

Taxonomic status of *Villigera* Karsch, 1877 (Hem. Coccoidea, Margarodidae)

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Yair BEN-DOV & Douglas J. WILLIAMS. – Taxonomic status of *Villigera* Karsch, 1877 (Hem. Coccoidea, Margarodidae)

WALKER (1858) described the genus *Drosicha* for the single species *D. contrahens* Walker, which he described from North China. Walker's brief description of the species was based on a single dried and pinned specimen of an adult female. This specimen was later split and divided into dorsum and venter and mounted on a slide, labelled 'Type' that is held at the Natural History Museum, London. GREEN (1923) examined this prepared specimen and described it in detail. MORRISON (1928) accepted the genus *Drosicha* to include about 20 species, many of which had been described from adult males only or from first instars. Adult males of *Drosicha* are winged and are spectacular in possessing 2-6 pairs of long fleshy tassels on the abdomen (MORRISON, 1928).

FRAUENFELD (1859) reported to a meeting of the *Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften* on various faunistic findings taken in the summer of 1858 during a stop at Hong Kong of the German frigate Sr. Majestät Novara. Among the records he described and illustrated "eine *Cecidomyia* sp.", which he collected there. KARSCH (1877), in his revision of gall midges, referred to the description and illustration of the *Cecidomyia* sp. of FRAUENFELD (1859) and named it *Villigera frauenfeldi*. At the same time he established the genus *Villigera* in the family Cecidomyiidae, Diptera. FERNALD (1903) apparently was unaware of this species during the preparation of her catalogue. KUWANA (1927) included *V. frauenfeldi* (as *V. frauengeldi*) among the species of Monophlebinæ recorded from China and thus he was the first to recognize it as a coccoid taxon and not a species of *Cecidomyia*. In his revision of the family Margarodidae, MORRISON (1928) did not list *V. frauenfeldi* but later MORRISON & MORRISON (1966) studied Frauenfeld and Karsch's publications and stated "that the insect represented is quite certainly the male of a species of *Drosicha* Walker". GAGNÉ (1973) referred *Villigera frauenfeldi* to the coccoid genus *Drosicha* and listed it as a name removed from the Cecidomyiidae. FOLDI (2001) listed the species as *D. frauenfeldi*.

The genus *Drosicha* Walker (Hemiptera, Coccoidea, Margarodidae) now comprises 24 species distributed mainly in the Oriental and east Palaearctic regions, except for *D. littorea* Beardsley described from the Caroline Islands in the Pacific region (Ben-Dov, Y. unpublished data to be entered into ScaleNet).

After re-examining the pertinent literature we can confirm that *Villigera* Karsch, 1877, is a junior synonym of *Drosicha* Walker, 1858.

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