

## On the status, synonymy and distribution of *Stephanitis oschanini* Vasiliev with corrected data on the distribution of *S. pyri* (Heteroptera: Tingidae)

V.B. Golub

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*Stephanitis oschanini* Vasiliev, 1935, sp. dist. (= *S. hoberlandti* B. Lis, 2002, syn. n.) is distributed in Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Transcaucasus and Middle Asia. *S. pyri* F. does not occur in Middle Asia and most of Transcaucasus.

V.B. Golub, Voronezh State University, Universitetskaya pl.1, Voronezh 394693, Russia;  
e-mail: v.golub@nm.ru

### *Stephanitis oschanini* Vasiliev, 1935, sp. dist.

*Stephanitis nuda* Oshanin, 1891: 37 (*nomen nudum*).  
*Stephanitis oschanini* Vasiliev, 1935: 151; 1937: 132 ("oschanini").  
*Stephanitis hoberlandti* B. Lis, 2002: 167, **syn. n.**

Oshanin (1891) listed a new species *Stephanitis nuda* from Middle Asia ("Turkestan"), but did not describe it. Vasiliev (1935) described *S. oschanini* as a new species from "Middle Asia". Later on he (Vasiliev, 1937) redescribed the species under slightly changed name and recorded it from Ashkhabad, Tashkent, Fergana and Andizhan. He listed the following main distinctions from *S. pyri* (Fabr.): paler colour; less marked hemelytral pattern; hemelytra relatively shorter (length to combined width ratio 1 : 2.24 vs. 1 : 2.35 in *S. pyri*); abdomen and legs paler; basal part of paramere narrower with apical part bent at obtuse angle (at almost right angle in *S. pyri*). Kiritshenko (1955) placed *S. oschanini* in synonymy with *S. pyri* and was followed by other authors.

Lis (2002) described the new species *S. hoberlandti* from Jordan and Iraq indicating many good distinctions from *S. pyri*, also in the structure of aedeagus. An examination of the extensive collections of Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg (ZIN) shows that all specimens from Middle Asia and partially from Transcaucasus correspond to the descriptions of *S. oschanini* and *S. hoberlandti*; hence, the former is a good species and the latter is its junior synonym.

*S. oschanini* is represented in ZIN by 350 specimens from Georgia (Tbilisi), Armenia (Erevan), Azerbaijan (Kazakh; env. of Gyandzha; near Geokchay), N Iran (Tadzhirish; Tebriz),

Turkmenistan (Kara-Kala), Uzbekistan (Bukhara; Kitab; Tashkent; Namangan; Andizhan), Tajikistan (env. of Kulyab; Kondara N of Dushanbe; Vakhsh R.; Parkhar on Pyandzh R.), and Kyrgyzstan (near Mayli-Say in Jalalabad Prov.).

*S. pyri* does not occur in Middle Asia and most of Transcaucasus being replaced here by *S. oschanini*. According to the ZIN collection (more than 1000 specimens) the eastern part of the *S. pyri* distribution range encompasses Russia northwards to Ryazan' Prov. (Shilovo), Ulyanovsk, and Orenburg Prov. (Buzuluk), W Kazakhstan (Ural'sk), Georgia eastwards to env. of Gori and Azerbaijan along the coast of the Caspian Sea (Khachmas; Lenkoran').

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