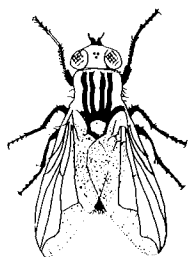


Nomenclature of the European species of *Neoascia* Williston (Diptera: Syrphidae)

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The nomenclature of the European *Neoascia* species is reviewed. Previously unrecognized senior synonyms are brought forward for the nomenclaturally confused species: *annexa* Müller for *floralis* of authors, not Meigen; *meticulosa* Scopoli for *dispar* and *aenea* Meigen; and *tenur* Harris for *dispar* of authors, not Meigen. *Sphagina clavata* (Scopoli) is recognized as the senior synonym for *nigra* Meigen and *verecunda* Collin.

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The names and identities of some of the commonest European species of *Neoascia* have been confused. Lundbeck (1916) was first to correctly delimit and fix the names of the species, *dispar* Meigen and *floralis* Meigen. Collin (1940), while accepting Lundbeck's species definitions, disagreed with his application of the Meigen names. Hence, confusion arose; some authors have followed Lundbeck and others Collin. All names applicable to the European species of *Neoascia* are reviewed. Each name is discussed individually and in alphabetical order. A summary synonymy is given for each valid name. This synonymy also identifies the usage in various keys to the European *Neoascia* species. Unused senior synonyms are brought forward for those species which have had a confused nomenclatural history.

My approach to nomenclatural problems, which may appear unorthodox to some, has been explained elsewhere (Thompson 1980). Briefly, the Law of Priority is considered to be the principle of nomenclature and the basis for stability: Old names are to be used, not ignored. Where type specimens of names exist, they should be studied and their names applied accordingly. Where type specimens no longer exist, their names must be resolved on the basis of their descriptions (here used in the broad sense of "descriptions, definitions or indications" as per

Art. 12 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*). These descriptions, especially those associated with older names, are frequently inadequate for positive identification, but they do provide the *only* evidence for assigning their associated names.

Names can be grouped according to their associated descriptions (or absence of one), into four classes as follows:

Nomina perfecta: Names applicable to a particular taxon, that is, the associated description "perfectly" defines its taxon;

Nomina imperfecta: Names applicable to more than one taxon, that is, the associated description "imperfectly" defines its taxon;

Nomina incognita: Names not applicable to any known taxon, that is, the associated description defines an "unknown" taxon (or taxa); and

Nomina nuda: Names without descriptions.

The treatment of names is rather uniform except those of the class *Nomina imperfecta*. *Nomina perfecta* are considered valid on the basis of synonymy and priority. *Nomina incognita* are ignored or listed as *nomina dubia* or *incertae sedis*. *Nomina nuda* are not available and, thus, are not part of Zoological Nomenclature. *Nomina imperfecta* are treated differently accordingly to their usage. Some *nomina imper-*

fecta are considered valid when they have been defined by tradition, whereas others are ignored as *nomina dubia*. For example, the name *pertinax* Scopoli has been used for an *Eristalis* species with bright orange front tarsi ever since Schiner (1856:417) resurrected the name from synonymy with *Eristalis tenax* (Linnaeus) (Rossi 1790: 282). As Scopoli (1763: 352) did not describe the characteristic orange front tarsi, there is doubt ("grave doubts" Verrall 1901a: 514) whether the name *pertinax* has been correctly identified. Its original description could apply to other *Eristalis* species (*nemorum* Linnaeus, *pratorum* Meigen, etc.). Another example is the name *clavata* Scopoli which has never been used since its validation. When the name appeared in the literature, it was listed as a questionable synonym of *Neoscia podagrica* (Fabricius). Scopoli clearly described a teneral specimen of the genus *Sphegina*, but which of the four common Austrian species he described is not certain. Thus *pertinax* is a *nomen imperfectum* considered as valid and defined by tradition, and *clavata* is a *nomen imperfectum* ignored as a *nomen dubium*.

