

SHORT COMMUNICATION

On the synonymy of *Stictocephala alta* (Walker) and *Thelia constans* Walker (Hemiptera: Membracidae)

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ABSTRACT. This paper deals with the synonymy of *Ceresa alta* Walker, 1851, now *Stictocephala alta*, and its junior synonym, *Thelia constans* Walker, 1851. Notes on *Stictocephala bisonia* Kopp & Yonke, 1977 are also presented.

KEY WORDS. Membracoidea; Ceresini; Smiliinae; systematics; taxonomy.

RESUMO. Sobre a sinonímia de *Stictocephala alta* (Walker) e *Thelia constans* Walker (Hemiptera: Membracidae).

São abordadas a sinonímia de *Ceresa alta* Walker, 1851, atualmente *Stictocephala alta*, e de *Thelia constans* Walker, 1851, como seu sinônimo júnior. Comentários sobre *Stictocephala bisonia* Kopp & Yonke, 1977 são apresentados também.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE. Membracoidea; Ceresini; Smiliinae; sistemática; taxonomia.

Stictocephala alta (Walker, 1851)

Ceresa alta Walker, 1851: 529; Metcalf & Wade, 1965: 844 (cat., = *Smilia malina* Germar, 1835); Broomfield, 1971: 331 (typ.); McKamey, 1998: 245 (cat., = *Smilia malina* Germar, 1835). *Stictocephala alta*; Andrade, 1997: 289 (comb. nov., syn.); Dietrich, Rothschild & Deitz, 1999: 254 and 255 (not.). *Thelia constans* Walker, 1851: 563; Broomfield, 1971: 342 (typ.).
Syn. nov.

DIETRICH *et al.* (1999) refuted the new combination of *Ceresa alta* Walker as *Stictocephala alta* (Walker) and its synonymy with *Stictocephala bisonia* Kopp & Yonke, 1977, proposed by ANDRADE (1997), arguing among other facts that "...The holotype of *Ceresa alta* Walker is of ambiguous identity, being a female specimen from an unspecified locality...". The study of the female holotype of *C. alta* Walker, deposited in "The Natural History Museum" (London), and additional material identifiable also as *C. alta* and *S. bisonia* were done. They showed again that besides all the similar characters, the membrane of the tegmina corrugated and the post-ocular lobes compressed, which are synapomorphies for all the species of nearctic Ceresini with ornamentation of, at most, supra-humeral horns. This not leaving doubts about the precedence of the type of *C. alta* Walker from North America, although there is none information on the type and on the original description. Also, within all the species of Ceresini with the supra-humeral horns as only ornamentation, they are the only ones that are equaled in the size and other characters of the head, pronotum and tegmina.

Thus, although the synonymy of *C. alta* with *S. bisonia* stays unsolved, the placement of *C. alta* in *Stictocephala* is at least correct.

In addition to these studies, a close comparison of the female holotype of *C. alta* Walker with the female holotype of *Thelia constans* Walker, showed that they belongs to the same species.

On the other hand, *Thelia constans*; Caldwell, 1949 (p. 514, pl. 22), non *Thelia constans* Walker, 1851, appears in the catalog of METCALF & WADE (1965) as a species of *Spissistilus* Caldwell, but consulting to the work of CALDWELL (1949) it showed erroneous; it corresponds actually to *Hadrophallus bubalus* (Fabricius, 1794), which was published by ANDRADE (2005).

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