

STUDIES IN PACIFIC BOMBYLIIDAE (DIPTERA)
VII. On the Status of *Thyridanthrax auctellus*

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Abstract. The date and authorship of *Thyridanthrax auctellus* is clarified and a translation of the original description from the Japanese is given.

The name *Thyridanthrax auctellus* has been mentioned in the scientific literature by 3 authors, Shiraki (1932), Hennig (1941) and Rolfein & Ewald (1979), though the name is conspicuously missing from Hull's (1973) checklist of world species of Bombyliidae and in catalogs of Oriental and Palearctic Diptera. Rolfein & Ewald (1979), in their work on the entomological types in the Institutes für Pflanzenschutzforschung, Bereich Eberswalde (IPBE) (formerly the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut), listed the name as "*Thyridanthrax auctellus* Bezzi, in litt." with the accompanying note "Erstbeschreibung nicht feststellbar." In addition to the 23 specimens deposited by Bezzi in IPBE, there is 1 female of this species deposited in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (USNM type number 42831), which has been examined by me and appears to be part of Bezzi's series. Hennig (1941), after examining the specimens of *T. auctellus* in IPBE, listed the name *T. auctellus* in his discussion of Taiwanese Diptera. Shiraki (1932) listed it in *Iconografia Insectorum Japonicorum* and gave a short description with an accompanying illustration of the male. Both Shiraki and Hennig credited Bezzi with authorship of *T. auctellus*.

Apparently, Bezzi deposited specimens in IPBE and USNM (and possibly other institutions) with the intention of publishing a description in the future. Bezzi published only 3 articles (1907, 1912, 1914) dealing specifically with Taiwanese Diptera collected by H. Sauter (of which the type-locality and collector correspond to the specimens deposited in IPBE and USNM). None of these articles, however, contain any descriptions of new species of Bombyliidae. A thorough search by me of all the articles written by Bezzi has failed to turn up a description of this species. Since Shiraki (1932) is the first (and apparently only) author to describe this species, the authorship for *Thyridanthrax auctellus* should be attributed to him.

A translation of the original description from the Japanese follows (items in brackets are added by me for clarification).

"Thyridanthrax auctellus Bezzi

"Lateral striped bee fly (new name) [new Japanese common name].

"Small, black, with transverse stripes. Head round, large. Distance between eyes in ♂ ¼ width of head. Distance [between eyes] wider in ♀. Dense short black hair on body. Scutellum

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orange. Face conical, with short black hair near antenna. [Antennal] segment I round. Segment II $\frac{1}{2}$ length of segment I. Segment III slightly longer, pointed apically. Dorsum of body [thorax] yellow pilose. Anterior and lateral portions greenish. Anterior portion [of thorax] with dense long yellow hair. Wing hyaline. Body [abdomen] tapering apically. Legs black with dense hair and spines. Venter of stomach [abdomen] greenish basally becoming yellowish apically. Body length 6–9 mm. From South Taiwan.”

—Shiraki

The illustration of the male accompanying Shiraki's description is characteristic of those species in the genus *Exhyalanthrax* Becker. Based on the original description and corresponding illustration and comparisons with specimens from Taiwan in the Bishop Museum determined to be conspecific with *T. auctellus* Shiraki, it is concluded that *T. auctellus* should be transferred to *Exhyalanthrax*.

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