RESEARCH ARTICLE



Taxonomic and nomenclatural notes on Chinese species of Sarcophaga Meigen, 1824 (Diptera, Sarcophagidae)

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Abstract

New taxonomic and nomenclatural data are provided for Chinese species of *Sarcophaga* Meigen, 1824. Eight new synonyms are proposed: two at the genus level, *Magnicauda* Wei, 2005 **syn. nov.** = *Sarcophaga* Meigen, 1824 and *Leigongshanophaga* Lehrer & Wei, 2010 **syn. nov.** = *Sarcophaga* Meigen, 1824, two at the subgenus level, *Magnicauda* Wei, 2005 **syn. nov.** = *Pterosarcophaga* Ye, 1981 and *Leigongshanophaga* Lehrer & Wei, 2010 **syn. nov.** = *Cornexcisia* Fan & Kano, 2000, and four at the species level, *Sarcophaga catoptosa* Wei & Yang, 2007 **syn. nov.** = *Sarcophaga suthep* Pape & Bänziger, 2003, *Pierretia daozhenensis* Wei, 2005 **syn. nov.** = *Sarcophaga sichotealini* (Rohdendorf, 1938), *Pierretia autochthona* Wei & Yang, 2007 **syn. nov.** = *Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) kanoi* Park, 1962, and *Parasarcophaga simultaneousa* Wei & Yang, 2007 **syn. nov.** = *Sarcophaga huangshanensis* (Fan, 1964). *Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) aegyptica* Salem, 1935 is considered a senior synonym of *Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) parkeri* (Rohdendorf, 1937). Correct original spellings are established, by First Reviser action, for the genus-group names *Magnicauda* Wei, 2005 and *Pterosarcophaga* Ye, 1981 and for the species-group name *Magnicauda linjiangensis* Wei, 2005. Chinese material of *Sarcophaga (Bellieriomima) genuforceps, S. (Robineauella) huangshanensis* (holotype and paratype), *S. (Liosarcophaga) kanoi*, and *S. (L.) aegyptica* is photographed for the first time.

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Keywords

Leigongshanophaga, Magnicauda, new synonyms, nomenclature, original spellings, revision, Sarcophaga, taxonomy

Introduction

Sarcophaga Meigen, 1824 (*sensu lato*) is by far the largest genus in the Sarcophagidae, and with upwards of a thousand species it is also one of the largest genera of Diptera (Whitmore et al. 2013; Wang et al. 2019, 2020; Evenhuis and Pape 2021). The genus is widespread, and the adults are very homogeneous in their external morphology and often recognizable at the species level only through a detailed study of the male terminalia (Buenaventura et al. 2017), for which professional skills as well as considerable experience are needed. The uniformity in external appearance stands in strong contrast to the marked structural complexity of the male terminalia, where phallic morphology in particular has diversified through the evolution of variously shaped appendages, the homologies of which are often obscure. The diversity and variability of the male terminalia, combined with the practical need to break up the large *Sarcophaga* (*sensu lato*) into smaller taxa, has brought about a high number of genus-level and species-level synonyms (Pape 1996; Wang et al. 2019, 2020). Ongoing studies of the Chinese fauna of *Sarcophaga* has led to the recognition of several new synonyms, which are presented here together with relevant taxonomic and nomenclatural details.

Material and methods

Specimens examined or otherwise mentioned are deposited at the following institutions:

CDCP	Center for Disease Control and Prevention of Anshun city, Guizhou
	province, China;
MNHN	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France;
MBFU	Museum of Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China;
NHMD	Natural History Museum of Denmark;
SECA	Shanghai Entomological Museum, Chinese Academy of Sciences,
	Shanghai, China;
SMNH	Swedish Museum of Natural History.

