

DELPHACODES FIEBER, 1866, VERSUS CALLIGYPONA J. SAHLBERG, 1871
(HOMOPTERA, DELPHACIDAE)

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In 1917 (*Proc. Hawaii. ent. Soc.*, **3**(4):332) the late Dr. F. Muir showed that the genus *Liburnia* Stål, 1866, was a synonym of the African genus *Embolophora* Stål, 1853, and suggested that *Delphacodes* Fieber, 1866, should be used for this generic concept. In 1924 (*Bull. Ex. Sta. Hawaii. Sugar Pl. Ass.*, Ent. Ser. **15**:18), Muir fixed the type of *Delphacodes* as *D. mulsanti* Fieber. In 1939 (*Pan-Pacif. Ent.*, **15**(2)4:66) Van Duzee denied Muir's viewpoint and favoured the retention of the name *Liburnia* Stål with type *L. pellucida* F.

In 1939 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, **11**(4):582), China showed that Van Duzee's viewpoint could not be accepted and decided in favour of Muir.

In 1935 (*Die Tierwelt Mitteleuropas*, Band **4**, lief. 3, Ins., 1 Teil, p. X, 134), Haupt erroneously placed *Delphax mulsanti* Fieber, the type species of *Delphacodes* Fieber, in the genus *Megamelus* Fieber, 1866.

In 1942 (*Opusc. Ent.* **7**:113), Ossiannilsson because of Haupt's generic assignment of *Delphax mulsanti* Fieber relegated *Delphacodes* Fieber, 1866, as a synonym of *Megamelus* Fieber, 1866 (page priority), and brought forward the name *Calligypona* J. Sahlberg, 1871 (type *reysi* Fieber) for the generic concept *Liburnia* auctt. nec. Stål. (= *Delphacodes* Fieber et Muir). This change was accepted, rather hastily, in my Check List of British Homoptera Auchenorrhyncha (*Ent. mon. Mag.*, **86**:250, 1950) on the basis of Haupt's identification of *Delphax mulsanti* Fieber. My friend Mr. R. G. Fennah has always taken the view that the replacement of *Delphacodes* by *Calligypona* should not be accepted until the type of *Delphax mulsanti* Fieber had been examined. Thanks to the courtesy of Dr. J. Carayon I have now been able to examine Fieber's type which came to the Paris Museum by way of Lucien Lethierry and Maurice Noualhier. This specimen, which unfortunately is a female, is not a *Megamelus*, the lateral keels of the pronotum do not reach the posterior margin, but curve away behind the eyes as in typical *Liburnia* auctt. The vertex is also very little longer than broad at base and is not produced in front of the eyes as in typical *Megamelus* (type *M. notulus* Germar).

Since *Delphax mulsanti* Fieber, 1866, the type of *Delphacodes* Fieber, 1866, is congeneric with *Liburnia* auctt. (= *Calligypona* J. Sahlberg, 1871) and not with *Megamelus* Fieber, 1866, *Delphacodes* Fieber remains the valid name of this important generic concept with *Calligypona* J. Sahlberg as a synonym. It would have been remarkable if Fieber had placed his own species, *D. mulsanti*, in the wrong one of his two new genera: *Megamelus* and *Delphacodes*.

British Museum (*Nat. Hist.*), London, S.W.7.

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