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A review of the genus *Discomyza* (Diptera: Ephydridae) from Afrotropical, Australasian/Oceanian and Oriental Regions

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Abstract

Tropical Old World species of the genus *Discomyza* are redescribed, including male terminalia, photographs of heads and wings. One new species *Discomyza fagomoga* sp. nov. is described from D. R. Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Two new synonyms are proposed: *Discomyza obscuricornis* Canzoneri and Rampini, 1996 = *D. dolichocerus* Cresson, 1944 and *D. intermedia* Canzoneri and Meneghini, 1969 = *D. eritrea* Cresson, 1939. A key to all species is provided. Relationships among species of *Discomyza* are suggested.

Key words: Diptera, Ephydridae, Discomyzini, *Discomyza*, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

Species of the genus *Discomyza* are found in all biogeographic regions apart from the Neotropics south of Surinam. Larvae of the genus are malacophagous, feeding on land snails. Bohart and Gressit (1951) mentioned larvae of *D. maculipennis* as occurring on human cadavers. Mathis and Zatwarnicki (2005) revised New World, and Zatwarnicki and Mathis (2007) summarized Palearctic species, so the present paper completes review of *Discomyza*. There are seven species occuring in the Old World south to Tropical Cancer. In the Oriental and Australasian/Oceanian Regions only one species (*D. maculipennis* (Wiedemann)) described in 1824 is present. The Afrotropics with six species seems to be the most species rich and its first species was discovered 90 years later by Lamb (1912—*D. similis*), and then followed by three species proposed by Cresson (1939, 1944—*D. eritrea*, *D. africana*, and *D. dolichocerus* respectively). The last two species described by Canzoneri and Maneghini (1969—*D. intermedia*) and 30 years later by Canzoneri and Rampini (1996—*D. obscuricornis*), are considered here as junior synonyms. The name "*Discomyza cederholmi*" attributed to Canzoneri and Rampini (1996) and mentioned in various open-accessible data-bases (Google search generated 357 results February 2015, see Fig. 1 for Encyclopedia of Life) is an error resulting from displacement of the specific name originally assigned to *Allotrichoma*. *Allotrichoma cederholmi* Canzoneri and Rampini, 1996 is on the next page after *Discomyza obscuricornis* Canzoneri and Rampini, 1996.

There are now 10 species in *Discomyza.* Two species are found in more than one zoogeographic region: *D. maculipennis* is the most widespread species known from the Orient, Australia and the Neotropics and *D. incurva* (Fallen) is Holarctic (Mathis and Zatwarnicki, 2007; Buck *et al.*, 2007). The genus *Discomyza* belongs to the tribe Discomyzini (subfamily Discomyzinae). The tribe was initially diagnosed by Cresson (1942) for two genera (*Discomyza* and *Clanoneurum*). Then Zatwarnicki (1992) greatly enlarged the scope of the tribe by adding several genera that are similar to *Discomyza* (*Actocetor, Clasiopella*, *Eremomusca, Guttipsilopa, Helaeomyia, Hostis, Mimapsilopa, Paratissa, Rhysophora*, and *Trypetomima*). *Discomyza* is actually closely related to *Discostriata* (Krivosheina, 2008), and the straight face with a microtomentose pattern of *Discostriata* places it near *Discomyza u-signata*, and not as the sister-group of the whole genus. There is also an undescribed species of *Discostriata* from the Oriental Region that is characterized by short antennae, similar to *Discomyza u-signata* making the concept of these relationships stronger. An assessment of the relationship among genera of the subfamily Discomyzinae is under study by the senior author.

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