Identifications were aided by the keys in the publication of Fan (1992), combined with extensive comparisons against specimens in the reference collections of MBFU and NHMD, supplemented by a library of images of male terminalia and the original descriptions. We follow Roback (1954), Downes (1965), Pape (1996), Pape and Dahlem (2010), Giroux et al. (2010), Richet et al. (2011), Whitmore et al. (2013), Buenaventura et al. (2017), and Buenaventura and Pape (2018) in a broad definition of the genus *Sarcophaga*. External morphology was examined with an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope, and pho-

tographs were taken with a Canon 600D camera mounted on the same microscope. Images were processed in Adobe Photoshop CS 6 (Adobe Systems, Inc., San Jose, CA, USA) and stacked in Helicon Focus 3.2 (Helicon Soft Ltd, Kharkov, Ukraine). Inked illustrations were done by tracing over a photograph or figures from the original descriptions. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999) is referred to as "the Code".

Taxonomy and nomenclature

Genus Sarcophaga Meigen, 1824

- Sarcophaga Meigen, 1824: 305. Type species: *Musca carnaria* Linnaeus, 1758, by subsequent designation of Partington (1837: 607).
- *Magnicauda* Wei, 2005: 405. Type species: *Magnicauda linjiangensis* Wei, 2005, by original designation. Syn. nov.
- *Maginicauda*: Wei (2005: 409). Incorrect original spelling of *Magnicauda*, by First Reviser action in the present paper.
- *Leigongshanophaga* Lehrer & Wei, 2010: 8. Type species: *Sarcophaga catoptosa* Wei & Yang, 2007 [= *Sarcophaga suthep* Pape & Bänziger, 2003], by original designation. Syn. nov. For other synonyms, see Pape (1996).

Remarks. Verves and Khrokalo (2020: 204) proposed *Leigongshanophaga* Lehrer & Wei, 2010 as a new synonym of the valid genus *Rosellea* Rohdendorf, 1937, but Xue et al. (2011: 320) proposed the same earlier. As argued below, we consider *Sarcophaga catoptosa* Wei & Yang, 2007, which is the type species of *Leigongshanophaga* Lehrer & Wei, 2010, to be a synonym of *Sarcophaga suthep* Pape & Bänziger, 2003, syn. nov., and we follow Wang et al. (2019) in treating this species in *Sarcophaga* subgenus *Cornexcisia* Fan & Kano, 2000.

Subgenus Bellieriomima Rohdendorf, 1937

Bellieriomima Rohdendorf, 1937: 164 (as subgenus of *Thyrsocnema* Enderlein, 1928). Type species: *Sarcophaga laciniata* Pandellé, 1896 [= *Sarcophaga subulata* Pandellé, 1896], by original designation.

Sarcophaga (Bellieriomima) genuforceps Thomas, 1949

Figs 1, 2

Sarcophaga genuforceps Thomas, 1949: 172. China, Sichuan, Chungking, Chinyunshan. Pierretia catharosa Wei & Yang, 2007: 530. China, Guizhou, Leigongshan.

Material examined. 1Å, CHINA, Zhejiang, Tianmu Mountain, 600–1100 m, 30.vi.1964, Huitai Fang leg. (SECA).

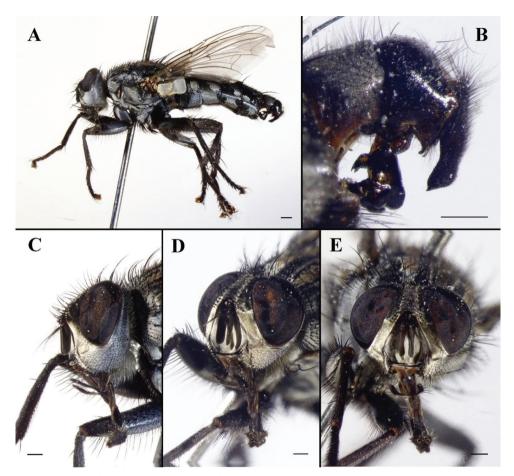


Figure I. *Sarcophaga (Bellieriomima) genuforceps* Thomas, 1949; male (China, Zhejiang, Tianmu Mountain; in SECA) **A** habitus, lateral view **B** terminalia, lateral view **C** head, lateral view **D** head, anterolateral view **E** head, anterior view. Scale bars: 1 mm.

