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# A REVISION OF CONICERA JAPONICA MATSUMURA

(DIPTERA: PHORIDAE)

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Among the known few of the Phoridae of Japan we have had *Conicera japonica* Matsumura since 1915. After my examinations of the type series and many other specimens newly in hand I have concluded that this species should be transferred to *Stichillus* Enderlein and that *Stichillus matsumurai* Schmitz should be sunken as its synonym.

I express my cordial thanks to Prof. C. Watanabe, Hokkaido University, for his continuous guidance and kind suggestions.



Fig. 1. *Stichillus japonicus*.  
Male: hypopygium.  
( $\times 34$ )

***Stichillus japonicus*** (Matsumura), comb. nov.

*Conicera japonica* Matsumura, Kontyû-Bunruigaku 2 : 17, 1915.

*Conicera japonica*: id., Thous. Ins. Jap. Addit. 2 : 377, 1916.

*Conicera japonica*: id., 6000 Illust. Ins. Jap.-Emp. : 361, 1931.

*Stichillus matsumurai* Schmitz, Flieg. Palaearkt. Reg. 33 : 276,  
1952, **syn. nov.**

*Conicera japonica*: id., l. c. : 292, 1952.

*Stichillus matsumurai*: Kaneko, Kano et Okazaki, Jap. J. Sanit.  
Zool. 12 : 244, 1961.

A black species with palpi yellow, fore femora distally and fore tibiae and tarsi wholly fulvous, and wings fuscous-tinged. Antennae fuscous in male, fulvous in female; arista subapical. Stemmaticum with anterior margin in three bows of a size. Frons below stemmaticum more or less broader than long. Abdomen flattened dorsally; second to fourth tergites and, especially in female, frequently also the fifth fluted along posterior margin. Copulatory segment of male crooked dorsally, with a small, sharp, dorsal process near base. Length, 2.5–4 mm. in male, 3.5–4.8 mm. in female.

Although Matsumura (1916) wrote in describing this species “Hab.—Hokkaido and Honshu (common)”, in the collection of the Entomological Institute, Hokkaido University, I have found that there are only one male and four females collected at Sapporo, Hokkaido:—one female with the label “*Conicera japonica* n.”, another one “*Phora japonica* Mats.”, in either case the label being handwritten presumably by the original author, and the remaining without determination label. Accordingly, the one with the label “*Conicera japonica* n.” should be designated as the lectotype.

As localities of this species Schmitz gives Sapporo, and Kaneko, Kano et Okazaki also Sapporo and Nikkô, central Honsyu. I have collected fifty-six males and fifty-five females from the following localities:—

Hokkaido: Rebun Is. (1.–2. VIII, 1958); Risiri Is. (3.–4. VIII, 1958); Antaroma (23. VIII, 1958, T. Nakashima); Nukabira (10.–11. IX, 1960); Sapporo (21. VIII, 1958; 19. VII, 1959; 7. VIII, 1959; 9. VIII, 1959); Zyôzan-Kei, Sapporo (3. IX, 1958); Atusabe, near Esasi (14. IX, 1958).

Honsyu: Bizyo-Daira, Tate-Yama, Toyama-ken (29. VIII, 1959).

It should be noted that on the 21st of August, 1958, I came across a swarm of this fly on the ridge of the hill Moiwa-yama, Sapporo, in a thick of the bamboo-grass *Sasa palmata*. Males and females occurred there beyond count, running and jumping in a hurry on the leaves of *Sasa*, and not a few were in union.

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**NOTES ON PHORA APICALIS MATSUMURA.** We have two species of the Phoridae described by the late Prof. S. Matsumura, namely, *Conicera japonica* (= *Stichillus japonicus*) and *Phora apicalis*. The latter was but once, very briefly described in 1915 (Kontyû-Bunruigaku 2: 17) as follows:—

“*Phora apicalis* Mats.— Body yellow; head, apex of abdomen and distal part of hind femora dark brown; wings hyaline, veins yellow; body length, ca. 1.5 mm. Occurring at Tokyo, not common.”  
—Translated from the original description written in Japanese.

In the collection of the Entomological Institute, Hokkaido University, is deposited a single female of this species with the labels “Japan Matsumura/Tokyo 11. 12” and “*Phora apicalis* n. sp./det. Matsumura.” This species does not belong to *Phora* Latreille, but probably to *Megaselia* Rondani of the subfamily Metopininae. As the type is, however, in very bad condition further material are necessary in order to give a detailed revision of this fly.

SADAO TAKAGI

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#### CORRECTION

In the description of the dolichopodid *Argyra arrogans* Takagi is present a serious error, which should be corrected as follows:—

Insecta Matsumurana 23 (1960): 124, line 13 from top, for “1.7 times” read “2.5 times.”