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A review of genus-group names in Diptera (Insecta) that J.C. Fabricius “borrowed” from other dipterists and proposed as new in his systematic works from 1775 to 1805

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Abstract

It is shown that a total of eight pre-existing genus-group names in Diptera were “borrowed” and deliberately given new identities in the systematic works of J.C. Fabricius: *Bibio* Fabricius, 1775, *Ceria* Fabricius, 1794, *Hirtea* Fabricius, 1798, *Mulio* Fabricius, 1798, *Scatophaga* Fabricius, 1805, *Sicus* Fabricius, 1798, *Thereva* Fabricius, 1798 and *Voluccella* Fabricius, 1794. These names are reviewed from the standpoint that they are nomenclaturally available as *intentional* homonymous proposals of names for new genus-group taxa. New type-species designations are made for *Bibio* Fabricius, *Mulio* Fabricius, and *Scatophaga* Fabricius. *Bibio* Fabricius, 1775 is recognized as a senior synonym of *Thereva* Latreille, 1797, **syn. n.**, but is invalid as it is a junior homonym of *Bibio* Geoffroy, 1762. *Scatophaga* Fabricius, 1805 is recognized as a junior synonym of *Psila* Meigen, 1803, **syn. n.** The nominal species *Musca suilla* Fabricius, 1794 has been misinterpreted as a species of *Scathophaga* Meigen, 1803 by subsequent authors. *Scathophaga spurca* Meigen, 1826 is revived as the valid name for *Scathophaga suilla* auct. nec (Fabricius, 1794), **stat. rev.** A lectotype is designated for *Musca suilla* Fabricius and it is shown to belong to the scathophagid *Norellisoma spinimanum* (Fallén, 1819), **syn. n.** In order to maintain stability of nomenclature and prevailing usage, reversal of precedence is invoked to declare *Cordylura spinimana* Fallén, 1819 as a **nomen protectum** and *Musca suilla* Fabricius, 1794 as a **nomen oblitum**.

Key words: Nomenclature, taxonomy, Bibionidae, Bombyliidae, Psilidae, Scathophagidae, Syrphidae, Tachinidae, Ther-evidae, Xylophagidae

Introduction

Johann Christian Fabricius (1745–1808), acknowledged for his pioneering early post-Linnaean classification of insects, had the strange habit of occasionally proposing new genera in Diptera (and probably other insects) with names already published by other authors for entirely different groups of Diptera. He did so openly and intentionally, as he often cited the earlier usage of such names under the appropriate genus in his own classification. Even if this habit appears strange and confusing today, we should keep in mind that Fabricius worked at a time without any constraints, in terms of Code regulations, such as the Principles of Priority and Homonymy. Opinions have been and still are dividing dipterists, whether these names should be formally dismissed as misidentifications (e.g., Holston *et al.* 2003) or treated as separate proposals as was clearly intended by Fabricius himself (e.g., Michelsen 2004). As these names satisfy the criteria of availability, i.e., the provisions of Articles 10 to 20 in the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999), hereafter simply the *Code*, there is no formal hindrance to treating them as proper genus-group names with their own authorship and date.

It is widely accepted that *unintentional* homonymous proposals of names for new taxa make such names nomenclaturally available with their own authorship and date. Fabricius’s generic names dealt with in the present paper may be categorized as *intentional* homonymous proposals of names for new genus-group taxa. Michelsen (2004) gave several reasons for preferably treating these names as nomenclaturally available with their own

Scatophaga spurca Meigen, 1826: 250.
Scatophaga suilla (Fabricius); Becker (1894: 167). Misidentification.

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APPENDIX I

List of publications treating *Cordylura spinimana* Fallén, 1819 as a valid species-group name

- Barták, M. & Kubík, Š. (2006) Scathophagidae, pp. 362–365. In: Barták, M. & Kubík, Š. (eds.), *Diptera of the Podyjí National Park and its environs*. Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze: PowerPrint, Praha 6 – Suchbátolice, 1–100 pp.
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