

Acidoproctus stenopygos N. (Taschenberg's description 1882).

"Of this species found on Anas rufina there lie before me two males and a headless female from the Halle collection. I am inclined to believe it identical with A. maximus Piag. and suspect that A. bifasciatus Piag. is also inseparable from it. What separates stenopygos from all other related species is the lack of abdominal spots; but these seem to me to be present only in immature specimens, also probably the many years stay in spirit has tended to obliterate spots previously present or at least indicated. Another detail may also indicate immaturity. The inner lateral band of the abdomen in the male is only uninterrupted on the first four segments, on the following it stops before the suture and unites with the outer band. In consequence of this the state which Piaget describes in A. maximus is also absent: "the inner band sends out to the inner side two transverse appendages which join together again at the end", but at the upper end of the band a transverse process goes off towards the inner side which curves round at the end but does not reach the inner band of the previous segment. I suspect that this joining-up of the curved-round process with the latter begins gradually, and that then also an inner band on the side of the abdomen which is not interrupted at the seam is formed. Also the thickening at the sutures of the first two segments, which Piaget describes and figures for A. maximus, appears gradually in this shape. Originally a small process such as remains permanently in the female, arises from the hinder part of the inner lateral band, not very oblique but almost bordering on the latter. This then becomes contiguous at the end with the inner band and fuses with it. Now appears at the suture an ear-shaped appendage, from which finally the similarly-shaped thickening is formed. I have arrived at this belief by the comparison of the males of stenopygos before me with a similar one which Herr Dr. Meyer has collected from Dendrocygnus vagans and which I must unqualifiedly take to be A. maximus Piag. although here also not everything agrees with Piaget's description and figure. On the first two segments the thickening of the inner band at the sutures is just as figured by Piaget, but a pale area in the middle still indicates the original ear-shape. On the following segments, also, the inner bands have not yet united into one and the transverse process does not yet reach its curved-round end the previous inner margin, as in stenopygos. The spots are present and divided by a longitudinal seam just as in maximus, only that on the 4th to 6th. segments at the hinder margin of each spot a narrow stripe shows independently; probably at a later phase this would fuse with it. In stenopygos ♂ as a final distinction from Maximus there is a small notch in the middle of the hinder margin, while this is rounded in the latter species. That this circumstance indicates immaturity follows from Piaget's words: "It is to be noted that in immature males the 9th. segment is open, deeply emarginate".

In spite of all this I am inclined to take A. stenopygos for maximus, but I admit that a more comprehensive comparison of more numerous specimens and older stages remains before it can be decided whether my conjectures are correct.

I cannot separate the female belonging to stenopygos from A. bifasciatus Piag. and on account of this I expressed above the belief that this species also must be placed to maximus.

That the Acidoproctus of ducks and swans, hitherto known from few specimens, must be very close to one another follows also from the fact that Piaget placed a form from Anas radjah to A. bifasciatus while pointing out insignificant differences which might probably justify the erection of a new species after the discovery of the male.

Finally I give the measurements of stenopygos.

	♂		♀
Length	3.65 mm.		
Head.	0.80 "		
Thorax	0.60 "		0.63 mm.

