

# Synonymic Remarks on some Generic Names of Mymaridae (Hym.).

By  
J. P. Kryger.

---

In the course of my studies of the *Mymaridae* I stated (already in 1922) some important generic synonymies. I now deem it necessary to publish these corrections to the names hitherto used of the Mymarid genera in question.

## 1. *Gonatocerus* Förster (nec Nees) should be named *Lymænon* (Hal.) Walk.

In 1834 the genus *Gonatocerus* was established by Nees in Hym. Ichn. aff. Monogr. vol. II p. 192, for the (new) species *G. longicornis*, and placed among genera which now are partly ranged in the family *Chalcididae*.

Förster in 1841 (Beitr. z. Monogr. d. Pteromalinen I) mentions the genus describing the species *ater* and *flavus* and placing it among the Chalcidids, but in 1847 (Linnæa entom. II) he ranges *Gonatocerus* among the Mymarids, now only including the species *longicornis* Nees (while the species *ater* and *flavus* Först. are referred to another Mymarid genus *Rachistus*). In Hym. Stud. II 1856 in which the genus *Gonatocerus* is discussed on several pages (7, 117, 118, 119) Förster describes a new species *oxy-pygus* which he believes to be congeneric with Nees's species and which is with certainty a Mymarid nearly related to *Octonus*, surely, he says, identic with *Lymænon* (Hal.) Walk. which latter name he however drops as being younger than *Gonatocerus*.

Bauer

All later authors agree with Förster in considering his *Mymarid* genus identic with *Gonatocerus* Nees.

But is this correct? In the original description Nees writes (p. 192) "Antennae . . . pedicellus obconicus; flagellum novemarticulatum, primo articulo (quarto antennae) forma et magnitudine pedicelli, . . . tum secundo ad sextum usque flagelli articulum singulis filiformibus, non discretis, . . . septimo et octavo paulo crassioribus brevioribus magisque discretis, nono denique articulo (seu duodecimo antennae) longiori crassiori oblongo acuto triannulato." *Gonatocerus* Nees must consequently be ascribed a 13-jointed antenna consisting of scape, pedicellus, 1 ring joint, 7-jointed flagellum and 3-jointed club. No European *Mymarid* has however an antenna like this. (Only one European genus, *Stethynium* Enoch, has a 3-jointed club in the female, but this real *Mymarid* genus has 11-jointed antennae). The genus *Gonatocerus* Nees does not at all belong to the *Mymaridæ*, but is to be placed somewhere among the *Chalcididæ* with 5-jointed tarsi. The name *Gonatocerus*, therefore, cannot be used for the species which Förster and later authors have termed so.

It is not necessary, however, to create a new genus name for Förster's species. For in 1833 Haliday (Entom. Mag. vol. I p. 269) published a key to the genera and species of *Mymaridæ*, and here (p. 343) he ranges within the genus *Ooctonus* the 5 species in 2 groups, with petiolate and sessile abdomen respectively. In 1846 Walker published his "Descriptions of the *Mymaridæ*" (in Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. XVIII p. 49—54). The paper was extracted from papers given to Walker by Haliday. The 2 *Ooctonus*-groups are here separated so as to form 2 genera, in the text called *Ooctonus* and *Lymænon* respectively. But in the earlier part of the book, just after the list of contents, he publishes a table of "Errata and Addenda" which no one seems to have discovered till now. In this list he alters the name *Ooctonus* of the first of the 2 genera to *Sphecomicrus*, while the name *Ooctonus* is entirely dropped. The name *Sphecomicrus* is only found in this table of Errata and has never been transferred to the literature, and fortunately enough, for

Walker (Haliday) has no right to drop his own name. The genus with petiolate abdomen should still be named *Ooctonus*, while that with subsessile abdomen is *Lymænon* — and the name *Sphecomicrus* should be dropped. And moreover: The genus *Gonatocerus* Förster 1847 (nec Nees) is identic with *Lymænon* (Hal.) Walk. 1846 which latter name according to the rule of priority must be used.

Our investigation has given the following results:

1. The generic name *Sphecomicrus* (Hal.) Walk. is to be dropped.
  2. *Gonatocerus* Nees is to be placed somewhere among the Chalcidids with 5-jointed tarsi, not among the Mymarids.
  3. The Mymarid genus called *Gonatocerus* by Förster is to be named *Lymænon* (Hal.) Walk.
2. *Limacis* Förster and *Panthus* (Hal.) Walk. should be named *Arescon* (Hal.) Walk.

Haliday in Entom. Mag. I. 1833 p. 269 characterizes the genus *Litus* as having "antennæ maris 13-articulatæ... , feminae 9-articulatæ... ", and p. 345 he describes 2 species viz *cynipseus* n. sp. and *dimidiatus* Curt. but he only knew the female sex (and the 13-jointed male antenna has only been inserted because the related genus *Ooctonus* showed this number). *Cynipseus* is still the type of the genus *Litus* Hal., but neither Haliday nor any later author has seen a male *Litus*; it is still unknown. As to *dimidiatus* cfr. *cynipseus* Haliday suggests that they "may be considered as the probable types of distinct genera" but he considers it premature to separate them on his small material.

