

From prof. dr. VLADIMIR B. POPOV I very soon received 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀. One of the ♂♂ (bank of the river Tjung, 65°45' N. — 118°56' O, 6/VIII 1926, GRIGORJEV) was identified by Karawaiew as «*For. picea* Nyl. v. *gagatoides* Ruz.»; it has the scale of the petiole straight cut at apex, but otherwise it agrees well with those of my specimens which differ from the average in respect to the shape of the scale (see the following description).

The second ♂ (Ura, western part of the Murman coast, ILJIN 8/VI 1900) is identified by Ruzsky himself and bears his label: «*For. fusca* L. v. *gagatoides* R. M. Ruzskij det.» This specimen agrees in all respects with the majority of my specimens, in shape of head, colour, pubescence, bristles, and scale.

The ♀ (Ura, «*For. fusca* L. ad v. *gagatoides* interm. M. Ruzskij det.») is — as indicated by Ruzsky — not quite typical. Its pubescence is a little more dense, and thus the body is less shiny than in most of my specimens, but the gaster is shiny and the scale emarginate as in mine. It does not differ more from the average (as deduced from a small number of ♀♀ it must be admitted) than some of my ♂♂ do from specimens within the same nest.

In May 1941 I returned the specimens and let some Norwegian ones follow, together with a ♂, asking for comparison with male specimens in the Leningrad collection, if such were present. The ♂♂ seem to be rather characteristic. Shortly afterwards our correspondence was, however, interrupted.

Information in the literature on *gagatoides* Ruzs. is very sparse. Apart from Ruzsky's description (which I have not seen) and the above mentioned short notes by Emery, Stitz, and Wheeler, I know only one paper, where the species is dealt with, namely Karawaiew's from 1931 (b).

I prefer to cite all that he writes on *gagatoides* and *picea*, although it is rather detailed:

P. 111: «*Formica (Serviformica) picea* Nyl. und var. *gagatoides* Ruz.

.....Die var. *gagatoides* Ruz. stellt eine Übergangsform von *picea* zu *fusca* dar. Sie wurde von Ruzsky für den Norden von Europäisch-Russland beschrieben, nämlich für das Gouv.