



Revision of the *Bengalia spinifemorata* species-group (Diptera, Calliphoridae)

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Abstract

The Afrotropical *Bengalia spinifemorata* species-group is revised and their male genitalia illustrated by means of digital colour photography. Six species are recognized and keyed, and their geographical distribution reconsidered, i.e., *Bengalia akamanga* (Lehrer, 2005), **comb. nov.** (Malawi); *B. racovitzaei* (Lehrer, 2005) (Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya); *B. seniorwhitei* (Lehrer, 2005) (Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda); *B. smarti* (Lehrer, 2005), **comb. nov.** (Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe); *B. spinifemorata* Villeneuve, 1913 (Democratic Republic of Congo) and *B. wangariae* (Lehrer, 2005), **comb. nov.** (Democratic Republic of Congo). *Maraviola congoliana* Lehrer, 2005, *M. samburella* Lehrer, 2005, *M. amlaka* Lehrer & Freidberg, 2008, *M. danakiliana* Lehrer & Freidberg, 2008, and *M. akufulana* Lehrer, 2011 are recognized as synonyms of *Bengalia seniorwhitei*, **syn. nov.** The genus group names *Sindhigalia* Lehrer, 2006 and *Anshuniana* Lehrer & Wei, 2010 are reduced to synonyms of *Bengalia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, **syn. nov.** The distiphallus is described in detail and new morphological terms introduced. Ten synapomorphies defining the *B. spinifemorata* species-group are listed. A re-assignment of the Oriental species *B. fani* Feng & Wei, 1998 to the Afrotropical *B. spinifemorata* species-group to replace its current position in the *B. peuhi* species-group is rejected since *B. fani* shares none of the ten synapomorphies of the former group.

Key words: Diptera, Calliphoridae, *Bengalia*, revision, new synonyms, Afrotropical Region

Introduction

In the course of the last six years Lehrer (2005, 2006, 2010) has proposed 13 nominal genera and four family group names (as subfamilies) all within and thus splitting up the old genus *Bengalia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830. In addition, he has raised the rank of this single genus to a family of its own. This amounts to an example of splitting “ad absurdum” according to Evenhuis *et al.* (2010: 28). The names and actions have been reviewed by Rognes (2006, 2009b), who reduced all the nominal genera to synonyms of *Bengalia* and replaced the subfamily names with informal species-group names.

One of the subfamilies Lehrer (2005) proposed, i.e., Maraviolinae, was created for *Bengalia spinifemorata* Villeneuve, 1913 and eight newly described species, which were all assigned to the single new Afrotropical genus *Maraviola* Lehrer. Rognes (2006) replaced this subfamily name with an informal name—the *Bengalia spinifemorata* species-group.

Subsequently Lehrer & Freidberg (2008) described two new species in *Maraviola* from Ethiopia, raising the number of described nominal species in the *B. spinifemorata* species-group to 11.

In a recent paper Lehrer & Wei (2010) proposed a 14th genus, *Anshuniana*, for a single species, *Bengalia fani* Feng & Wei *in* Feng *et al.*, 1998. Lehrer had apparently not been aware of the existence of this species when he wrote his book (Lehrer 2005). Lehrer (2010: 28) first introduced the name *Anshuniana* as a *nomen nudum*, announcing its future appearance as an available name in these terms:

“... *si ce falsificateur [Rognes] a pu introduire Anshuniana fani (Feng & Wei) (Lehrer & Wei, 2010) dans le «Bengalia peuhi species-group» au lieu de la sous-famille Maraviolinae Lehrer, 2005, alors il n'est pas surprenant qu'il se trouve dépourvu de toute inclination scientifique pour la taxonomie.* ” [... if this falsifier