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Short Communication

CALICNEMIA MINIATA DOONENSIS SANGAL & TYAGI A SYNONYM OF CALICNEMIA CARMINEA PYRRHOSOMA LIEFTINCK (INSECTA : ODONATA : PLALYCNEMIDIDAE)

INTRODUCTION

Sangal and Tyagi (1984) in the abstract of the First Indian Symposium of Odonatology reported "*Calicnemia miniata doonensis* is the only subspecies now known for the species. The subspecies clearly differs from the species in the following characters : the shape of the pterostigma, shape and arrangements of the spear shaped spines in the prothoracic legs, the relatively shorter hind-wings and the colour of the eyes." The full description of the taxon was published in the year 1985 by Sangal and Tyagi in the proceedings of the symposium. Lieftinck (1984) stated, yet another named taxon of quite uncertain status is the recently published, "*Calicnemia miniata doonensis*", new subspecies of Sangal and Tyagi (1984) from the Doon Valley, also in the Dehra Dun area. As no description of this insect is given, it should be considered a nomen nudam for a race (?) of *miniata*" Hämäläinen (1989) remarked on the contents of the abstract of 1984, "Although inadequate for identification, the above sentences must be considered as a valid description, since the hind-wing of the new taxon is stated to be shorter than in *C. miniata*." Thus the abstract can be accepted as the primary description of the species and, consequently, the name *Doonensis* has priority over Lieftinck's name. Lieftinck's (1984) nominate subspecies of *Calicnemia carminea carminea* from Nepal will consequently fall to a subspecies of *doonensis*. Hämäläinen (1989) again stated. "However, *C. doonensis* is incorrectly associated with *C. miniata* (Selys, 1886). These taxa are not even closely related. *C. miniata* belongs to a species group in which recurved penis lobe is broad and expanded, whereas in *doonensis* the penis lobe ends ribbon-like branches" Stating identification of *C. m. doonensis* was wrong by Sangal and Tyagi, even then Hämäläinen advocated for the priority of *C. m. doonensis* over *C. carminea pyrrhosoma* Lieftinck. It is appearing that Hämäläinen was advocating in favour of *C. doonensis*. Moreover, Hämäläinen presented me one male example of *Calicnemia* labelling *C. doonensis doonensis* (ZSI Reg. No. 4705/H13). Unfortunately Sangal and Tyagi could not identify the species status of the taxon they described.

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It is clear from the above that *Calienemia miniata doonensis* was a wrongly determined taxon. A wrongly determined taxon has no status as far as nomenclature is concerned. Tsuda (1991, 2000), Mitra (2002) followed Lieftinck (1984).

It is, therefore, concluded that *Calicnemia carminea pyrrhosoma* Lieftinck is the correct name for the taxon Sangal and Tyagi described; while *Calienemia miniata doonensis* Sangal and Tyagi is the junior synonym for *C. carminea pyrrhosoma* Lieftinck.

SUMMARY

Taxonomic status of *Calicnemia miniata doonensis* Sangal & Tyagi has been discussed; and contended that *C. m. doonensis* Sangal & Tyagi is the junior synonym of *C. carminea pyrrhosoma* Lieftinck.

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