

Review of the genus *Onchopelma* Hesse, with descriptions of new species (Diptera: Mythicomyiidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Onchopelma* Hesse is reviewed and a key to species is given. Four new species are described and illustrated: *Onchopelma brevifasciatum*, sp.n., *O. irwini*, sp.n., *O. majus*, sp.n., and *O. nitidum*, sp.n. Seven species are currently known in the genus, which occurs only in Namibia and South Africa.

Key words: Mythicomyiidae, *Onchopelma*, Namibia, South Africa, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Onchopelma* was described by Hesse (1938) to include the species *O. pulchellum* and *O. trilineatum*. Hesse placed the genus in his concept of the subfamily Cyrtosiinae [= Mythicomyiinae *auct.*]. Hesse (1967) subsequently described one additional species in the genus, *O. karoosanum*, from the Koup Karoo, South Africa.

The infrafamilial placement of this genus has been variable, Hesse's original treatment of the genus in his Cyrtosiinae was no doubt because of the similarity of the wing characters to that shown in *Cyrtosia* Perris. At the time of the description (Hesse 1938), few African mythicomyiids were known, thus comparison with other genera from the region was difficult. Although Hesse (1967) provided additional information on South African mythicomyiids (describing 3 new genus-group names and 16 new species), there remained few taxa with which to compare with *Onchopelma* or to make any phylogenetic assumptions.

Subsequent infrafamilial categorizations of *Onchopelma* (*viz.*, Hull 1973, Hall 1976, Evenhuis 1991) were all without explanation. Greathead and Evenhuis (2001) were the first to examine the relationships of *Onchopelma* with other mythicomyiids and placed them within the subfamily Psiloderoidinae, the placement of which is followed here. Genera within this subfamily have vein R_{2+3} ending in the costa closer to the end of vein R_1