What has been said above about names and their treatment is accurate and non-controversial. The actions taken in this paper, however, may be considered controversial, as I have brought forward previously unused and unrecognized names for four of the most common and best known European species of *Neoscia* and *Sphegina*. Examination of the types of the names currently considered valid revealed that these names have been misapplied and were invalid. As name changes were required, I opted to use old names on what some may consider weak grounds because the identification of the names used on the basis of their descriptions may be rather dubious. Another alternative would be to change to the oldest names supported by types or exact descriptions. I opted for the oldest probable names as they are intrinsically more stable (because of their greater age) and the grounds for their use are no more dubious than those for some names now in use (v. s., *Eristalis pertinax* example). For example, in changing *Sphegina verecunda* Collin, 1937 to *clavata* (Scopoli, 1763) instead of *nigra* Meigen, 1822 greater stability has been achieved. The Scopoli name is only five years later than the starting

date of Zoological Nomenclature (1758). I have carefully checked the few publications containing Diptera names that occur in the five-year period and feel certain that no older *Sphegina* names exist. For the 59-year period between 1763 and 1822, I am not as certain to whether *Sphegina* names older than *nigra* Meigen exist and, thereby, potentially, could upset nomenclatural stability again. The time span is much greater in the cases of the *Neoscia* names discussed here.

Summary synonymy

Neoscia Williston

annexa (Müller, 1776) NEW STATUS

bifasciata Schrank, 1776 NEW SYNONYM

dizonias Gmelin, 1790

floralis of Sack 1929; Collin 1940; Séguy 1961;

Pedersen 1971

geniculata (Meigen, 1822)

interrupta (Meigen, 1822)

littoralis Zetterstedt, 1843

meticulosa (Scopoli, 1763) NEW STATUS

crassipes Schrank, 1785 NEW SYNONYM

dispar Meigen, 1822 NEW SYNONYM

aenea Meigen, 1822 NEW SYNONYM

nitidula Meigen, 1822

hastata Meigen, 1822

dispar of Lundbeck 1916; Sack 1929 (in part);

Séguy 1961 (in part)

aenea of Collin 1940; Coe 1953; Stackelberg

1955, 1970; Hippa 1967a; Pedersen 1971

nitidula of Sack 1929

obliqua Coe, 1940

podagrica of Sack 1929 (in part)

petsamoensis Kanervo, 1934

podagrica (Fabricius, 1775)

molio Harris, 1780

floralis Meigen, 1822 NEW SYNONYM

lanceolata Meigen, 1822

maculata Macquart, 1829

?*unifasciata* Strobl, 1898

tenur (Harris, 1780)

quadripunctata Meigen, 1822

bifasciata Zetterstedt, 1838

lapponica Kanervo, 1934

splendida Kanervo, 1934

dispar of Sack 1929 (in part); Collin 1940; Coc

1953; Stackelberg 1955, 1970; Séguy 1961 (in part); Andersson 1966; Pedersen 1971
floralis of Lundbeck 1916

Other names discussed

Paragus tibialis (Fallén, 1817)

analís Macquart, 1839 NEW SYNONYM

Sphegina clavata (Scopoli, 1763) NEW STATUS

nigra Meigen, 1822 NEW SYNONYM

verecunda Collin, 1939 NEW SYNONYM

Sepsis cynipsea (Linnaeus, 1758)

elongata Müller, 1776 NEW SYNONYM

Review of *Neoascia* names

aenea Meigen, 1822: 191 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Austria & France. Lectotype, Female, MNHN, Paris).¹ *Aenea* is represented by a single female type in the Meigen Collection (No. 1136) which is here designated lectotype. This is a specimen of *meticulosa* Scopoli; this name herein is proposed as the senior synonym for both *aenea* Meigen and *dispar* Meigen. Collin (1940: 151) recognized *aenea* Meigen as a junior synonym of *dispar* Meigen.

