



Nominal species of Australasian/Oceanian Sarcophagidae proposed by P.J.M. Macquart (Insecta: Diptera)

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Abstract

The six nominal species of Australasian/Oceanian Sarcophagidae proposed by Pierre Justin Marie Macquart are revised. Five nominal species enter into new synonymy, one remains unplaced. Lectotypes are designated for *Sarcophaga assimilis* Macquart, 1851 and *Sarcophaga aurifrons* Macquart, 1851. *Sarcophaga sigma* Johnston & Tiegs, 1921 is resurrected from synonymy with *S. aurifrons*.

Key words: Sarcophagidae, *Sarcophaga*, *Oxysarcodexia*, Macquart, nomenclature, lectotype designation, Australia, Oceania

Introduction

Biological species may be considered as scientific hypotheses regarding real entities in our living world (e.g., Hull 1976; Mayr 1996; Wheeler & Meier 2000; Queiroz 2005), and with accumulating evidence such hypotheses are continuously put to test and either rejected or corroborated, with the result that our perception of the living world is increasingly sharpened. Species are given scientific names according to generally accepted codes (Winston 1999), and the nominal taxa representing these species are in their turn represented by name-bearing types. With the number of nominal species being much larger than the number of valid (distinct, recognized) species, there is an excess of names. Surplus names are either established synonyms or doubtful nominal taxa that have never been revised; but whatever their status, nominal species and their name-bearing types are part of the nomenclatural landscape and require proper attention.

The present paper revises the six nominal species of Sarcophagidae described by Pierre Justin Marie Macquart from the Australasian/Oceanian region. All six nominal taxa have remained unrevised since their description more than 150 years ago, and five of these six names have not been used as the valid name for a recognized species since their proposal. Names not used as valid since 1899 are potential candidates for being classified as *nomina oblita*, in which case they should not take precedence over more recent synonyms if these have become established in the scientific literature to the extent that they qualify to become *nomina protecta*. The latter requires that a name has been used as valid by at least ten authors in 25 publications during at least ten of the last 50 years (see IZCN 1999, Article 23.9 for specific details).

A most informative introduction to Macquart and his Diptera collection is given by Crosskey (1971). The type material of Australasian/Oceanian Sarcophagidae described by Macquart is deposited in the Macquart collection of Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, and in the Natural History Museum, London, and no further type specimens were recovered from other museums known to harbour Macquart Diptera types: Hope Entomological Collection, Oxford; Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien; and Musée d'Histoire Naturelle