Case 3064

Strongylogaster Dahlbom, 1835 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): proposed conservation by the designation of Tenthredo multifasciata Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785 as the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name Strongylogaster Dahlbom, 1835 for a Holarctic genus of sawflies (family Tenthredinidae, subfamily Selandriinae), the use of which has been stable and unambiguous for 140 years, by the designation of Tenthredo multifasciata Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785 as the type species. At present T. cingulata Fabricius, 1793 (a junior primary homonym of T. cingulata Scopoli, 1763) is the type species but recognition of the synonymy of this with T. brevicornis Konow, 1886 renders Strongylogaster a junior subjective synonym of Tenthredo Linnaeus, 1758 (subfamily Tenthredininae). A lectotype is designated for T. cingulata Fabricius, which had previously been considered a junior synonym of T. lineata Christ, 1791, itself a junior synonym of T. multifasciata.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; Tenthredinidae; sawflies; Tenthredo; Strongylogaster; Tenthredo lineata; Tenthredo multifasciata.

1. The name Strongylogaster Dahlbom, 1835 (pp. 4, 13) has been used unambiguously as a valid generic name (family Tenthredinidae, subfamily Selandriinae) since Costa (1859). The taxon was described as a subgenus of Tenthredo and comprised the species Tenthredo cingulata Fabricius, 1793, T. filicis Klug, 1817 and T. mixta Klug, 1817. Dahlbom referred to the opinion of Klug (1817) on the position of these names and cited them under ‘T. Allant. Kl.’, i.e. belonging to Tenthredo (Allactus) sensu Klug. The name T. cingulata Fabricius, 1793 is a junior primary homonym of T. cingulata Scopoli, 1763, the name of a sawfly species which is currently placed in Allants Panzer, 1801.

2. MacGillivray (1908) placed T. mixta as a member of Thrinax Konow, 1885, and recorded that T. filicis was the type species of the genus Polystichophagus Ashmead, 1898 by monotypy and original designation. MacGillivray (1908, p. 369) noted: ‘This leaves only cingulata, Fab., for Strongylogaster, which becomes type by elimination’. Although using the term ‘by elimination’, MacGillivray designated and accepted T. cingulata Fabricius as the type species of Strongylogaster and this is a valid type species designation under Article 69a(iv) of the Code: it has been accepted by
subsequent authors (see, for example, Rohwer, 1911, p. 90; Abe & Smith, 1991, pp. 81–82).

3. Klug (1817, pp. 215–216) referred to the original publication of *Tenthredo cingulata* Fabricius, 1793 (pp. 113–114). The name has been treated as a junior synonym of *T. lineata* Christ, 1791 (see, for example, Takeuchi, 1941, p. 243 and Zhelochovtsev, 1951, p. 149). A single female specimen preserved in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, which was determined and labelled as ‘cingulata F.’ by Klug, agrees well with the current view of the identity of *lineata*, which is now placed in *Strongylogaster*. The original description of *T. lineata* (p. 450) is generally accepted as representing a species of *Strongylogaster* (see, for example, Takeuchi, 1941; Zhelochovtsev, 1951; Naito, 1980, p. 400).

4. For a long time the specific name of *Tenthredo multifasciata* Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785 (p. 368), and not *T. lineata* Christ, 1791, was used as the valid name for the taxon in question (see, for example, Dalle Torre, 1894). It is not clear why Konow (1905) treated *T. multifasciata* as a junior synonym of *T. vespa* Retzius, 1783, as no evidence for the supposed synonymy was given. *Tenthredo multifasciata* and *T. lineata* were both based on Geoffroy’s (1762) ‘La mouche-â-scie à ventre rayé’ and are objective synonyms. It seems very likely that Christ (1791) had no original material; it is clear from his publication that he intended to create an available name for Geoffroy’s (1762) taxon. We have adopted *multifasciata* as the valid specific name for the species (see Blank, 1998). The type locality of *T. multifasciata* is Paris.

5. We have recently studied the type series of *Tenthredo cingulata* Fabricius, 1793 which consists of three syntypes preserved in the Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen (see Zimsen, 1964, p. 358). We found that all the syntypes belong to the *Tenthredo arcuata*-group as defined by Taeger (1985, p. 91), which is included in *Tenthredo Linnaeus, 1758* (p. 555; subfamily Tenthredininae). *Tenthredo cingulata* has now been recognized as a synonym of *Allantus brevicornis* Konow, 1886 (p. 18). One female syntype, which is hereby designated as the lectotype of *T. cingulata* Fabricius, is labelled as follows: (Fabricius’s handwriting) ‘cingulata’; (red label) ‘Lectotypus Tenthredo cingulata Fabr. 1793, designat by] S.M. Blank 1999’; ‘Tenthredo brevicornis’ (Konow, 1886). The lectotype agrees perfectly with the characterization given by Taeger (1985, pp. 131–132) of *T. nitidior* (Konow, 1888), which is a junior subjective synonym of *T. brevicornis* (Konow, 1886), as noted by Taeger (1988, p. 104).

6. It follows that if *Tenthredo cingulata* Fabricius were recognised as the type species of *Strongylogaster*, this generic name would become a junior synonym of *Tenthredo Linnaeus, 1758*, and the group of species currently known as *Strongylogaster* would have to be renamed as *Thrinx* Konow, 1885, now regarded as a junior synonym of *Strongylogaster*. This would cause considerable confusion because *Strongylogaster* is the well-known name of a Holarctic genus which is currently used for a group of 40 valid species. The name *Strongylogaster* has been used in the following representative recent publications: Benson (1968, p. 134), Goulet (1992, p. 91), Sonoda, Yamada, Naito & Nakasuji (1995), Naito (1996), Blank (1998). A list of a further 26 additional references dating from 1952–1998 which demonstrate the usage of *Strongylogaster* is held by the Commission Secretariat. In the interest of stability of nomenclature and the maintenance of the established usage of the name
Strongylogaster Dahlbom, 1835, we propose that Tenthredo multifasciata Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785 be designated as the type species of the genus.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus Strongylogaster Dahlbom, 1835 and to designate Tenthredo multifasciata Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785 as the type species;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name Strongylogaster Dahlbom, 1835 (gender: feminine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above Tenthredo multifasciata Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name multifasciata Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785, as published in the binomen Tenthredo multifasciata (specific name of the type species of Strongylogaster Dahlbom, 1835).

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References


Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the Bulletin; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).