analís Macquart, 1839: 109 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Canary Islands. Type(s), male(s), MNHN, Paris). *Analís* was listed as a questionable synonym of *floralis* by Bezzi & Stein (1907: 85) and as a valid species by Sack (1929: 124). The name applies to a species of *Paragus* (*Pandasyopthalmus*). Only two species of that subgenus occur in the Canary Islands, from whence *analís* was described (*coadunatus* Rondani, 1847 and *tibialis* Fallén, 1817; Baez 1978). These two species can be distinguished only by male genital characters. The type(s) of *analís* is (are) presumably lost as I was unable to find it (them) in the Webb and Berthelot Collection. As the true identity of *analís* is not known, I, for pragmatic reasons, accept *analís* as a junior synonym of *tibialis* Fallén.

annexa Müller, 1776: 173 (*Musca*. Type-locality: Denmark. Types lost. Müller's description

clearly applies to a two-banded *Neoascia* species ("M. annexa glabra, abdomine elongato nigro, fasciis duabus pedibusque luteis; posticis nigro annulatis. *+Femora posticorum vel clavatae, vel tibiae arcuatae sunt; an mera varietas?") (of *Musca elongata* Müller, which is *Sepsis cynipsea* (L.) (New Synonym)). The reference to *elongata*, a sepsid, fixes the size and general habitus; the colour characters and hind leg shape restricts the name to *floralis* of Collin. Due to the confusion associated with the name *floralis* Meigen and its interpretation, *annexa*, which has priority, is here used.

bicineta Stephens, 1829: 280 (*Ascia*). *Bicineta* is a catalog name, a *nomen nudum*.

bifasciata Schrank, 1776: 95, pl. 3, Fig. 21 (abdomen) (*Musca*. Type-locality: Austria, Linz. Types lost). *Bifasciata* is not a synonym of *Epistrophe eligans* as listed by Bezzi & Stein (1907: 61), but refers to a *Neoascia* species. The double unbroken abdominal bands restrict the name to *annexa* Müller. *Bifasciata* Schrank is a junior primary homonym, Fabricius (1775) having used the name before. *Dizonias* Gmelin was proposed as a replacement name (1790: 2880).

bifasciata Zetterstedt, 1838: 583 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Finland, Lapponia Kemensis, Muonioniska. Lectotype, male, ZI, Lund). Andersson (1966: 178) studied Zetterstedt's types and designated a lectotype for *bifasciata*. Andersson identified the lectotype as a specimen of the species here called *tenur* Harris. Zetterstedt's name is a junior secondary homonym, Schrank (1776) having used the name before.

bipunctata Curtis, 1837: 250 (*Ascia*). This name is a *nomen nudum*, being merely a catalog name in Curtis's *Guide to British Insects*. The name was first noted and placed as a junior synonym of *podagrica* by Bezzi & Stein (1907: 87).

cingulata Stephens, 1829: 280 (*Ascia*). *Cingulata* is a catalog name, a *nomen nudum*.

clavatus Scopoli, 1763: 357 (*Conops*. Type-locality: Austria, "Carniola". Types destroyed). *Clavatus* was thought to apply to a *Neoascia* species by Schiner (1856: 418) and was listed as a questionable synonym of *podagrica* by Bezzi & Stein (1907: 87). *Conops clavatus* was described as a small fly, with clavate hind femora and petiolate reddish abdomen with two brown

¹ The format used for each specific name is as follows: Name author, date: page number of original description. (Original genus. Type-locality: (as given, or if not, the probable locality is given in parentheses). Type (kind of), sex, location of types).

bands. These characters are of teneral *Sphegina* specimens, which are common in nature (Hull 1935: 373). The oldest *Sphegina* name is *clunipes* Fallén, 1817. As the name *verecunda* Collin, a junior synonym of *nigra* Meigen (new synonym) (Thompson, in press), must be replaced, I prefer to bring *clavata* Scopoli forward for that species.

