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VERRALLIA VIRGINICA BANKS, A VALID SPECIES (DIPTERA: PIPUNCULIDAE)

When I was sent *Verrallia* material by Linnane and Osgood (1977, Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 79:622–623), I identified it as *aucta* Fallén, as that was then the only known species of *Verrallia* (sensu stricto). Hardy (1943, Univ. Kans. Sci. Bull. 29(1):27–29) considered *virginica* Banks (1915, Psyche. 22: 169) as a synonym of *aucta* and *csikii* Aczel (1940, Zool. Anzeiger. 132:152) (new name for *opacus* Williston (1886, Trans. Amer. Entomol. Soc. 13:295)) as a *nomen dubium*. However, the host and life history data subsequently supplied to me by Linnane and Osgood (Ibid.) were quite different from that previously reported for *aucta*. This discrepancy led me to compare carefully a male and female of *aucta* Fallén from England with Nearctic material of "*aucta*." While the male and female genitalia appear to be the same in both populations, a number of discrete color differences were noted. The correlation of the host and life history data with the color characters noted below convinces me that *aucta* of authors consist of two species: *aucta* Fallén, a Palearctic species, and a Nearctic species. Williston's description of *csikii* (as *opacus*; the type is lost) does not agree well with this Nearctic species, but the holotype of *virginica* Banks does. All the Nearctic material I have seen determined as *aucta* is *virginica*. Whether the true *aucta* of Fallén occurs in the Nearctic Region is not known, but its hosts *Philaenus spumarius* (L.) and *Neophilaenus lineatus* (L.) do occur here. I have examined 43 specimens of *virginica* from the following localities: USA: Maine (Washington Co.), Michigan (Grand Traverse Co.) and Virginia (Arlington Co.); and CANADA: Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta.

Verrallia virginica is contrasted with *aucta* Fallén as follows: 1) the middle femur has a posterior fringe of white pile, not black; 2) the hind femur has an apicoanterior fringe of white pile, not black; 3) the tarsi are brownish orange, especially the hind tarsus, not brownish black to black; 4) the scutellum has 3 pairs of marginal bristles, not 2 pairs; 5) the stigma is yellow (male) to hyaline (female), not black to brown; 6) the male 2nd antennal segment has white pile below, not black; 7) the male mesonotum is bluish gray pollinose, not brownish black; 8) the male 2nd tergum has extensive white pile laterally, not all black; and 9) the male wing is much more extensively bare, not almost completely microtrichose (this last character is apparently variable in female *virginica*). More detailed information on *virginica* will be given in a revision of the Nearctic species of *Verrallia* that is now being prepared.

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