

A review of the Neotropical genus *Sarcopromusca* Townsend (Diptera: Muscidae) with a key to species and a redescription of *S. sarcophagina* (Wulp)

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Abstract

Sarcopromusca Townsend, 1927 is a Neotropical genus with two species distributed from Mexico southward to northern Argentina and southern Brazil. In the present paper, the genus *Sarcopromusca* is diagnosed, an identification key to species is provided, *S. sarcophagina* (Wulp, 1896) is redescribed and illustrated, and lectotypes are designated for this species and for the type species *S. arcuata* Townsend, 1927 [= *S. pruna* (Shannon & Del Ponte, 1926)]. A discussion is presented to clarify the geographic distributions of *S. pruna* and *S. sarcophagina*.

Key words: *Sarcopromusca*, *S. sarcophagina*, *S. pruna*, Muscini, taxonomy, geographic distribution

Introduction

The Neotropical genus *Sarcopromusca* was named by Townsend (1927) for his new species, *S. arcuata*, now recognised as a junior synonym of *S. pruna* (Shannon & Del Ponte, 1926) (Malloch 1930). The genus also includes one other species, *S. sarcophagina* (Wulp, 1896), a species originally described in *Morellia* Robineau-Desvoidy and subsequently placed in *Sarcopromusca* by Townsend (1935). *Sarcopromusca pruna* was recently redescribed by Pamplona (1992), based on her examination of the holotype female of *S. pruna* and two female syntypes of *S. arcuata* (one of which was erroneously treated as holotype; see discussion below).

Sarcopromusca pruna, due to its symbovine adult habits, is often regarded as the most important egg vector of the human botfly *Dermatobia hominis* (Linnaeus Jr.) in the Neotropics (Neel *et al.* 1955; Koone & Banegas 1959; Lombardero & Fontana 1968; Silva *et al.* 1989). In addition to the work of Pamplona (1992) on the taxonomy and morphology of