crassipes Schrank, 1785: 343 (*Syrphus*. Type-locality: Germany, Schroffenberg, near Berchtesgaden. Types, sex?, unknown and probably lost). Schrank's description, which is repeated verbatim in his *Fauna Boica* (1830: 109), is of a *Neoascia* species with immaculate wings and abdomen and with yellow-tipped hind femora. Among the German *Neoascia* species, only *dispar* Meigen fits these characters. Meigen, in fact, listed *crassipes*, as "Schrank *Fauna Boica*. III. 2415.", as a synonym of his *dispar*. Collin (1940: 151) in discussing this reference confused two different species. His comments on the identity of *Syrphus crassipes* Schrank, 1785 were based on the description of *Musca crassipes* Schrank, 1781 and are, hence, erroneous. Schrank described two *crassipes*; a *Musca crassipes* (1781: 450, a *Merodon* species) and a *Syrphus crassipes* (1785: 343). The Meigen reference to species number 2415 applies to the *Syrphus crassipes*. *Crassipes* and *dispar* are made isotypic (see *dispar*), and *crassipes*, thus, should be the valid name for the species. However, as a name change is required, it is appropriate to change to an even older name, *meticulosa* Scopoli.

dispar Meigen, 1822: 188, Figs. 27 & 28 (habitus, male & female) (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Germany, mountains north of Monschau. Paralectotypes, male, female, MNHN, Paris). The original description of *dispar* Meigen was based on a minimum of two males and four females, as shown by the variety of abdominal patterns described. Meigen described the abdominal patterns of *dispar* as follows: Male abdomen with one unbroken band on the base of the third tergum, rarely with this band interrupted; and female abdomen is usually unmarked, some specimens have reddish spots on second tergum, others have spots on the third tergum, and still others have spots on both the second and third terga (translated from the original German). Meigen also figured the typical pattern for both sexes, one band in the male and none in the female. In the Meigen Collection (No. 1131), only

two specimens remain under this name. One, a male, does not agree with either Meigen's description or his figure, as it has two complete bands, and the other, a female, is now merely and unidentifiable fragment. Collin based his interpretation of *dispar* on the male in the Meigen Collection. Lundbeck and all earlier authors based their interpretation on Meigen's description and figure. Hence, the situation resolves itself into the classic dilemma of systematists: Is the specimen in the Meigen Collection a type or not a type? And that question depends on the emphasis one gives the original description: Is it right or wrong?

When dealing with old collections where the data associated with the specimens are minimal and the curatorial history of the collection is dubious, I prefer to place the emphasis on the description. However, if the problem can be avoided, I do so. And in this case, a specimen not in, nor part of, the Meigen Collection is selected as type (*v. i.*).

Two different usages of the name *dispar* exist, depending on the alternative to the above dilemma that various authors have accepted. Thus, the best course of action is to avoid the use of the name *dispar*, if possible. Meigen included the species *Syrphus crassipes* Schrank in his concept of *dispar*. *Crassipes* represents the typical female form, that with an unmarked abdomen. Hence, I restrict and designate as lectotype of *dispar*, the type of *crassipes* Schrank (*NB*: Syntypes may be "specimens not seen by the author but which were the bases of previously published descriptions or figures upon which he founded his taxon in whole or part" (Art. 73 (c) (i) of the *Code*)). *Crassipes* Schrank is here considered a junior subjective synonym of *meticulosa* Scopoli.

dizonias Gmelin, 1790: 2880 (*Musca*, new name for *bifasciata* Schrank). *Dizonias* is a replacement name for *bifasciata* Schrank, which is a junior synonym of *annexa* Müller.

floralis Meigen, 1822: 188 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: (Germany, region of Aachen). Lectotype, Male, MNHN, Paris). This name was correctly interpreted by Lundbeck (1916: 379), but was later misapplied by Collin (1940: 152), who applied the name *floralis* to a species unknown to Lundbeck (see *annexa* Müller). Collin noted that the male under the name *floralis* in the Meigen Collection

