

***Pimpla wilchristi* Fitton, Shaw & Gauld, 1988, stat. rev.:
lectotype designation for *Pimpla strigipleuris* Thomson,
1877, and its identity as a junior subjective synonym of
Pimpla spuria Gravenhorst, 1829 (Hymenoptera:
Ichneumonidae, Pimplinae)**

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In their treatment of British Pimplinae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae), Fitton, Shaw & Gauld (1988) described a new species, *Pimpla wilchristi* Fitton, Shaw & Gauld, from Wales (Anglesey) and Scotland (3 sites), distinguishing it from the other species of *Pimpla* at that time known from Britain (including *Pimpla spuria* Gravenhorst, 1829).

Subsequently, Hedström (1990) regarded *Pimpla strigipleuris* Thomson, 1877, as a valid species and placed *Pimpla wilchristi* in synonymy under it, a position that was followed by Yu & Horstmann (1997). However, Hedström had not compared type material of these nominal species. Furthermore, his recognition of *Pimpla strigipleuris* as a valid species, which evidently failed to take account of the range of variation in sculpture seen on the meso- and metapleuron of *Pimpla spuria*, was contrary to the conclusions of Perkins (1941), Aubert (1969) and Fitton (1982). All of these authors had examined at least some of the 12 ♀, 4 ♂ specimens in the Thomson collection from Skåne (Sweden) that were accepted by Fitton (1982) as syntypes of *Pimpla strigipleuris*, and they had each concluded that *Pimpla strigipleuris* is a junior synonym of *Pimpla spuria*. In fact Schmiedeknecht (1914, 1934) had been the first to synonymise *P. strigipleuris* and *P. spuria*, and Oehlke (1967) had adopted this view, giving a (different) reference to Schmiedeknecht.

In order to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the status of *Pimpla wilchristi*, and in particular the application of the name *Pimpla strigipleuris*, I have examined the 12 ♀, 4 ♂ syntypes of the latter nominal taxon (in the Zoological Museum, Lund University) and found that nine of these females are *Pimpla spuria*, while the remaining 3 ♀, 4 ♂ are *Pimpla wilchristi*. Although Oehlke (1967) and Yu & Horstmann (1997) both indicate that the type is a female, no formal type restriction appears to have been applied to this material and it is necessary to designate a lectotype because two species are clearly present in the syntype series and, indeed, the name *Pimpla strigipleuris* has been interpreted in the literature in different ways. All specimens in the series accepted by Fitton (1982) as syntypes conform to Thomson's (1877) original description. My selection of the lectotype is based on the following additional considerations:

- (1) it is one of the four specimens (all females, 3 mounts) seen and correctly labelled by J. F. Aubert in 1969 as *Pimpla spuria* (otherwise there is no direct indication through labelling that any of the specimens has been

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- seen by any author since Thomson, although both Perkins (1941) and Fitton (1982) make it clear that they had examined them);
- (2) it belongs to the majority species present (*P. spuria*);
 - (3) it conforms to the published concepts of Schmiedeknecht (1914, 1934), Perkins (1941), Oehlke (1967), Aubert (1969) and Fitton (1982);
 - (4) it is in good condition and easy to examine.

Two female specimens pinned on one pin that also bears Thomson's cabinet label had similarly been correctly determined by Aubert as *P. spuria*, but there seems to be no *a priori* reason to select one of these as the lectotype in view of Fitton's (1982) remark that the cabinet labels associated with particular specimens within a series, as a result of Bengtsson's curation of Thomson's collection, are 'of no significance whatsoever in the recognition of types'. The LECTOTYPE ♀, here designated, bears the labels 'Båst [= Båstad, Skåne]'; 'PIMPLA SPURIA Grav. ♀ (= STRIGIPLEURIS Ths) J. F. AUBERT DET.'; '1969 19'; 'ZML.2003 036' and 'LECTOTYPE ♀ *Pimpla strigipleuris* Ths. des. M.R. Shaw 2003' and '*Pimpla spuria* Gravenhorst ♀ det. M.R. Shaw, 2003'. The labels '1969 19' and 'ZML.2003 036' refer to loans made respectively to J. F. Aubert and to the present author; there are three mounts (4 ♀ specimens) numbered 1969 18, 1969 19 and 1969 20 corresponding to the former, each of which is correctly determined by Aubert as *P. spuria*, and the numbers ZML.2003 035 to ZML.2003 046 relate to the 12 mounts (12 ♀, 4 ♂ specimens) loaned in 2003 to the present author.

The above lectotype designation for *Pimpla strigipleuris* Thomson, 1877, additionally resurrects the valid name *Pimpla wilchristi* Fitton, Shaw & Gauld, 1988, *stat. rev.*, for the species misidentified by Hedström (1990) as *P. strigipleuris*.

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