

# ZOOLOGISCHE MEDEDELINGEN

UITGEGEVEN DOOR HET

RIJKSMUSEUM VAN NATUURLIJKE HISTORIE TE LEIDEN

(MINISTERIE VAN CULTUUR, RECREATIE EN MAATSCHAPPELIJK WERK)

Deel 55 no. 23

15 augustus 1980

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## REMARKS ON *CALLIPHORA NIGRIBARBIS* SNELLEN VAN VOLLENHOVEN

by

**P. J. VAN HELSDINGEN**

Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden

During recent curatorial activities in our Calliphorid collection I came across the type-series of *Calliphora nigribarbis* Snellen van Vollenhoven, 1863. The series consists of four specimens, which had been labelled as syntypes by me at an earlier occasion. They belong unmistakably to one lot, although only two bear identical, original, printed labels reading "V. Siebold/Japan". All four have a second handwritten label with the scientific name, "*Calliphora nigribarbis* v. Voll.", and a last printed line "Coll. F. M. v. d. Wulp". These latter labels were also put on by me, in 1965, when rearranging the Diptera collection of our museum and are nothing more than an indication that the specimens concerned came from one of the old cabinets originating from, at least, the times of F. M. van der Wulp. These cabinets contained wooden drawers with loose glass covers with the label and specimen pins forced straight into the bare wooden bottom, no soft bottom-plates being present. Specimens in this old collection were placed below black-rimmed labels bearing the specific name, while names of higher categories (genera and families) were written on separate, hand-written, red-rimmed labels. Thus the actual specimen pins were unlabelled — a very archaic and unsatisfactory situation —, while some of the specimens had no label at all, because in the case of longer series only the first and last specimens had a locality-label. When transferring the specimens to modern drawers I provided every specimen with a new identification label, so as to preserve their then identification.

The four syntypes of *Calliphora nigribarbis* apparently comprise the complete material of this species. Snellen van Vollenhoven (1863: 17-18) mentions only four specimens from Japan, collected by Von Siebold. The four specimens present are indeed female, as indicated by Snellen van Vollen-

hoven. The specimens are in mediocre condition and show all signs of their history of more than 150 years in a museum where, in the earlier periods, adequate heating of the store rooms was impossible. Mould and damage by feared museum pests, such as Psocoptera and *Anthrenus*, have left their marks on the animals and all four specimens are also covered with dirt. Despite all that, they are for the most part complete and identifiable. I have, of course, taken into consideration these factors when selecting a lectotype (see below).

The specimens must have arrived at the Leiden Museum in 1829 with the third shipment sent by Von Siebold. Earlier shipments make no mention of insects, but the third one was said to comprise 2,400 insects, most of them dry, a smaller part in spirit. P. F. von Siebold stayed in the artificial island of Deshima, off Nagasaki, where the Dutch were allowed to maintain a trading post at that time. His freedom of movement was extremely limited and we may safely assume that the specimens of *Calliphora nigribarbis* were collected at Nagasaki or its surroundings.<sup>1)</sup> The specimens were mounted at Leiden and (partly) labelled, and, in the present case, remained undealt with until Snellen van Vollenhoven described them, with several other new species, in his 1863 paper.

It appears that *Calliphora nigribarbis* has remained unnoticed by some. I could, for instance, not find Snellen van Vollenhoven's 1863 paper in the Zoological Records of that and following years. Horn & Schenkling (1929) give full reference to the paper. *C. nigribarbis* is mentioned in the few available catalogues on Diptera (e.g., Bezzi & Stein, 1907), but it was overlooked by Zumpt (1956) in his monographic treatise of the Palearctic Calliphoridae, and by Kano & Shinonaga (1968) in the volume on the Japanese Calliphoridae in the Fauna Japonica (the modern version, of course, is referred to here, not the original Fauna Japonica by Von Siebold). Using the keys in the two later works mentioned it is quite clear that *C. nigribarbis* is identical with *Calliphora lata* Coquillett, described from Japan in 1898. The yellow-orange prothoracic spiracle, the blackish genae, the black and intermingled straw-coloured hairs on the lower part of the back of the head, the length-width ratio of the third antennal segment, and all other diagnostic characters of *lata* fit in with those of *nigribarbis*. I have also compared our syntypic material of *C. nigribarbis* with specimens of *C. lata* from Shikoku (Ehime and Tokushima Prefs.) and Tsushima Isl., Japan, and found them identical. This fresh material was sent to me by Dr. Shinonaga from Tokyo and his cooperation is gratefully acknowledged here. Thus *C. lata* has to be

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<sup>1)</sup> For a complete history of this important episode in the zoological inventory of Japan, see the interesting and elaborate account by Holthuis & Sakai (1970).

considered a junior synonym of *C. nigribarbis*. The major references read as follows.

**Calliphora nigribarbis** Snellen van Vollenhoven

*Calliphora nigribarbis* Snellen van Vollenhoven, 1863: 17 (♀, Japan).

*Calliphora lata* Coquillett, 1898: 334 (♂, Japan). **Syn. nov.**

More detailed references to *C. lata* can be found in Zumpt (1956) and Kano & Shinonaga (1968).

Types. — Lectotype, ♀, of *Calliphora nigribarbis* in Leiden Museum; three ♀ paratypes, same series. Holotype, ♂, of *Calliphora lata* in United States National Museum, Washington; 8 paratypes; not examined.

As lectotype was selected one of the two specimens with a "V. Siebold/Japan" label (see above) and of these two the cleanest specimen. The original syntype labels now have been replaced by new labels in agreement with the procedures outlined above.

The precise locality of *C. nigribarbis*, as mentioned above was not indicated in the original description, but most likely is near Nagasaki, Kyushu, Japan. The type-locality of *C. lata* is also merely referred to as Japan. *C. lata* has also been recorded from other islands of the Japanese archipelago (the Ryukyu Islands included), Formosa (Taiwan), China, Sachalin and Siberia.

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