



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3841.1.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:7D8B36FC-5BDE-47D6-9D00-C1ACFD060773>

Clarification of the authorship, type species, and date of the genus *Taxigramma* (Diptera: Sarcophagidae)

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Abstract

The authorship and date of publication of the genus *Taxigramma* is found to be established by Macquart in 1850, with the type species *Miltogramma heteroneura* Meigen, 1830, by monotypy. A history of the name and its junior synonym *Heteroptera* Macquart, 1854, is given.

Key words: Sarcophagidae, nomenclature, Diptera, *Taxigramma* Macquart, Perris

Introduction

Names of organisms, when used correctly, provide a rigorous backbone in our communication about the living world, as has been recognized at least since Linnaeus (1737) stated, that if you do not know their names, the knowledge about the objects has no value. The current *Code* (ICZN 1999) adheres to a principle of priority, and ‘getting the names right’ therefore necessarily involves dealing with their origin in time under specified conditions for *Code* compliance.

We here correct the authorship and type species for a particular genus-group name, thereby ensuring a correct entry for this taxon in ZooBank, the global register for zoological names (Polaszek & Michel 2010, Pyle & Michel 2010). As the valid type species (*Miltogramma heteroneura* Meigen, 1830) is a subjective senior synonym of the younger *Taxigramma pipiens* Perris, 1852 (previously treated as type species of *Taxigramma* Perris, 1852 by monotypy), this brings no taxonomic change.

The taxon in question is *Taxigramma* Macquart, 1850b, a genus of kleptoparasitic flesh flies of the subfamily Miltogramminae (Pape 1996, Richet *et al.* 2013).

Taxigramma Macquart, 1850b: 522.

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C8EAF3CE-7453-44C3-9ED7-80E0DE318C58]

ORIGINALLY INCLUDED SPECIES: *Miltogramma heteroneura* Meigen, 1830 (as *Taxigramma* “*Heteroneura*. Macq.”).

TYPE SPECIES: *Miltogramma heteroneura* Meigen, 1830 (as *Taxigramma* “*Heteroneura*. Macq.”), by monotypy.

CURRENT STATUS: Valid genus [*teste* Pape (1996: 151; as “*Taxigramma* Perris, 1852”)].

FAMILY: SARCOPHAGIDAE.

REMARKS: Authorship of this genus is usually attributed to Perris (1852) with the type species as *Taxigramma pipiens* Perris, 1852, by monotypy (e.g., Coquillett 1910: 612, Dear 1980: 806, Pape 1996: 151). However, Macquart (1850b: 522), in his catalog of the Diptera in the Lille museum, listed an available species-group name

[Metopilla] **Rondani, 1859: 210.**

CURRENT STATUS: Unavailable name; name originally proposed in synonymy [with *Heteropterina* Macquart, 1854] and not made available by subsequent usage before 1961.

FAMILY: SARCOPHAGIDAE.

REMARKS: Listings in Marschall (1873: 337) and Scudder (1884: 195) do not count as usage according to the ICZN Code Article 23.9.6. Coquillett (1910: 569) designated *Heteropterina multipunctata* Rondani, 1859 as type species but this action does not qualify as subsequent usage either, because Coquillett (1910) did not treat *Metopilla* as valid as required (but as an invalid junior synonym of *Taxigramma* Perris, 1852).

Elpigia **Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863: 149.**

ORIGINALLY INCLUDED SPECIES: *Elpigia pellucida* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863; *Elpigia punctata* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863; *Elpigia minuta* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863; *Miltogramma heteroneura* Meigen, 1830.

TYPE SPECIES: *Elpigia pellucida* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863 [= *Miltogramma heteroneura* Meigen, 1830], by subsequent designation (Allen 1926: 82).

CURRENT STATUS: Junior synonym of *Taxigramma* Perris, 1852 [*teste* Pape (1996: 151)].

FAMILY: SARCOPHAGIDAE.

REMARKS: Pape (1996) credited Verves (1986: 66) with the first type-species designation, but this is incorrect as Allen (1926) is earlier. Verves (1986) indicated incorrectly that Robineau-Desvoidy (1863) designated *Elpigia pellucida* on page 150 of that work, but no such designation was made on that page or elsewhere in that work.

Acknowledgments

We thank the librarians and staff at our respective home institutions for access to literature in their holdings. Special thanks to editor Jim O'Hara for his diligent review and editing, which helped improve the paper

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