterans of Great Britain.

Although meantime I also described the female of *S. silvianus* (Pârvu, 2000), demonstrating that it belonged to this species due to its abdomen without translucent spots (feature without variability in both sexes), Grichanov (2007) proposed (by a remark of a few lines) the synonymization of the species described by me with *S. monilis*, basing on the Parent's (op. cit.) morphological confusion, without consulting Haliday's original description and without mentioning Hodge's, Chandler's, and Pârvu's later comments.

Further on, I minutely present the history of this confusion, with mentions from the original texts, and in discussion I hopefully clear up the impossibility of synonymizing the two species.

STUDY HISTORY

Haliday (1851) briefly described the male of the species *Rhaphium monile*, by a diagnosis of three lines, in Latin and seven lines of description. According to Haliday, two morphological elements are essential in describing the species: bicoloured abdomen, „Abdomen with the second segment usually yellowish beneath and at the sides” (p. 205) and article 2 of the fore leg tarsus dilated in apex (!) „fore metatarsus dilated at tip” (ibid.). It is also important the specification that it is a rare species.

Parent (1938) described as *Syntormon monilis* Haliday (in Walker, 1851) a species with a unicoloured abdomen, dark green, „Abdomen entièrement vert sombre” (p. 458), with the anterior metatarsus swollen at the base (!) „renflé à la

base” (ibid.). It is interesting that Parent (an uncontested illustrator) did not draw any basal swollen or flattening of the anterior metatarsus in his drawing with the anterior leg, presented both dorsally and laterally! (p. 459, figs 662, 663); according to this author, this species is distributed “all over Europe and northern Africa (Morocco, Algeria)”. It is obvious that Parent wrongly assigned his material to Haliday’s description.

Pârvu (1989) described the species *S. silvianus* from the group with „hind metatarsus armed at the base beneath with a sharp hooked tooth” (cf. Haliday). In the diagnosis it is specified that article 2 of the tarsus of the anterior leg is „asymmetrically widened only at the basis” (Pârvu, 1989, p. 57), element clearly illustrated in the lateral view drawing (Pârvu, 1989, p. 59, fig. 2 A) and in the description it is mentioned that the abdomen is „metallic green” without specifying the translucence or yellowish colouring.

From the very beginning of the paper, right from the title, Hodge (1993) drew attention on „Two species of *Syntormon* confused under the name of *S. monilis* (Haliday)” asserting that in the British collections he found two species with the name *monilis*, one of them very close to Haliday’s description, with the abdomen „yellow ventrally at base” and with the „2nd segment of fore tarsus not swollen basally”, and another one with an abdomen „entirely green” and the „2nd segment of fore tarsus shorter and swollen basally” (all mentions: Hodge, op. cit., p. 3). When he send me a reprint of his paper, Mr. Hodge (*in litt.*) confirmed me, with hand-made drawings, that he considered that the first one might be „the real *monilis*” and the other one is precisely *S. silvianus*.

Chandler (1998, editor) included both species in the reviewed checklist of the British dipterans, amending the name of *silvianus* with *silvianum*.

Pârvu (2000) described the female of *S. silvianum*, presenting that in the lot of 25 female specimens of Romania, their abdomen is „As in male...completely dark green (without translucent areas)” (Pârvu, 2000, p. 157, 158).

Grichanov (2007) considered that „Description and figures provided by Pârvu (1989) has no significant differences from the species concept of *S. monilis* (Haliday)” and, based on only Parent’s assertion (op. cit.) that „the 2nd segment of fore tarsus” is „swollen at base”. He said: „I consider *S. silvianus* to be a synonym of widely distributed in Europe and N. Africa *S. monilis*”.

DISCUSSIONS

1. According to the two English dipterologists, Haliday (1851) and Hodge (1993), *S. monilis* has a bicoloured abdomen and the article 2 of the anterior tarsus is either “slightly swollen at the apex” (not at the base!) (after the first author) or „not swollen basally” (after the second one) and it is a rare species.

2. Parent (1938) and Pârvu (1989, 2000) refers to another species (*S. silvianum*), with the metatarsus under discussion swollen at the base and the abdomen entirely green, with rich populations and widely distributed in Europe and northern Africa.

3. A variability of the abdomen colouring was not remarked in *S. silvianum* because, since the description of the species, I saw many specimens of this species from Romania and Serbia (Pârvu, 1997, 2000) and both sexes had a monocoloured abdomen. On the other hand, the colour of the abdomen has an important taxonomical value in the species of the genus *Syntormon*, as in those of the genus *Argyra*, for instance, the colour which Grichanov did not take into consideration.

4. I propose the name of *S. monilis* (Haliday, 1851) to be kept till the discovering and description of a neotype which corresponds as much as possible to Haliday's data but not giving this name to another species, clearly different and constant in morphology, present on large surfaces, without obvious variability: *S. silvianum*.

Distribution: *S. monilis* is, for the time being, a species with small populations, spread in the North-Atlantic area (Haliday, op. cit.: England, Ireland; Hodge, op. cit.: New Forest, Hampshire and Pollet (*in litt.*: ?Belgium), while *S. silvianum* is from a more southern area, reaching the Balkans (see also Pârveu, 1997) and northern Africa.

Conclusion

The detailed analysis, after the original literature, of the morphology and colour, unchanged by variability, does not allow the synonymization proposed by Grichanov between the species *Syntormon monilis* and *S. silvianum*. Otherwise, an error might be accepted deliberately.

SYNTORMON MONILIS (HALIDAY, 1851) ȘI S. SILVIANUM PÂRVU, 1989 (DIPTERA: DOLICHOPODIDAE)

REZUMAT

Se prezintă un istoric și o discuție, despre două specii de Dolichopodidae paleartice, *Syntormon monilis* (Haliday, 1851) și *S. silvianum* Pârveu, 1989, confundate sub numele de *S. monilis* de către Parent (1938) și alți autori, printre care și Grichanov (2007), care propune în mod expeditiv și nefondat, sinonimizarea ultimei, cu prima specie. Se argumentează detaliat, cu citate elocvente din lucrările originale, statutul de specii bune și net diferite, sub aspectul morfologiei metatarsului piciorului anterior și al colorației abdomenului, caractere neafectate de variabilitate.

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Received: January 15, 2009

Accepted: March 31, 2009

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