In 1846 Haliday-Walker (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. XVIII p. 49) records the genus *Litus* (with 9-jointed female antennæ — species: *cynipseus*), and the genera *Arescon* (abdomen subpetiolatum\*) and *Alaptus* (abdomen sessile) with 8-jointed female

\*) according to the list of Errata — not subsessile.

antenna. As will appear from the following pages of the said paper the genus *Arescon* is established for Haliday's *Litus dimidiatus*, which thus must be ascribed 13-jointed male antenna and 8-jointed female ant. Now the case is clear: the genus *Arescon* (Hal.) Walk. 1846 agrees very well with Förster's *Limacis* (Förster 1847) and Enoek's *Neurotes*. Förster, later on (Hymen. Stud. II 1856 p. 119), records *Arescon* as a synonym to *Limacis*, but though being older than the latter he rejects it as a valid name because of the existence of the name *Arescus* for a beetle (Perty 1830). But this information by Förster is quite superfluous, he cannot alter the name.

Further: Enoek in Trans. Ent. Soc. London 1909 IV (p. 450 at the bottom) writes that he has had an opportunity of going through Haliday's collection now in Dublin. Only about 100 Mymarids were left, the specimens being in more or less bad condition; it was, however, possible for him to examine one form exactly, viz *Panthus* (Hal.) Walk., a genus occurring in the same file of genera in Haliday-Walker's paper as *Lymænon*, *Litus*, *Arescon* etc. and having 13-jointed male antennæ und subsessile abdomen. Enoek embedded the animal in balsam, and the microscope brought out that the genus was *Limacis* Förster.

And now we have to clear up the question *Arescon-Panthus*. Haliday-Walker record, as mentioned above, both genera: *Arescon* and *Panthus*. From Enoek's own slides in the Manchester Museum it may easily be seen, that he did know *Limacis* Förster. Consequently, when he states (1895) that *Panthus* is the same as *Limacis*, this is beyond doubt. Förster himself stated — as said above — that *Arescon* is the same as *Limacis*. Consequently *Arescon* = *Panthus*. But why did not Enoek discover this? Because he has not either seen the table of Errata, in which *Arescon*'s "subsessile" abdomen is corrected to "subpetiolate".

But the confusion goes on: Walker does not seem to remember his own table of Errata. The fact is that in this latter, one of two *Panthus*-species, viz *crassicornis*, has been separated in a new genus *Patasson* by Walker. But 10 years later

Förster (Hym. Stud. II p. 121) writes: "Ich habe die beiden von Walker angeführten Arten *crassicornis* ♂ und *flavovarius* ♂♀, von seiner eigenen Hand bestimmt, vor mir...". As the name *Patasson* is not mentioned at all, the species in question must have been sent by Walker under the name *Panthus*.

And though Enoch in 1895 writes that he has seen Haliday's collection in Dublin and can state *Panthus* = *Limacis*, he, however, in 1915 (Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist vol. 2 nr. 4 p. 178) places *Arescon* and *Limacis* as separate genera among the Mymarids.

Result:

1. *Litus cynipseus* Hal. is the type species for the genus *Litus* Hal.
2. *Litus dimidiatus* Hal. = *Arescon dimidiatus* (Hal.) Walk.
3. *Arescon dimidiatus* = *Limacis* Förster.
4. *Panthus flavovarius* (Hal.) Walk. = *Limacis* Förster.
5. *Arescon* = *Panthus* = *Limacis*.
6. Förster's name *Limacis* is to be dropped as well as *Panthus* (Hal.) Walk. The genus must be called *Arescon* (Hal.) Walk., with *A. dimidiatus* as type species.

### 3. *Anaphoidea* Girault and *Anaphoides* Enoch shall be named *Patasson* (Hal.) Walk.

As mentioned above, the table of Errata in Haliday-Walker's paper also gives a correction as to the genus *Panthus* (Hal.) Walk. While he retains *P. flavovarius* in the genus (but then it should be called *Arescon* — see above) he separates *P. crassicornis* as the genus *Patasson*, which differs from *Panthus* in the following characters:

*Panthus*: Antennæ feminæ capitulo exarticulato, 9-articulatæ, mari 13-articulatæ.

*Patasson*: Antennæ feminæ capitulo biarticulato, 10-articulatæ, mari 13-articulatæ, flagello compresso; alæ anticæ vena clavata.

Girault who has not either noticed the table of Errata, in 1909 (Journ. New York Ent. Soc. vol. 17 p. 167) establishes a new genus *Anaphoidea* with type species *A. sordida*. He writes (p. 168—169): A genus agreeing closely with *Anaphes* Hal. in general habitus, wing venation and other characters, but differing from it in having in the female an additional antennal joint, the club being divided obliquely; the males are similar to the males of *Anaphes*.

Enock, further, publishes in 1915 (Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist vol. 2 nr. 4 p. 181) a list of the known genera of Mymarids, and his own genera are here marked with an asterisk. Here we read:

“tarsi four-jointed: . . . *Anaphes*, \**Anaphoides* . . .”

I do not know if the description of *Anaphoides* has been published, I have not found it anywhere. But in British Museum Nat. Hist. London, in the Manchester Museum and in the collections of many private microscopical amateurs in England I have seen slides made by Enock, and marked *Anaphoides*. It is beyond doubt that this genus is the same as *Patasson* (Hal.) Walk. The genus is very common all over England (and Europe). (I shall not here go further into the matter trying to solve the question whether it is possible to separate *Patasson* and *Anaphes* by means of the 1- or 2-jointed antennal clubs).

Result:

*Patasson crassicornis* (Hal.) Walk. is the type species for the genus *Patasson* (Hal.) Walk.

*Anaphoidea* Girault and *Anaphoides* Enock are both to be dropped.

Gentofte, 28. Januar 1934.

---