

Notes on the synonymy of two *Elachista* species (Lep., Elachistidae)

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1. *Elachista incanella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855), a synonym of *pulchella* Haworth, 1829.

Among the species entered in the lists of Danish Microlepidoptera (Larsen 1916 p. 234, 1927 p. 145) *Elachista incanella* HS. is stated to occur in several localities in Denmark.

This species — described by Herrich-Schäffer (1855 p. 308) in the genus *Poeciloptilia* — is included as a distinct species in the catalogues and hand-books, e.g. by Staudinger & Rebel (1901 p. 202), Spuler (1910 (1906) p. 428), W. Petersen (1924 p. 528), Hering (1932 p. 55), Eckstein (1933 p. 169), and Lhomme (1935—1949 (1963) p. 849).

In his revision of the *Elachista pulchella* group Janmouille (1949 p. 119—122, pl. 9) depicts the genitalia of the type specimens of *E. pomerana* Frey, 1880, *pulchella* Haworth, 1829, *humilis* Zeller, 1850, (and *subnigrella* Douglas, 1851), and establishes the following synonymy:

pulchella:

pulchella Haworth, 1829
obscura Stainton, 1849
subobscura Doubleday,
1859 (? a nomen nudum).

humilis:

humilis Zeller, 1850
occultella Douglas, 1851
humiliella Herrich-Schäffer,
1856*)

The above revision does not include *E. incanella* HS. Judging from the Danish specimens present this species must, however,

*) According to Cat. Libr. Brit. Mus. (N. H.) vol. 6, Suppl. A—I (1922), p. 458 the description (Syst. Bearb. Schmett. Eur. vol. 5, p. 308) was published in 1855.

be involved. In fact its identity had been questioned even before the description was published. Herrich-Schäffer thus states in his description that Stainton "als sicher angibt" a connection between *incanella* and *pulchella*, a supposition from which Herrich-Schäffer dissociates himself.

To arrive at a definite conclusion I applied to the Humboldt Museum in Berlin for loan of authentic material. By the courtesy of Dr. H. J. Hannemann I have been enabled to examine the type lot of Herrich-Schäffer's *Elachista incanella*.

The syntypes consist of two specimens, both no doubt conspecific, one of them, however, without body. The other specimen bears 4 labels stating: (1) M Zül (?), (2) + 957, (3) Coll. H.-Sch., (4) Origin. (red label). Concerning label (1) and (2), both in Herrich-Schäffer's hand-writing, the first refers to the locality, the second to the number by Herrich-Schäffer. An examination of the genitalia of this specimen (fig. 1) proved it to belong to *Elachista pulchella* Hw.

As lectotype I have designated the specimen mentioned, and have attached to the pin a fourth label inscribed: "Lectotype of *Elachista incanella* Herrich-Schäffer., 1855. Genit. prep. 3365♂. Niels L. Wolff". The genital slide has been marked accordingly.

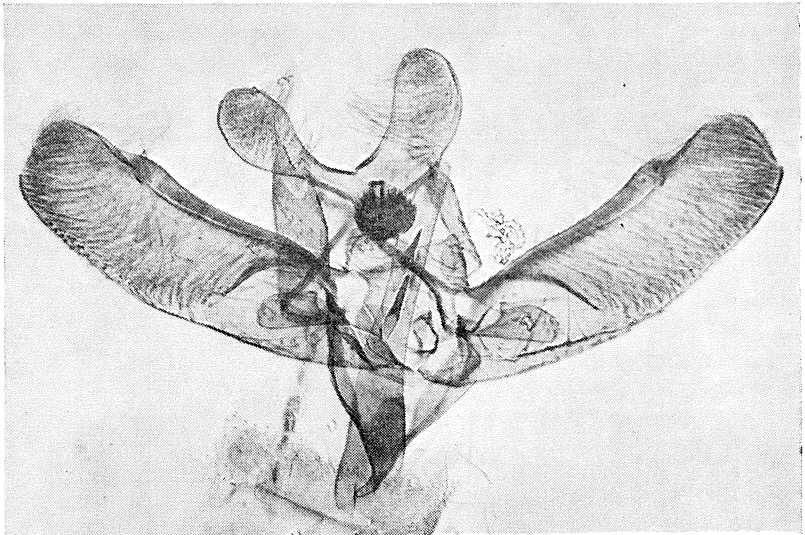


Fig. 1. Genitalia of lectotype of *Elachista incanella* (Herrich-Schäffer). Prep. NLW 3365 ♂ ($\times 110$).

The name *Elachista incanella* HS. thus disappears from the lists being substituted by *E. pulchella* Haw.; *syn. nov.*

2. *Elachista rhynchosporella* (Stainton, 1848), a synonym of *albidella* Tengström, 1848.

The well-known *Elachista* species, feeding preferably on *Eriophorum*, the characteristic genitalia of which are illustrated by Pierce & Metcalfe (1938) on pl. 28 top left, appears in British papers, e. g. by Meyrick (1928 p. 719—720) Pierce & Metcalfe (1938 p. 48), Ford (1949 p. 131), and Heslop (1964 p. 73) under the name of *rhynchosporella* Stt. But in Continental literature, thus by e.g. Staudinger & Rebel II (1901 p. 204), Spuler (1910 (1906) p. 430), Larsen (1916 p. 235, 1927 p. 147), W. Petersen (1924 p. 528), Hering (1932 p. 57), Eckstein (1933 p. 170), and Benander (1946 p. 58) the specific name *albidella* Tgstr. is applied. As an exception Lhomme (1935—1949 (1963) p. 858) enters the species under the name *rhynchosporella* Stainton with “*albidella* Tengström (1847)” as a synonym.

E. rhynchosporella is described in the genus *Apheloseitia* by Stainton (1848 p. 2164—2165) while *albidella* is described in the genus *Elachista* by Tengström (1848 (1847) p. 150); the title page states 1847 but the paper was first published in 1848.

No doubt exists that the names *rhynchosporella* and *albidella*, respectively, refer to the same species but the fact that both descriptions appeared in 1848 has been responsible for the unsettled decision of the nomenclatorial correct name. More precisely to define the dates of publication was necessary.

On my behalf the secretary of Soc. Fauna & Flora Fennica — in the annals of which *albidella* was described — Dr. Göran Bergman, Helsingfors, has by request of Dr. Walter Hackman been kind enough to go through the old minutes of the society and has succeeded in finding a note according to which it can be stated that the paper in question was published before 31st May 1848 at which date a meeting was held in the society, and the reprints of the papers included in the volume concerned were distributed.

As I have been informed by Mr. J. D. Bradley that Stainton's name dates from July 1848 the name *albidella* Tengström, 1848 thus predates *rhynchosporella* Stainton, 1848 and has to be accepted for the species in question; *syn. nov.*

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Summary

1. The type material of *Poeciloptilia* (now *Elachista*) *incanella* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855 p. 308 counts two specimens, one without body. The other specimen is designated as lectotype. Dissection of its genitalia (♂), proved it to belong to *E. pulchella* Haworth, 1829, (syn. nov.).

2. Two specific names, *rhynchosporella* Stainton, 1848, and *albidella* Tengström, 1848, respectively, applied to the same *Elachista* species, are in common use. The name *albidella* was published not later than 31st May 1848 while the name *rhynchosporella* Stainton dates from July 1848 and thus falls as a junior synonym of *albidella* Tengström, 1848, (syn. nov.).

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