

I then wrote to Deutsches Ent. Institut, Berlin-Dahlem, and asked for specimens of *gagates* Latr. for comparison. Director Dr. H. SACHTLEBEN generously gave me 2 ♂♂ and lent me a ♀. And now I could state that I here had three species, distinctly different, *F. picea* Nyl. (Swedish specimens), *F. gagates* Latr. (Italian specimens), and a third species (Norwegian specimens), by Adlerz (1886) called *gagates*, later *picea* (Bönnér 1915), and by myself once called *fusca* (1938 p. 78 partim). As I have recently shown (1942), SPARRE SCHNEIDER too (1909 p. 78) and SOOT-RYEN (1925 p. 9) have made the same mistake (in some cases, not always). SIEBKE's *fusca* from Fokstua and Hjerkin (Siebke 1863 p. 139) also belong to this strange species.

This form unknown to me might perhaps be one of the varieties of *fusca*, var. *lemanii* Bondr., or var. *gagatoides* Ruzsky.

The description of var. *lemanii* — kindly sent me by Dr. Sachtleben, Berlin-Dahlem — showed that it could not possibly be this form, and then only var. *gagatoides* remained for consideration.

*F. fusca* L. var. *gagatoides* Ruzsky is by EMERY (1909, 1925) and STITZ (1939) regarded as a variety of *picea* Nyl., and by the former described as «Eine Übergangsform von *fusca* zu *picea* in Nordeuropa» (1909 p. 195).

In his monograph on the genus *Formica*, WHEELER (1913) described it briefly as follows: «Intermediate in its characters between *picea* and *fusca*. Northern Europe.» — Stitz (1939 p. 368) gives a better description, cited from Ruzsky (1904 and 1905—07):

«♂ (nach RUZSKY). Vorderfläche des Kopfes und des Thorax matt wie bei *F. fusca*, Gaster glänzend wie bei *F. gagates*. — Pubescenz spärlich, auf der Oberseite und Unterseite der Gaster fehlend.

♀ (nach RUZSKY). Von *F. gagates* unterschieden durch den matten Thorax.

Vorkommen: Nordeuropa.»

It seems clear enough that none of these authors has seen specimens of *gagatoides*, and the original description given by Ruzsky, has evidently been rather short and incomplete.

As I knew that at least parts of Ruzsky's collection were deposited at the Zoological Museum in Leningrad, I wrote to the museum and asked for specimens of this form.