



Systematic study of the genus *Rossimylops* Mesnil (Diptera: Tachinidae)

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Abstract

The systematic position and generic limits of *Rossimylops* Mesnil, 1953 (type species: *R. whiteheadi* Mesnil, 1953) are critically redefined. Examination of the male terminalia allowed us to demonstrate the unjustified placement of *Rossimylops* within the subfamily Dexiinae, tribe Dufouriini and its probable affiliation with the subfamily Tachininae, tribe Minthoini. The following generic names are synonymised with *Rossimylops* Mesnil, 1953: *Mesnilomyia* Kugler, 1972 (type species: *M. magnifica* Kugler, 1972) **syn. nov.**, and *Persedeia* Richter, 2001 (type species: *P. exquisita* Richter, 2001) **syn. nov.** The following new combinations are proposed: *Rossimylops achilleae* (Kugler, 1972) **comb. nov.**, *R. exquisitus* (Richter, 2001) **comb. nov.**, *R. longicornis* (Kugler, 1972) **comb. nov.**, *R. magnificus* (Kugler, 1972) **comb. nov.**, and *R. subapertus* (Herting, 1983) **comb. nov.** *Mesnilomyia rufipes* Zeegers, 2007 is established as a synonym of *Persedeia exquisita* Richter, 2001, **syn. nov.** *Rossimylops austrinus* Cerretti **sp. nov.** from Namibia and *Rossimylops djerbaensis* Cerretti **sp. nov.** from Tunisia are described, illustrated and compared with the other known species of the genus. Male terminalia and female external morphology of *R. subapertus* and *R. whiteheadi* are described for the first time. Finally, *Mesnilomyia calypratra* Zeegers, 2007 is removed from this genus and placed as Tachinidae *incertae sedis*.

Key words: Tachininae, Minthoini, *Rossimylops*, *Mesnilomyia*, *Persedeia*, Embioptera, systematics, biogeography, new species, new synonymies, types

Introduction

The genus *Rossimylops* Mesnil was described for the single species *R. whiteheadi* Mesnil, on the basis of a male specimen eclosed from a webspinner (Embioptera) in Grahamstown (South Africa) (Mesnil 1953).

In describing *Rossimylops*, Mesnil (1953), stated that: “In chaetotaxy as well as wing venation, this genus belongs to the European group comprising *Campogaster* Rondani [= *Microsoma* Macquart], *Rondania* Robin-eau-Desvoidy, *Strongygaster* Macquart ...”. Based on the morphology of the male terminalia (cf. Tschorsnig 1985) and female terminalia (Herting 1957), the first two genera are today ascribed to the subfamily Dexiinae, tribe Dufouriini (cf. Herting & Dely-Draskovits 1993; O’Hara & Wood 2004), while the third belongs to subfamily Tachininae, tribe Strongygastrini (following O’Hara & Wood 2004). Verbeke (1962) noted that *Rossimylops* could be better ascribed to the “Macquartiines” [= Tachininae, in part]; however, he did not deal with this issue in detail and no attempt has been made to verify whether or not he examined the male terminalia. Crosskey (1980, 1984), substantially following the opinion of Mesnil, ascribed *Rossimylops* to the Dufouriini, without considering characters of the male terminalia. The subfamily Dexiinae, to which the Dufouriini (*sensu* Herting 1984) clearly belong (cf. Tschorsnig 1985), is defined and well corroborated by at least two