

AGROMYZA FALLÉN, 1810 (INSECTA, DIPTERA): PROPOSED
VALIDATION OF AGROMYZA REPTANS FALLÉN, 1823 AS TYPE
SPECIES. Z.N.(S.)2395

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The genus *Agromyza* was originally described by Fallén (1810, p. 21) but without named species. Fallén (1823, pp. 1–7) re-described *Agromyza*, now with 13 species and one variety. The first species, *A. reptans*, was divided into Var. b., Var. c. (host plant recorded as *Urtica dioica*) and Var. d. *ambigua*. The second species was *A. aeneo-ventris* (sic). Of the other species, most are not in the genus *Agromyza* as currently accepted by all specialists and are not relevant to the present submission.

2. The first type designation for *Agromyza* was *nigripes* Meigen, 1830 (by Westwood, 1840, p. 151). This designation, however, is invalid, as *nigripes* was not originally included by Fallén, 1823.

3. Rondani (1856, p. 121) designated the second of Fallén's species as 'Spec: Typ: *Agromyza Aeneiventris* Fall.' Examination of the unique type of *A. aeneoventris* in the Naturhistoriske Riksmuseet, Stockholm by Spencer, 1965, confirmed that this is in another large, economically important genus *Melanagromyza*, described by Hendel (1920, p. 114) and selected by him (as *aeneiventris*) as type species. Hendel's work has been accepted by all later specialists and his type designation has not been disputed.

4. It would clearly be highly undesirable at this stage to revert to Rondani's (1856) designation of *aeneiventris* as type species of *Agromyza*. This would necessitate transferring the hundreds of species now known in *Melanagromyza* to *Agromyza* and a new generic name would be needed to replace *Agromyza*, itself a large, economically important genus of worldwide distribution.

5. By usage since Hendel's (1920) designation of *Agromyza aeneoventris* as type of *Melanagromyza*, Rondani's (1856) designation of this species as type of *Agromyza* has been effectively discarded. However it is important that these conflicting designations should be formally clarified by the setting aside of *aeneoventris* as type of *Agromyza*.

6. Rondani (1875, p. 168), without commenting on his earlier designation, now designated as type of *Agromyza* 'Sp. typ. *A. reptans* Fall.'. This designation was accepted by Hendel (1920, p. 114; 1931, p. 93) in his two major revisionary works on Palaearctic Agromyzidae and is now accepted by all specialists on the family. *A. reptans* was also treated as type species of *Agromyza* in the three Diptera Catalogues of the Nearctic Region (Frick, 1965), the Oriental Region (Sasakawa, 1977) and the Afrotropical Region (Cogan, 1980) but with the qualification that suspension of the rules of the Code is required to set aside the designation of *Agromyza*

aeneoventris. A lectotype of *Agromyza reptans* was designated by Nowakowski (1944, p. 188) together with illustrations of the male genitalia.

7. Accordingly, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species made for the nominal genus *Agromyza* Fallén, 1810 prior to that of *Agromyza reptans* Fallén, 1823 by Rondani, 1875.
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Agromyza* Fallén, 1810 (gender: feminine), type species, by action under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Agromyza reptans* Fallén, 1823.
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *reptans* Fallén, 1823 as published in the binomen *Agromyza reptans* (specific name of the type species of *Agromyza* Fallén, 1810).

[Note: Coquillett (1910, p. 504) proposed *A. ambigua* Fallén, 1823 (described as Var. d. of *reptans*; see para 1) as type of *Agromyza*, making the erroneous assumption that *ambigua* was synonymous with *nigripes*, thus following Westwood, 1840 (see para. 2). The true identity of *ambigua* was established by Spencer (1965, p. 10) and this was found to represent the senior synonym of the species previously known as *niveipennis* Zetterstedt (1848). Frick (1952) in an important Revision of New World Agromyzidae, also followed Westwood, 1840 and accepted *nigripes* Meigen as type of *Agromyza*. However, as pointed out in para. 2, *nigripes* is an invalid designation as a non-included species. It is therefore considered that both Coquillett's and Frick's designations can be ignored.]

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