Namskoje, an der Bucht Tjunge-törde und in der Umgegend von Jakutsk sowohl typische picea als auch Übergänge zu var. gagatoides gefunden wurden.»

Karawaiew thus regards *gagatoides* as belonging to the species *picea* Nyl. Ruzsky described it as a variety of *fusca* L., and it seems more likely that it must be more closely related to this, and not to *picea,* a species well known to Ruzsky, yet he called it *gagates* (Karawaiew 1926 p. 197). Since Ruzsky gave the name *gagatoides* to a variety of *fusca,* it must be because it was more shiny, i. e. had more sparse pubescence, than *fusca,* thus resembling *gagates*≠*picea.*

The differences between *picea* and Norwegian *gagatoides* (♀♀) are rather great, in respect to the shape of the scale (Figs. 2 and 3) and the bristles on thorax and gaster, whilst *gagatoides* and *fusca* are alike as regards the bristles on thorax, usually missing in both species (only in few specimens have I seen a few bristles on pronotum, in most cases there are none), but the pubescence is very differently developed in the species, especially on the gaster (for further differences, see description).

The Norwegian specimens fully agree with specimens from Northern Russia (and Siberia, see above), and thus no doubt must be Ruzsky's *gagatoides.*

In his description, Ruzsky evidently has drawn attention to only one difference between *gagatoides* and *fusca,* saying that the first had a more shiny gaster. Later authors have cited Ruzsky without having seen any specimens of *gagatoides* themselves, and finally *gagatoides* has been transferred to *picea* Nyl., as a variety of this species.

As Karawaiew indicates, he has only regarded the pubescence and the frontal area, and does not show any interest in bristles or scale, and — besides — he has only used ♀♀ for his classifications. Personally I have the pleasure of possessing several ♂♂ taken in nests together with ♀♀, and as will be seen from the following description, the males are perhaps still more characteristic than the ♀♀, and differ distincly from the males of *fusca* and — especially — *picea.* Thus the ♂♂ highly support my conviction that *gagatoides* is a good species, and not so closely related to *picea* as some authors have previously supposed.