Zootaxa 3209: 67–68 (2012)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Correspondence

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

Three new synonyms among Australian Thripinae (Insecta: Thysanoptera)

LAURENCE A. MOUND
CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, PO Box 1700, Canberra, ACT 2601 [laurence.mound@csiro.au]

The North American entomologist, A.A. Girault, arrived in Australia in late 1911 at the age of 28, to take up an appointment as economic entomologist to the Queensland Bureau of Sugar Experimental Stations near Cairns. He published extensively on the taxonomy of Australian parasitic Hymenoptera, but achieved particular notoriety through issuing a series of 63 privately published papers before his death in 1941. Gordh et al. (1979), in reproducing facsimile editions of each of these papers, provided an extensive overview of Girault's life and opinions, many of which were expressed outrageously on a wide range of topics. In these papers Girault made available over 900 new species-group names, mostly Hymenoptera but with 139 that applied to Australian Thysanoptera. Unfortunately, the identity of these species has been a continuing problem. The publications include no biological information. Most species were described in three or four lines from single, often damaged specimens, and distinguished from each other on colour rather than structure. The original slide preparations are available in the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, but these are remarkably poor, with cover glasses broken, labels inadequate and scarcely legible, and many bearing multiple species. As a result of extensive studies on the Australian thrips fauna over the past 50 years, 77 of the 139 Girault Thysanoptera names are now placed into synonymy, including two new synonyms discussed below. The purpose of this note is to establish the nomenclatural validity of these synonyms, according to the Code of Zoological Nomenclature, so that they can be included in an expanded web-based account of Australian Terebrantia (Mound et al. 2012).

***Aliceathrips australiensis* (Girault)**
Limothrips australiensis Girault, 1928: 3
Physothrips silvae Girault, 1928: 3. **Syn. n.**
Pezothrips aureus Girault, 1929b: 2
Limothrips formosus Girault, 1929b: 2
Aliceathrips australiensis (Girault); Mound, 2011: 10

The four species listed above were each based on single damaged specimens. The condition of *silvae* is so poor that it has been listed as *incertae sedis* (Mound 1996), there being insufficient of the specimen remaining to decide even the sex. Since Girault stated that this specimen was collected with the type specimen of *australiensis*, and as there is nothing in the original brief descriptions to distinguish one from the other, it is here concluded that they represent the same grass-living species (Mound 2011).

***Pseudanaphothrips parvus* (Bagnall)**
Pseudothrips parvus Bagnall, 1916: 222
Physothrips nativus Girault, 1929a: 29. **Syn. n.**
Homochaetothrips pallipennis Sakimura, 1968: 62. **Syn. n.**

Several *Pseudanaphothrips* species remain known from very few specimens, and are particularly difficult to distinguish from each other (Mound & Palmer, 1981). In contrast to related members of the genus, *P. parvus* has rather less shaded fore wings, and shorter and paler antennal segments, and has ocellar setae pair III slightly more anterior in position. The lectotype is in poor condition, but recently collected specimens from various localities indicate that the body size is more variable than was assumed by Sakimura (1968) from a study of that original specimen. Measurements of *P. pallipennis*, including recently studied paratypes, fall within the range of *P. parvus* as here recognised. The holotype of *P. nativus* is a severely shrunken female on which insufficient details can be seen to distinguish it from *P. parvus*. These three names are considered to represent a single widespread Australian thrips that lives in the yellow flowers of several native Asteraceae species.

Accepted by J. Martin: 28 Jan. 2012; published: 28 Feb. 2012