

Short note

Revalidation of an erroneously synonymized *Helina* species and reminder of a forgotten *Lispe* species from the Afrotropical Region

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Abstract

Helina scutellaris ZIELKE, 1971 registered at the websites of *Systema dipterorum* and *Catalogue of Life* as a synonym of *Dichaetomyia rangeri* (ZIELKE, 1973), is recognized as a valid species, distinct from *D. rangeri*. The major taxonomic differences between the two species are discussed. Additionally, another valid species, *Lispe congensis* ZIELKE, 1970 is not to be found in the two websites, neither as a valid species, nor as synonym. To prevent *L. congensis* falling into complete oblivion, the species is brought to recollection.

Key words

Helina scutellaris, revalidation, taxonomy, *Lispe congensis*, recollection

Zusammenfassung

Helina scutellaris ZIELKE, 1971 ist in den Websites von *Systema Dipterorum* und *Catalogue of Life* als Synonym von *Dichaetomyia rangeri* (ZIELKE, 1973) aufgeführt. Die Art kann jedoch eindeutig von *D. rangeri* unterschieden werden und ist als eigenständige Art zu betrachten. Die wichtigsten taxonomischen Unterschiede werden aufgezeigt. Außerdem ist die eigenständige, bereits 1970 beschriebene Art *Lispe congensis* ZIELKE weder als eigenständige Art noch als Synonym in den Websites registriert. Um zu verhindern, dass *L. congensis* völlig in Vergessenheit gerät, wird sie hiermit in Erinnerung gebracht.

Results and discussion

When searching in August 2016 the website of *Catalogue of Life* (ROSKOV et al. 2018) for some names of *Helina* species, it was noticed that the species *Helina scutellaris*, ZIELKE described in 1971 from South Africa was listed as synonym of *Dichaetomyia rangeri* (ZIELKE) described in 1973 from Madagascar. The synonymization was found confirmed at the website of *Systema Dipterorum* (PAPE & THOMPSON 2013) where in addition the paper by COURI et al. (2006) on muscids from Madagascar was cited as reference for the synonymization. The authors (COURI et al. 2006) erroneously synonymized *Dichaetomyia scutellaris* (ZIELKE, 1974) with *Dichaetomyia rangeri* (ZIELKE, 1973) as shown recently by ZIELKE (2016), but they did not question the status of *Helina scutellaris* ZIELKE, 1971 as a valid species. Thus, no explanation was

found for the synonymization of the two species, or for the strange fact that *H. scutellaris* as the earlier described species (1971) should be a synonym of *D. rangeri* described later (1973). In November 2016, one of the editors of *Systema Dipterorum* was informed about this unusual synonymization. He did not rule out that this could be due to a data-entry error in *Systema Dipterorum*, and that this would be checked. Up to now, no corrections have been made and the older name of *H. scutellaris* is still listed in two major data banks as the junior homonym of the younger name of *D. rangeri*. As the two species differ distinctly from one another, their current status as synonyms has to be corrected, to avoid confusion. The strong evidence for resurrecting *Helina scutellaris* as a separate species from *Dichaetomyia rangeri* is detailed below.

Resurrection of *Helina scutellaris* ZIELKE, 1971 from synonymy with *Dichaetomyia rangeri* (ZIELKE, 1973) is justified by following taxonomic differences between the two species:

Helina scutellaris is characterized like all other *Helina* species by a bare anepimeron and a posterior spiracle without a row of setulae at the lower border, whereas *D. rangeri* is marked like all species of the genus *Dichaetomyia* by haired anepimeron and setulae at the lower border of the posterior spiracle. Moreover, the ground colour of the thorax of *H. scutellaris* is yellowish to light brown, dorsally grey dusted with two brown longitudinal stripes reaching the scutellar suture. The abdominal ground colour is grey with a pair of small paramedian brown patches on tergites 3 and 4. Contrastingly, the ground colour of the thorax including the scutellum of *D. rangeri* is metallic shining blue violet with contrasting yellow postpronotal lobes, and the dorsal surface is marked by three broad, white dusted longitudinal stripes on the presutural part of the mesonotum only. The abdomen is predominantly concolorous with the thorax, but with a brownish yellow base of syntergite 1+2, and the tergites are without any patches. Additional major differences e. g. in chaetotaxy are 2+3 dorsocentral setae and 2+2 katepisternal setae in *H. scutellaris* and 2+2 dorsocentrals and 1+2 katepisternal setae in *D. rangeri*.

Recollection of *Lispe congensis* ZIELKE, 1970

Lispe congensis was listed as a valid species in the Catalogue of Afrotropical Diptera (PONT 1980), but the species is not mentioned in *Systema Dipterorum* or *Catalogue of Life*, neither as a good species nor as a synonym. It seems that *L. congensis* was overlooked during compilation of the data for *Systema Dipterorum* and that consequently it was also omitted in *Catalogue of Life*. Because *L. congensis* is not listed in the major data banks, there is a great risk that the species will fall into complete oblivion. Therefore the species, which was collected 1934 in Congo by de Witte and which already was recognized by Paterson (i. litt.) as a new species of the genus *Lispe*, is brought herewith in recollection, to reduce the risk.

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