

IDENTITY OF TWO *NEPTICULA* SPECIES
NAMED BY WALSINGHAM
(LEPIDOPTERA: NEPTICULIDAE, TISCHERIIDAE)

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Two manuscript names, attributed to Constant, were made available by Walsingham: *Nepticula ilicella* Walsingham, 1891 is hereby synonymized with *Stigmella suberivora* (Stainton, 1869); a lectotype is selected. *N. suberoidella* Walsingham, 1891 has previously been synonymized with *Coptotriche angusticoella* (Duponchel, 1843); a lectotype is selected here. A misidentified paralectotype of *N. ilicella* was identified as *Stigmella ilicifoliella* (Mendes, 1918).

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In the recent revision of the *Quercus* feeding *Stigmella* (see Van Nieukerken & Johansson 2003), we briefly discussed the identity of the unavailable manuscript name *Nepticula suberoidella* by Constant, while trying to establish the correct name for the species we treated as *Stigmella ilicifoliella* (Mendes, 1918). This name, and also another, *Nepticula ilicella*, have been mentioned a few times in 20th century literature as manuscript names attributed to A. Constant (Le Marchand 1946, Skala 1938), and the identity of the latter (*ilicella*) was even established as a ‘synonym’ of *Ectoedemia haraldi* (Soffner, 1942) (Klimesch 1975). Unfortunately we had overlooked that Walsingham (1891) in the 19th century was the one who introduced these names, on the authority of Constant, who showed him larvae of species he planned to describe as *Nepticula ilicella* and *N. suberoidella* respectively.

Although Walsingham clearly gave these names as Cst., MS [= Constant, manuscript], and probably did not have the intention to name these species, by making short descriptive notes on larvae and mines, which are not attributable to Constant, he actually made the names nomenclatorially available under his own authorship (ICZN 1999: art. 50.1), despite his annotation ‘These two species will be described by Mons. Constant, who showed me the larvae’. Apparently Constant never came to fulfil this announcement before his death in 1901 (Lafaury 1901).

Although these names were published before 1900,

have never been used as valid names after 1900 and thus could qualify as *nomina oblita* (ICZN 1999: art. 23.9), I preferred to study existing type material, and establish the identity thus. Both species appear to be junior synonyms of existing species, and thus there is no need to protect any name against these forgotten names.

Because the original descriptions give little evidence for the identity of the species, I also select lectotypes here in order to establish these identities and to avoid any future confusion (ICZN 1999: art. 74.7.3).

Stigmella suberivora (Stainton, 1869)

Nepticula ilicella Walsingham, 1891: 152. Lectotype ♂ (designated here): FRANCE: ‘CANNES. / Valescure RED larva / Quercus ilex, 7.III / ex. 3.V.1890 / Wlsm. 80146. | Walsingham / Collection / 1910-427 | Nepticula / ilicella / Cnst. MS ♂ / Named by Wlsm’ (BMNH) [examined]
Syn. n.

Nepticula ilicella Constant; Skala 1938: 43; Le Marchand 1946: 284 [*nomen nudum*].

Nepticula ilicella Constant; Klimesch 1975: 864-866 – synonymization with *Ectoedemia haraldi* (Soffner, 1942).

In BMNH London three specimens in the Walsingham collection are labelled as *Nepticula ilicella* Cst. MS., one being a male *Stigmella ilicifoliella*, one a male of *S. suberivora* and one a female of one of these two species. I have selected the *suberivora* male as lectotype, to firmly establish the identity of *N. ilicella*, and to

avoid the change of the name for the recently resurrected *S. ilicifoliella* (see Van Nieuwerkerken & Johansson 2003).

According to Klimesch (1975), the material in the collection in Paris, labelled as *N. ilicella* Constant, clearly belongs to *Ectoedemia baraldi*. Apparently either Constant confused the larvae, or Walsingham had misunderstood Constant and took the wrong larvae under this name. In any case he had a mixed series, and that is another reason it is preferable to have this name as a junior synonym.

Stigmella ilicifoliella (Mendes, 1918)

[*Nepticula ilicella* Walsingham, 1891 partim – misidentified paralectotype ♂: – ‘CANNES. / Valescure RED larva / Quercus ilex, 7.III / ex. VI.1890 / Wlsm. 80482. | Walsingham / Collection / 1910-427 | *Nepticula / ilicella* / Cnst. MS ♂ / Named by Wlsm’ (BMNH)] [examined].

Stigmella ilicifoliella; Gomez Bustillo 1981: 18 (listed, new combination); Van Nieuwerkerken & Johansson 2003: 326 (redescription)

The second male of the studied *ilicella* syntypes clearly belongs to this species, which indicates that *S. ilicifoliella* and *S. suberivora* cannot be distinguished easily in the larval stage, or at least that Walsingham did not see a difference.

Van Nieuwerkerken & Johansson (2003) gave *Stigmella ilicifoliella* as a new combination, overlooking that Gomez Bustillo (1981) had already made this combination in his Iberian checklist.

Coptotriche angusticolella (Duponchel, 1843)

Elachista angusticolella Duponchel, [1843]: 309, pl. 76: fig. 3.

Coptotriche angusticolella; Diškus & Puplesis 2003: 430 (listed, new combination)

Nepticula suberoidella Walsingham, 1891: 152. Lectotype ♂ (designated here): FRANCE: ‘CANNES. / larva / Quercus ilex, 7.III / ex. 15.IV.1890 / Wlsm. 80336. | Walsingham / Collection / 1910-427 | *Nepticula / suberoidella* / Cnst. MS ♂ / Named by Wlsm’ (BMNH) [examined by K. Tuck] (synonymized by Diškus & Puplesis 2003).

This synonymy is somewhat unexpected: we would think that Walsingham was very well able to separate nepticulid and tischeriid mines. However, the label data of the lectotype and those in the paper are identical. Walsingham wrote in his notebook under number 80336: ‘aurifrontella, Rgt. (Tischeria) = suberoidella, Cst. MS (Nepticula)’; and: ‘large but inconspicuous mine’. Maybe a leaflet of *Rosa sempervirens* (a common rose in the maquis habitat near Cannes) was mistaken for a leaf of *Quercus ilex*, or breeding material was inadvertently mixed. The specimen had been studied (and labelled as lectotype) several years ago by R. Pu-

plis and A. Diškus, who established the synonymy (Diškus & Puplesis 2003), but did not publish the lectotype selection. There probably never has been more than one specimen, but since the number is unspecified in the original publication, the specimen cannot qualify as holotype.

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