(No. 1130) was an teneral specimen of *podagrica* Fabricius, an identification which I have confirmed. Collin then wrote "There is no certainty that this was the male described by Meigen, nor has it been proved that the female Meigen described was not the (at present unknown) female of Kowarz's male." (= *floralis* of Collin). Collin's argument was: (1) whereas the male specimen in the Meigen Collection is not a type; (2) and whereas the then unknown female of the male identified by Kowarz as *floralis* could be the female of Meigen's *floralis*; therefore (3), he based his interpretation of *floralis* on the "Kowarz's male". Collin's first statement could apply to any specimen in the Meigen Collection. Collin seemed to accept specimens as types only when they agreed with his concept of the name. The male in the Meigen Collection does agree well with the original description, and is here considered a syntype as well as designated as the lectotype of *floralis* Meigen. Collin's second statement overlooks the fact that there is also a female in the Meigen Collection under the name *floralis*. This female syntype, which agrees with Meigen's description, is *dispar* of Collin and *floralis* of Lundbeck. It could be designated as the lectotype of *floralis*. This would preserve Lundbeck's interpretation, but such a designation would only further confuse the situation. For this reason, I select the male as the lectotype and synonymize the name *floralis* Meigen under *podagrica* Fabricius. The female of the species called *floralis* by Collin (= the name Kowarz used for his male) has now been identified by Stackelberg (1955: 345) and Pedersen (1971: 53, Figs.), and it does not agree with Meigen's description (i.e., it has two complete bands, not two interrupted bands as described by Meigen). Hence, Collin's second statement, while being a "red-herring" to distract workers from the fact that a female syntype does exist, is incorrect as it would fix the name *floralis* to a female which does not agree with Meigen's description. *Annexa* Müller is available for *floralis* of Collin and subsequent authors.

geniculata Meigen, 1822: 192 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: England. Holotype, female, MNHN, Paris). The holotype of *geniculata* Meigen is in poor condition, with the abdomen and posterior part of the thorax missing. However, the short third antennal segments are present and are sufficient

to fix the name to its present concept (Sack 1929: 124; Collin 1940: 153; Coe 1953: 52; Stackelberg 1970: 43).

hastata Wiedemann, in Meigen, 1822: 189 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Germany, Berlin region. Holotype, female, NHM, Wien). The description and presumed holotype of this name apply to *meticulosa* Scopoli. *Hastata* is usually credited to Meigen, but the species was unknown to him as is indicated by the cross after the name. Wiedemann, while citing Hoffmannsegg as source of the name, described *hastata* for Meigen as is indicated by the quotation marks and his name in parentheses at the end of the description (Meigen 1818: iv). *Hastata* was based on a single female in the Hoffmannsegg Collection. A single female, labeled as *hastata*, is part of the Winthem Collection and is now in Vienna. I believe this is the holotype of *hastata*. The Winthem and Wiedemann Collections are intermixed. Winthem owned both and had started, but apparently did not finish, incorporating the Wiedemann Collection into his own (Osten Sacken 1878: xv-xvi). Wiedemann apparently acquired the Hoffmannsegg Diptera as I have found many specimens of the species he described and cited as "In Hoffmannseggischen Sammlung" in Vienna.

interrupta Meigen, 1822: 190 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: France, Bondy, near Paris. Lectotype, female, MNHN, Paris). A single female, labeled as a male, is present in the Meigen Collection (No. 1134) under this name and is here designated lectotype. The type corresponds well to the accepted concept of its name.

lanceolata Meigen, 1822: 187 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Germany, Aachen region. Lectotype, female, MNHN, Paris). A single female is present in the Meigen Collection (No. 1129) under this name and is here designated lectotype. It is a specimen of *podagrica* Fabricius, as first noted by Zetterstedt (1834: 855).

lapponica Kanervo, 1934: 118 (*Neoascia*, as subsp. of *floralis*. Type-locality: USSR, Petsamo, various localities. Syntypes, 15 males & 5 females, ZM, Turku). Andersson (1966) studied some syntypes of *lapponica* and identified them as belonging to *tenur* Harris (as *dispar*). He stated that the characters the subspecies concept was based on were "obscure and show variability". He further stated that he could not find any

distinctions that would support the division of the species into a northern and southern subspecies. Hence he synonymized the name under *dispar*.

