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**Notes and additions about the genus *Orthocladius* s. str.  
(Diptera Chironomidae)**

**Abstract** - *Orthocladius mariellae* Rossaro & Prato is here stated as junior synonym of *O. rivinus* Kieff. *O. rachelae* Rossaro & Prato is stated as junior synonym of *O. wetterensis* Brundin. According to Langton & Cranston (1991), *O. pinderi* Rossaro & Prato should become a junior synonym of *O. oblidens* Walker. The species are here considered as distinct valid species, because the anal point of adult male is markedly different in the two species. *O. ruffoi* Rossaro & Prato is a valid species, identical with *Rheorthocladius* sp. A. Thienemann, already known in the pupal stage.

**Riassunto** - *Considerazioni aggiuntive sul gen. Orthocladius s. str.*

Alcune specie appartenenti al genere *Orthocladius* s. str. sono qui messe in sinonimia con altre descritte in passato. *Orthocladius mariellae* Rossaro & Prato diviene sinonimo di *O. rivinus* Kieff. *O. rachelae* Rossaro & Prato diviene sinonimo di *O. wetterensis* Brundin. Secondo Langton & Cranston (1991), *O. pinderi* Rossaro & Prato dovrebbe divenire sinonimo di *O. oblidens* Walker. Le specie vengono invece qui mantenute distinte, differendo in modo netto per la forma della punta anale del maschio. *O. ruffoi* Rossaro & Prato resta specie valida; si conferma essere identica a *Rheorthocladius* sp. A. Thienemann, già nota come esuvia pupale.

**Key words:** *Orthocladius* spp., Chironomidae, Diptera Nematocera.

INTRODUCTION

Six new species belonging to the genus *Orthocladius* (subgenus *Orthocladius* s. str.) were recently described by Rossaro & Prato (1991). In the meantime the nomenclature of the genus was revised with particular reference to the pupae (Langton & Cranston, 1991).

Some corrections and additions are now needed and are here given.

## RESULTS

*Orthocladius mariellae* Rossaro & Prato, 1991 must be established as a junior synonym of *Orthocladius rivinus* Kieffer, 1915. The reason is that pupal exuvia of *O. mariellae* is identical with Pe3 Langton (Langton 1984) and Pe3 Langton is identical with the pupal exuvia of *O. rivinus* (Langton & Cranston 1991). The adult male of *Orthocladius rivinus* described by Kieffer is believed to be lost, but pupal exuviae unequivocally associated by rearing are present in ZSM (Zoologische Staatssammlung München). According to opinion 147 (International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature 1980) *Orthocladius rivinus* is a valid name. So the adult male described and figured in Rossaro & Prato (1991) is *Orthocladius rivinus* Kieffer.

*Orthocladius rachelae* Rossaro & Prato, 1991 is stated as a junior synonym of *Orthocladius wetterensis* Brundis (1956). The differences reported in Rossaro & Prato (1991) are not valid. The shape of inferior volsella may differ somewhat because it belongs to an immature pharate adult male and the absence of long setae on dorsal side of gonostylus is probably an imprecision of Brundin's drawing.

*Orthocladius pinderi* Rossaro & Prato, 1991 was figured by Pinder (1978) as *Orthocladius* sp. A Pinder. The species was described by Rossaro & Prato (1991) as a new species because it seemed to differ from *Orthocladius oblidens* Walker both in the pupal and adult male stage. This statement was supported by the fact that Langton (1984) described and figured two different pupal exuviae, which were assigned respectively to *Orthocladius* sp. A Pinder and to *Orthocladius oblidens* Walker.

Langton & Cranston (1991) stated that the assignment of the latter exuvia to *Orthocladius oblidens* Walker was incorrect and *Orthocladius* sp. A Pinder is conspecific with *Orthocladius oblidens* Walker, despite the different hypopygium. If this should be true *Orthocladius pinderi* Rossaro & Prato should become a junior synonym of *O. oblidens* (Walker).

In the present paper these two species are not synonymized because adult males of *Orthocladius pinderi* have a very slender anal point, devoid of setae at apex (see Rossaro & Prato 1991, fig. 19 and Pinder 1978, fig. 113 A), whereas the holotype of *Orthocladius oblidens* Walker figured by Pinder (1978, fig. 113 B) has a rather large triangular anal point, with setae present still to apex. An adult male from Bodensee labelled '*Orthocladius oblidens*' kindly given by dr. Reiss was examined. It has an anal point identical with the one figured by Pinder for *Orthocladius oblidens* Walker. In our opinion Pinder (1978) was correct to observe that two different species exist. Unfortunately reared material is not available. It is not excluded that both species have a very similar pupal exuvia, and/or they are a single rather variable species, but at present the evidence is in favor of 2 distinct species, so different species are maintained.

*Orthocladius ruffoi* Rossaro & Prato, 1991 is a valid species, it is confirmed to be identical with *Rheorthocladius* sp. A Thienemann, already known in the pupal stage.

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