

NOTES ON SOME FRUIT FLIES (DIPTERA: TEPHRITIDAE) DESCRIBED BY FRANCIS WALKER

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Abstract

The identities of five species of Diptera described by Francis Walker between 1849 and 1861, *Psila bipunctifera*, *Tetanocera discalis*, *Trypeta alcinoe*, *Trypeta basalis* and *Trypeta viana* are resolved from a study of their types. Two taxa represent valid senior names: *Rioxa discalis* (Walker), comb. nov. [= *Rioxa sumatrana* Enderlein, syn. nov.] from SE Asia and *Acanthonevroides basalis* (Walker), comb. nov. [= *Urophora bicolor* Macquart, syn. nov.] from South Australia; the others are new junior synonyms of *Dacopsis signata* (Walker), *Euphranta connexa* (Fabricius) and *Diarrhegma modestum* (Fabricius).

Introduction

Francis Walker described numerous species of Tephritidae from various parts of the world, many of them poorly characterised and often with the sex misstated. Most of his types were studied by Hardy (1959, 1966, 1982) and Foote (1964) but several taxa remained unresolved. Whilst working at The Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) in 1996, I was able to study types of five unresolved species present in the Museum collection, including two described originally in genera belonging to other families (Psilidae, Sciomyzidae). Two proved to represent senior available names for two taxa, one Australian and one Asian; the others are junior synonyms. These notes are designed to supplement entries in the forthcoming catalogue of world Tephritidae (Norrbom *et al.* in press).

Psila bipunctifera Walker

The type is a male, not female as stated by Walker (1860: 165), collected by Alfred Russell Wallace at Makassar [Ujung Padang], Sulawesi. It was not studied by Hardy (1959, 1966) but is a new junior synonym of *Dacopsis signata* (Walker), described at the same time from the same locality.

Tetanocera discalis Walker

The type is a male, described from 'Burmah' [Burma, now Myanmar] (Walker 1861: 321). It was not studied by Hardy (1959, 1966) but belongs in the new combination *Rioxa discalis* (Walker). It is a senior name for the SE Asian species hitherto known as *Rioxa sumatrana* Enderlein, syn. nov.

Trypeta alcinoe Walker

One male and one female are present in the collection. The male is labelled 'type' and has a determination label; it was designated lectotype by Hardy (1966, by inference of holotype). The type locality was not stated by Walker (1849: 1010) and remains unknown. It was retained in *Trypeta* Meigen by Hardy (1966) but is a new junior synonym of the European *Euphranta connexa* (Fabricius), known as far east as Ukraine and the Caucasus. *Tephritis dorsalis* Macquart (1851: 292) [not *Tephritis dorsalis* Macquart, 1835] is also a new synonym of *E. connexa*.

***Trypeta basalis* Walker**

The type is a female, designated lectotype by Hardy (1959, by inference of holotype). Walker (1853: 380) described it from 'Brazil', as stated on an accompanying label. Hardy (1959) and Foote (1964) considered it to be a species of *Xanthaciura* Hendel, the latter noting that no other Neotropical specimens were known. Hardy (1966) later suggested it might belong in a genus close to *Xanthaciura*. Examination of the type has shown it to belong in the Australian genus *Acanthonevroides* Permkam & Hancock, in the new combination *Acanthonevroides basalis* (Walker). This represents a senior name for the species hitherto known as *A. bicolor* (Macquart) [= *Urophora bicolor* Macquart], syn. nov. (Permkam and Hancock 1995). It is known only from South Australia and the type locality 'Brazil' is evidently erroneous.

***Trypeta viana* Walker**

The type is a male, described from an unknown locality (Walker 1849: 1006). Hardy (1966) was unable to place this species but noted that it resembled species of *Acanthonevra* Macquart. Study of the type has shown that this is a new junior synonym of *Diarrhagma modestum* (Fabricius) from India.

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