littoralis Zetterstedt, 1843: 888 (*Ascia*). *Littoralis* is a manuscript name Zetterstedt used for *interrupta* Meigen and published in synonymy under that name. Hence, the name is a *nomen nudum*.

maculata Macquart, 1829: 169. (*Ascia*. Type-locality: (Northern France). Types apparently lost). This name applies to a two-banded *Neoascia* species with maculate wings, either *obliqua* Coe or *podagrica* Fabricius. The critical characters for distinguishing these two species are not mentioned in Macquart's description. The types of *maculata* should be in the museum at Lille, but no such specimen are on a list prepared of that collection by Macquart. Hence, *maculata* is left as a junior synonym of *podagrica* where it was first placed by Verrall (1901b: 72).

meticulosa Scopoli, 1763: 344 (*Musca*. Type-locality: Austria, "Carniola". Types destroyed). Under this name Scopoli described a small (5 1/2 mm wing span), shiny black, clear-winged hover fly with curved hind tibiae. Bezzi & Stein (1907: 85) placed it as a questionable synonym of *dispar* Meigen. Collin (1940: 151) rejected this synonymy as follows, "There is far too much doubt as to the identity of Scopoli's insect . . .". Taken at face value, all of Scopoli's characters (color, size, curved hind tibia, and hovering habit) indicate an immaculate *Neoascia* species or *dispar* Meigen. The only doubt is whether Scopoli's hover fly was a syrphid, a point no one since Schiner (1856: 415) has ever doubted. Scopoli could have described a *Pipunculus* species. Despite such a doubt, I accept, without hesitation, Bezzi & Stein's synonymy, as there is a need for a name with an untainted history and long seniority to replace *dispar* of Meigen and some, but not all, subsequent authors.

molio Harris, 1780: 111, pl. 33, Fig. 54 (habitus) (*Musca*. Type-locality: (England) Types lost). This name has always been considered a synonym of *podagrica* Fabricius, first being synonymized by Stephens (1829: 280), so it might as well remain as such. The name definitely applies either to *obliqua* Coe or *podagrica*. Despite the statements of Goffe (1946: 82), I do not

agree that Harris's figure or description clearly applies to either one or the other of these two species.

nitidula Meigen, 1822: 191 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Austria. Types probably lost). *Nitidula* was described as an immaculate *Neoascia* male. Immaculate males of *Neoascia* are atypical, as males normally have at least some pale markings. Possibly Meigen was confused as to the sex of his *nitidula* specimens, as two females of other species in his collection are labeled as males. Without examination of the types, the question of the sex and identity of *nitidula* is moot. While Meigen did not clearly indicate the depository of the type series, it has to be either in his collection or in Vienna (Megerle Collection). I have checked both places carefully without finding a trace of the types. *Nitidula* is accepted here as belonging with *meticulosa* Scopoli, as was suggested by Meigen himself (as *aenea* Meigen).

obliqua Coe, 1940: 18 (*Neoascia*. Type-localities: England, various localities. Syntypes, 4 males, 5 females, BMNH, London & Oxford). This species was only differentiated in 1940, and there appears to have been no confusion as to its identity or name. Previously the species was included under the concept and name of *podagrica* Fabricius.

omicron Stephens, 1829: 280 (*Ascia*). *Omicron* is a catalog name, a *nomen nudum*.

petsamoensis Kanervo, 1934: 117 (*Neoascia*. Type-locality: USSR, Petsamo, Nautsi, at Nautsi River. Lectotype, female, ZM, Turku). This northern species was unknown until Kanervo described it in 1934, and, there is no confusion over its identity and name. Andersson (1977: 179) designated a lectotype for *petsamoensis*, and Hippa (1967b) has described the male and figured its genitalia.

