

A new species of *Hoplcephala* Macquart (Diptera: Sarcophagidae) from Namibia, with a discussion of generic monophyly

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Abstract

A new species, *Hoplcephala oryx* **sp. nov.**, is described from Namibia, Khorixas district. The male is characterized by a remarkably elongated pair of straight frontal setae and a tuft of lanceolate marginal setae on abdominal tergite 4. Generic assignment is argued from a cladistic analysis, and the monophyly of *Hoplcephala* Macquart is shown to be corroborated by the autapomorphic pattern of strong katepisternal setae.

Key words: Diptera, Sarcophagidae, *Hoplcephala*, new species

Introduction

The genus *Hoplcephala* Macquart is an Old World taxon with a current tally of 27 species found throughout the Afrotropical Region and in the warmer parts of the Palaearctic and Oriental Regions (Pape 1996).

The species of this genus present an intriguing combination of striking sexual dimorphism, great uniformity in male genitalia, and generally rather bulky size. Biologically, there is an interesting indication of association with termites, although the natural history is still very superficially known (Curran 1928, Zumpt 1961).

Perhaps indicative of the taxonomic complexities, the first two genus-group names containing a species of *Hoplcephala* were proposed as monotypic and included nominal species now considered as synonyms: *Hoplcephala* Macquart, 1846 with the type species *Hoplcephala tessellata* Macquart, 1846, and *Dichoetometopia* Macquart, 1855 with the type species *Dichoetometopia rufiventris* Macquart, 1855 [= *Hoplcephala tessellata* Macquart, 1846]. A more recent example from the Oriental Region is the nominal genus *Javanisca* Verves, 1980, with its type species *Javanisca indosinica* Verves, 1980, which was considered by Pape (1996) to be a synonym of *Tephramobia trixina* Townsend, 1926, the type species of *Tephramobia* Townsend, 1926. The taxonomic confusion is probably to