

Notes on *Falcicula hebardii* Rehn 1903

D.H.Funk 4 Aug 2013

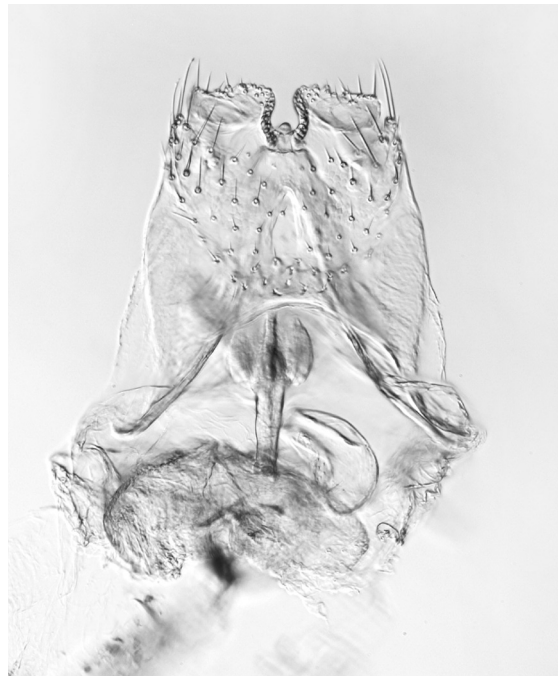
The monotypic genus *Falcicula* is distinguished from *Anaxipha* by small size, the lack of a well developed stridulatory area of the male forewing, and the absence of auditory tympana. The latter two characters are associated with the loss of a calling song in males. Males do, however, produce a faint courtship song (Spooner 1972). DF examined one male and one female from FL to evaluate their relationship with North American *Anaxipha*. The male genitalia of *Falcicula* show a rather close similarity to those of *Anaxipha fultoni* (see figure below). The stridulatory file (see figure below) is weakly developed, consistent with Spooner's description of its courtship song. Although the male lacked auditory tympana altogether, the female examined did have a small tympanum on the posterior surface of the fore tibiae. (Rehn 1903 made no mention of this character in the female.)

Additionally, the basal segment of the hind tarsus is $\leq 1x$ as long as the other two combined, and a survey of additional specimens in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods by T.J.Walker confirms there is no fringe of long setae on the dorsal spines of the hind tibia.

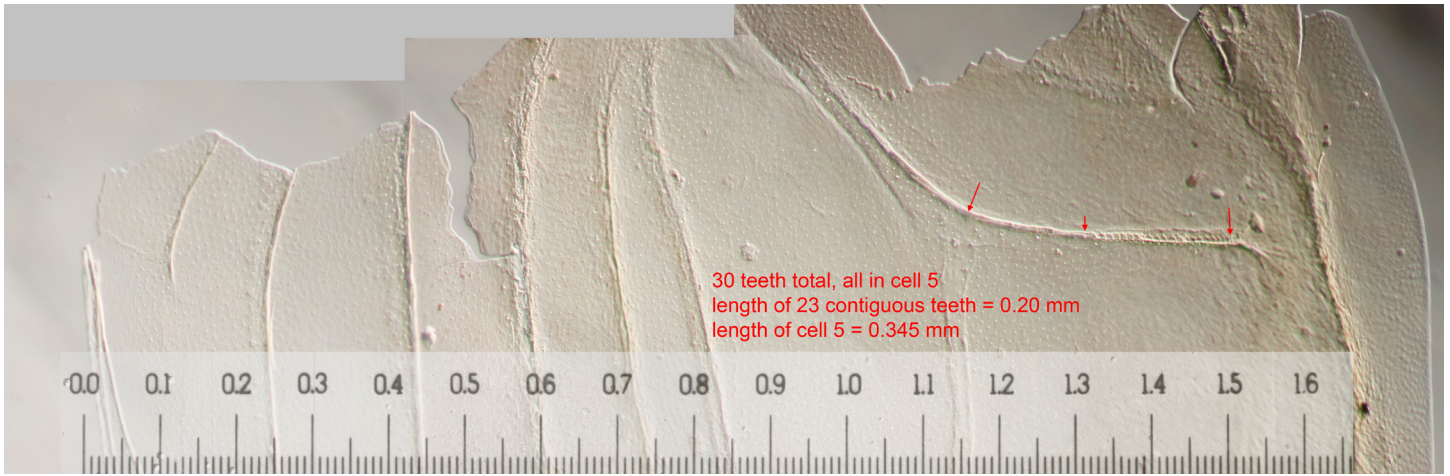
Taken together, these characters suggest that phylogenetically, *hebardii* is either a sister to *fultoni*, or to the clade including *fultoni* and the *litarena*-, *delicatula*- and *exigua*-groups. Thus, generic revision of the species now considered *Anaxipha* will likely result in the inclusion of *Falcicula* as a junior synonym of that genus.

Rehn, J. A. G. 1903. Description of a new genus of Gryllidae with a note on the genus *Aphonogryllus*. Entomological News 14: 258-260.

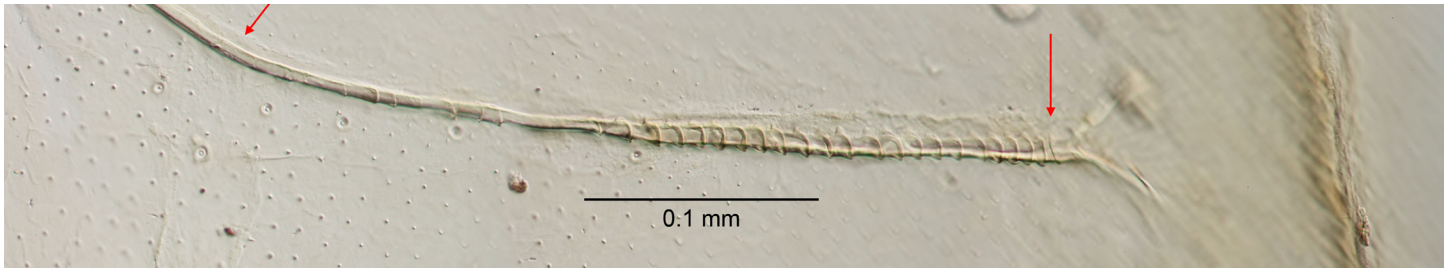
Spooner, J. D. 1972. Courtship in *Falcicula hebardii* (Orthoptera: Gryllidae, Trigonidiinae). Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 65: 1419.



Male genitalia, dorsal view (cleared)



Male right tegmen, ventral view. Landmarks on stridulatory vein indicated by arrows. Scale is mm.



Detail of stridulatory vein. Arrows delineate length of cell 5.