



The status of Mesnil's 1949 *Die Fliegen* genus-group names (Diptera: Tachinidae)

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The proposal of 14 genus-group names in Tachinidae by Mesnil in his 1949 *Lieferung* of *Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region* are researched to determine their validity and the first validation of each name. Three of these, *Paradrino* Mesnil, *Pimelimyia* Mesnil, and *Tamaromyia* Mesnil, previously thought to be unavailable in that work are found here to be valid by type fixation by monotypy.

Louis P. Mesnil was a prolific taxonomist who published more than 90 articles on the Tachinidae between the years 1936 and 1980 (O'Hara 1996). During the course of his long career he proposed 838 new species-group names and erected 172 new genus-group names (O'Hara 1996). Mesnil published extensively on the tachinid faunas of the Palaearctic, Oriental, and Afrotropical Regions but is best known for his career-long contributions to Lindner's series *Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region* (1944–1980).

Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region was originally published in *Lieferungen* (fascicles) of arbitrary length, often consisting of a portion of an author's submitted manuscript. In some instances the names of new taxa were published in a key in one *Lieferung* and the descriptions appeared in subsequent *Lieferungen*. This created nomenclatural havoc and later taxonomists were faced with the difficult task of sorting out the validity and dating of new taxa proposed within a series of *Lieferungen*. O'Hara (1996) attempted to standardize the nomenclatural aspects of Mesnil's taxa published in *Die Fliegen*, but overlooked the validation of three generic names in Mesnil (1949a) as reviewed below.

Genus-group names proposed after 1930 are unavailable if they did not have a type species fixation (whether by original designation or monotypy). Mesnil (1949a) provided a key in *Die Fliegen* to the genus-group taxa of the "Sturmiina" (part of present-day Goniini in the Exoristinae) and included 14 new genus-group names, many of them representing taxa found only outside the Palaearctic Region. These 14 new genus-group names are researched here to determine their earliest validation and present status. Three of them, *Paradrino*, *Pimelimyia* and *Tamaromyia*, which were provided with characters to differentiate them in the key, were previously thought to be unavailable because no species were included until subsequent *Lieferungen* of the *Die Fliegen* series (e.g., O'Hara 1996). However, for each, a single species has been found in combination with the genus-group name in that *Lieferung*, thus fixing the type species by monotypy for each and validating the name from that work.

Format. For each genus-group name proposed in Mesnil (1949a), its authorship, date, page, and nomenclatural status (unavailable or available) is given and tracked through subsequent publications to determine the earliest type fixation (by original designation or monotypy) for the name. Its current taxonomic status (valid or invalid) is also given along with the most recent source for that status. Names in the genus-group headings listed in boldface are taxonomically valid; those in italics are taxonomically invalid.

Mesnil's 1949 *Die Fliegen* genus-group names

Blepharellina

Blepharellina Mesnil, 1949a: 104. Unavailable; mentioned in key with characters to differentiate it but no included species.

Blepharellina Mesnil, 1950: 105 (as subgenus of *Blepharella* Macquart). Unavailable; keyed out but no included species.

Blepharellina Mesnil, 1952: 234 (as subgenus of *Blepharella* Macquart). Type species: *Blepharella picta* Mesnil, 1952, by monotypy.

Current status: Available from Mesnil (1952) [valid *teste* Crosskey (1980: 876)].