

of course, is not conclusive proof and the fact that almost twenty-five years have elapsed since *arizonensis* was described adds to the chance for error. Yet I am sure that all good field workers will agree when I say that a "find" of such an unusual nature would produce a lasting impression. It is highly unlikely that if such an exemplary field worker as Dr. Mann had discovered a *Stigmatomma* in the Huachucas he would have failed to recall the circumstances. Whether the above explanation be correct or not the writer maintains that *arizonensis* is not a valid form. We shall have to regard it as a synonym of *pallipes* even if this necessitates extending the range of the typical form to the Huachuca Mountains.

My reasons for synonymizing the form described by Santschi as the variety *wheeleri* are drawn in large part from certain zoögeographical considerations of which Dr. Santschi was not aware when he set up this form. The type material of *wheeleri* came from Colebrook, Conn., and was, apparently, collected by Wheeler, although the specimens were sent to Santschi by Bequaert. In comparing these specimens with others which Wheeler had sent him from Massachusetts, Santschi was able to draw up an imposing list of differences. He, therefore, gave the Connecticut material varietal status despite the fact that twelve years before Wheeler had commented on the variability of the typical *pallipes* in the Connecticut area. As anyone who has collected this insect is aware specimens which come from the northeastern portion of the range are notoriously variable as to size. The smaller individuals occurring in this region have all the characteristics of Santschi's variety *wheeleri*, a part of the type series of which is in the collection of the M.C.Z. Yet the smaller forms occur in the same areas, or for that matter in the same nests, as the larger ones. I seriously doubt that anyone whose studies had been limited to the area within one hundred miles of New York would be able to analyze the situation successfully because of the seemingly

inextricable manner in which the forms are intermingled. If we go further south, however, the matter becomes much more understandable. As far as the writer has been able to determine specimens coming from the southern coastal strip all show the characters of the larger, typical *pallipes*. As one goes inland toward the Piedmont there is an infiltration of the smaller specimens while in the valleys at the foot of the mountains there is a preponderance of the form that Santschi has called *wheeleri*. At elevations of three thousand feet or more (at least in North Carolina) these small specimens are replaced by the variant described in this paper as *montigena*. The characteristics of *montigena* show in a more extreme degree those of *wheeleri*. The funicular joints are very short, the clypeus is strongly projecting in the middle and the node of the petiole is markedly narrow. It may seem ill advised to defend the status of *montigena* and at the same time sink *wheeleri* since the latter form is obviously intermediate between *montigena* and the typical *pallipes*. This is precisely the reason why I believe that *wheeleri* should not have been named. It is clearly a form produced by the intergradation of the mountain-dwelling subspecies *montigena* and the lowland *pallipes*. Unlike the other two variants it has, as far as the writer has been able to determine, no range where it is the only form present. I am ready to admit that the structural characters of *wheeleri* permit a separation of the intergrade from the other two subspecies but this distinction has a decidedly limited application. If generally used it involves the splitting of nest series, particularly in the case of specimens coming from the northeastern states. This feature is perhaps less objectionable than the matter of the rank of *wheeleri*. It cannot properly be considered as a subspecies and if it is to be named at all we shall have to employ another rank for its designation. The writer is completely opposed to the use of more than one infraspecific rank and for this reason, if for no other, I propose to drop the name *wheeleri*.