

A New Species of *Thecophora* Rond. (Dipt., Conopidae)

with Notes on *T. distincta* Wied. in Meig. 1824.

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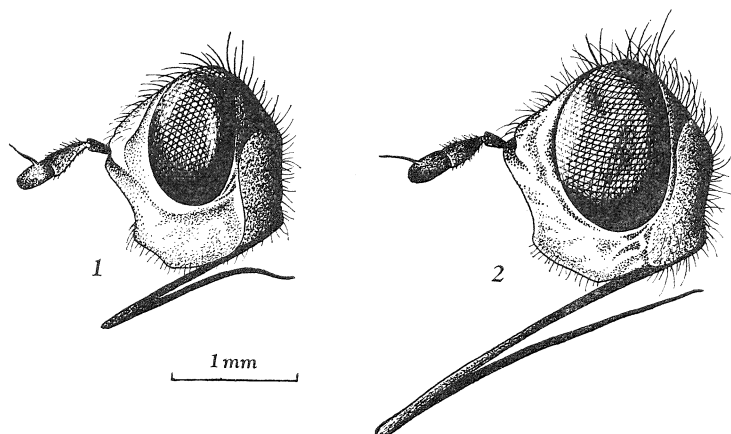
When identifying the Danish material of *Conopidae* in the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen the author found 9 ♂♂ and 8 ♀♀ of a species, which, according to the key in Kröber (1930, p. 135—36), was identified as *distincta* Wiedemann. In order to ensure that the identification was correct, the author borrowed material of the species from the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna, where Wiedemann's type specimen was supposed to be deposited. In all 29 specimens were received, many of them determined by Schiner as *distincta*.

It soon became obvious that there were two species in this material. The first species (A) represented by 6 specimens and the second (B) by 23 specimens. Both species have on the thorax the two narrow, black, longitudinal stripes separated by a narrow, dusted, middle stripe, which characterizes *distincta* Wied. s. auct. However, they can be separated by two morphological characters: in species A the basal part of the proboscis is twice as long as the head and the jowls only one third of the height of the eyes (fig. 2); in species B the basal part of the proboscis is only 1.1—1.2 times longer than the head and the jowls half as broad as the height of the eyes (fig. 1).

Wiedemann described his species in Meigen (1824, p. 149) on the basis of an Austrian male from Hrn. Megerle von Mühlfeld. As mentioned by Brauer (1880, p. 105) von Mühlfeld's collection is included in the "Haupt-Sammlung" in the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna and his specimens are marked "M". Dr. Max Beier has kindly informed the writer (in litt. 20th Sept. 1961) that the type specimen must be supposed lost and proposed that a neotype should be selected from the material.

It is impossible on the basis of Wiedemann's description to tell, whether he was actually studying species A or species B when describing his species. However, a few details indicate that it could have been species B: 1) The antennae are de-

scribed as "-an der Wurzel schwarz, sonst rostbraun mit dunkler Spitze". In species A the antennae have a dark brownish colour and very little contrast. 2) "Stirne ziegelrot". In species A the upper half of the frons is often dark brown, while in species B only the uppermost part is brownish. 3) The statement in the description, "Hinterschenkel an der Wurzelhälfte, Vorderchenkel nur an der untern Fläche bis über die Wurzelhälfte hinaus und alle Kniegelenke ein wenig blassziegelroth; sonst



Figs. 1—2. Heads in profile of 1: *Thecophora distincta* Wied. (Meig.) and 2: *Thecophora longirostris* n. sp.

die Beine schwärzlich mit starken weizlichem Schiller", is best covered by species B, which often has legs of a very dark colour, while in the six specimens of species A the femora are more or less yellow.

The above mentioned details make it a likely possibility that Wiedemann's type specimen may have been of species B; consequently the author hereby selects a male of this species labeled "Austria / Alte Sammlung" and "distincta / det. Schiner" as **neotype** to *distincta* Wied. in Meig. 1824. The neotype is deposited in the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna. The species mentioned above as species A will thus be an unnamed species and here described as —

***Thecophora longirostris* n. sp.**

♂: The jowls rather narrow, i. e. about one third of the height of the eyes (fig. 2). Basal part of proboscis twice as long as length

of head from antennal base to neck (fig. 2). Frons yellow on the lower half, upper half brown. Face, cheeks and jowls wax-yellow with silky-white gloss. The upper part of occiput is brownish black and greyish dusted; the lower part is of a more yellowish brown colour. Hairs on frons and upper part of occiput black, on lower part whitish. Peristomal hairs (at mouth opening) whitish. 2nd and 3rd antennal joints of equal length. Colour of antennae almost completely dark brown, only the basal fourth of 3rd joint yellowish brown.

Thorax brownish black and heavily dusted. On praescutum two narrow, black longitudinal stripes separated by a narrow, dusted middle stripe. On the sides a second pair of broader, dark stripes. On sternopleuron 1—3 strong bristles in addition to some shorter ones.

Inner hind margin of hind coxa without hairs. Legs brownish, middle and hind femora yellowish. Wings with greyish tinge, veins yellow at wing base, brownish towards the tip. Halteres yellow.

Abdomen brownish black, but heavily powdered with golden-grey dust. Seen from the back large, brown, middle triangles are visible on the first four tergites. 5th and 6th tergites completely dusted, 7th tergite and postabdomen black and shiny. Hairs mainly yellowish, intermixed with some black ones on the middle of the tergites. Length: 7 mm.

♀: as in the male, but abdomen less dusted. Theka, seen from the side, only slightly produced; from the underside eight rows of close-set, short, black bristles are present. The latter have the appearance of combs and reach from sidemargin to sidemargin; beneath these eight rows several others are visible. Length: 6 mm.

Holotype: ♂ labelled "Austria / Alte Sammlung" and "distincta / det. Schiner". Paratypes: 2 more males and 1 female from the same series and in addition, a male labelled "Coll. Egger / Austria" and "distincta / det. Schiner", plus a female from Asia Minor, Amasia, 1860, Mann determined as "notatum / Alte Sammlung". All types in the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna.

The species *distincta* Wied. in Meig. in the authors sence can be separated from the above described species by means of

the following list, in which the most distinguishing characters for *distincta* are given:

- 1) Jowls broader, about one half of the height of the eyes.
- 2) Basal part of proboscis only 1.1—1.2 times longer than head.
- 3) Frons yellow, darkened only on uppermost part.
- 4) Peristomal hairs black.
- 5) Basal half or more of 3rd antennal joint yellowish-brown.
- 6) On sternopleuron some rather strong bristles of equal length.
- 7) Inner hind margin of hind coxa with some hairs.

The material of *distincta* Wied. in Meig. in the Naturhistorisches Museum gives the following distribution pattern: Austria, Hungary, Jugoslavia, Albania, Greece, Asia Minor, Sicily and Corsica. In addition, the 17 Danish specimens, which originate from North Zealand, belong to this species.

Literature.

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