podagrica Fabricius, 1775: 768 (*Syrphus*. Type-locality: Denmark. Lectotype, ?sex, Kiel Collection at ZM, Copenhagen). In the Fabrician Collection there are two single wings on separate pins. One is labeled "*podagrica*" in Fabricius' hand-writing. This wing is hyaline, and, as Fabricius mentions maculate wings in his description, this wing cannot be considered a syntype. The other wing is maculate and is here designated as lectotype of *podagrica*. Three

Danish *Neoascia* species have maculate wings (*interrupta* Meigen, *obliqua* Coe and *podagrica*). The characters mentioned in the original description eliminate *interrupta*, but do not discriminate between the other two. Hence, there is no evidence to fix the name *podagrica* to its present concept. The traditional concept is maintained, as there is also no evidence, nor conflicts in usage, to support doing otherwise.

quadripunctata Meigen, 1822: 189 (*Ascia*. Type-locality: Unknown, probably France. Syn-types male(s) & female(s) MNHN, Paris). In the Meigen Collection, there are two females (No. 1133, one labeled as a male) under this name. They are specimens of *tenur* Harris.

splendida Kanervo, 1934: 120 (*Neoascia*, as var. of *floralis lapponica*). As the name *splendida* was proposed as a variety of a subspecies, the name is clearly infrasubspecific and not available.

tenur Harris, 1780: 112, pl. 33, Fig. 59 (habitus) (*Musca*. Type-locality: England. Types lost). Harris described and figured a two banded *Neoascia* species with hyaline wings. Stephens (1829: 280) and most subsequent authors have regarded *tenur* as a synonym of *podagrica* Fabricius. Goffe (1946: 183) rightly rejected this synonymy as Harris neither figured nor mentioned the maculate wings of *podagrica*. Harris did mention this character when he described his *molio*, a junior synonym of *podagrica*. Goffe restricted *tenur* to either *dispar* or *floralis* Meigen (*sensu* Collin), but he did not feel that Harris's description and figure precisely matched *dispar*. *Neoascia floralis* does not occur in England. Goffe, thus, left *tenur* as a *nomen dubium*. Goffe, I believe, demanded too much precision for Harris's work, which was also noted by Coe (1940: 149-153). As *Neoascia dispar* of Collin is the only English species which matches Harris's description and figure, and, because it also needs a name, I feel it is reasonable to use *tenur* Harris for it.

unifasciata Strobl, 1898: 222 (*Ascia*, as var. of *podagrica*. Type-locality: Austria, Styria, Admont. Holotype, male, Strobl Collection, Admont). The status of this name is uncertain. The description is of a dark male of *podagrica*, but at the time it was described the distinctions between *podagrica* and *obliqua* were not known.

Hence, the possibility of *unifasciata* being a senior synonym of *obliqua* exists. The holotype will be studied to settle this question.

Note on collections

The Scopoli collection was destroyed (Higgins 1963, Horn & Kahle 1936: 252). Müller, it is believed, never kept a collection (Tuxen, in litt.), although those who believe otherwise considered the collection to have been destroyed in the battle of Copenhagen (1807) (Hagen 1844: 131; Horn & Kahle 1936: 184). Nothing is known of Harris's collection, and, in a country with as many diligent collectors as England has, I doubt whether after two centuries anything will ever be known about it. The principal Fabrician collections are now in the Universitetets Zoologiske Museet, Copenhagen. Zimsen (1964) has reviewed all Fabrician type material. The Meigen Collection is now preserved as a separate entity at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. Some Meigen material is also in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna. I have studied all the Fabrician and Meigen material now extant in Copenhagen, Paris, and Vienna.

Summary

There has been confusion about the correct application and usage of three *Neoascia* names (*aenea*, *dispar* and *floralis* Meigen): Different authors have used the same name for different species and different names for the same species. This confusion makes the use of all these names suspect. Three previously unused and unrecognized senior synonyms are brought forward for these nomenclaturally confused species.

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