Remarks. The holotype of *Pierretia catharosa* is deposited in CDCP and not currently available for loan and study. Verves (2020: 36) listed *P. catharosa* as a junior synonym of *S. genuforceps*, although not as a new synonym. Wei and Yang (2007) gave a detailed description and a somewhat schematical illustration of the phallus (Fig. 2B), which is here considered sufficient justification for the synonymy. Xue and Verves (2009: 53) considered *S. genuforceps* to belong to *Pachystyleta* Fan & Chen, 1992, as a subgenus of *Myorhina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, whereas Lehrer (2010: 18) raised *Pachystyleta* as a synonym of *Bellieriomima* and the latter as a subgenus of *Sarcophaga* (*sensu lato*).



Figure 2. *Sarcophaga (Bellieriomima) genuforceps* Thomas, 1949; phallus, lateral view **A** adapted from Lehrer (2012) **B** adapted from Wei and Yang (2007, as *Pierretia catharosa*).

Subgenus Cornexcisia Fan & Kano, 2000

- *Cornexcisia* Fan & Kano, 2000: 251. Type species: *Cornexcisia longicornuta* Fan & Kano, 2000, by original designation.
- *Leigongshanophaga* Lehrer & Wei, 2010: 8. Type species: *Sarcophaga catoptosa* Wei & Yang, 2007 [= *Sarcophaga suthep* Pape & Bänziger, 2003], by original designation. Syn. nov.

Sarcophaga (Cornexcisia) suthep Pape & Bänziger, 2003 Fig. 3

Sarcophaga suthep Pape & Bänziger, 2003: 52. Thailand, Chiang Mai Province, Doi Suthep.

Sarcophaga catoptosa Wei & Yang, 2007: 531. China, Guizhou, Leigongshan. Syn. nov. Sarcophaga sutbeb: Wei and Yang 2007: 532. Incorrect subsequent spelling of S. suthep Pape & Bänziger, 2003.

Material examined. *Holotype* of *S. suthep*: ∂, Thailand, Chiang Mai Province, Doi Suthep, above Sangwal School, 1240 m, 28.viii.2000, H. Bänziger (in SMNH;

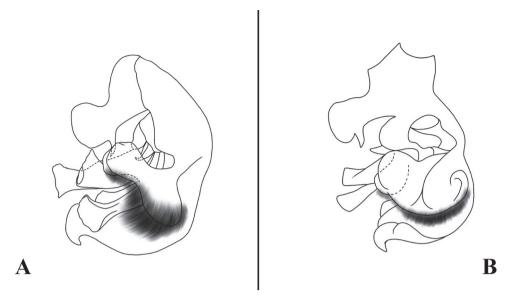


Figure 3. *Sarcophaga* (*Cornexcisia*) *suthep* Pape & Bänziger, 2003; phallus, lateral view **A** adapted from Pape and Bänziger (2003) **B** adapted from Wei and Yang (2007, as *Sarcophaga catoptosa*).

specimen dissected and with terminalia glued to a piece of cardboard pinned below the specimen).

Remarks. The holotype of *Sarcophaga catoptosa* is deposited in CDCP and not currently available for loan and study. Wei and Yang (2007) described the lateral styli as bifurcated at the base and expanded at the apex (Fig. 3). This unique character in *Sarcophaga* is shared by *S. suthep* and other species assigned to the subgenus *Cornexcisia*. We consider the following compelling similarities between the nominal species *S. suthep* and *S. catoptosa*, as assessed from the illustrations of the phallus (Fig. 3), to justify the proposed synonymy: vesica of identical shape; juxta, harpes and lateral styli differing only by small differences in the outline, and this involves membranous parts that are often presenting themselves very differently due to shrinking during drying or other preparation. Wei and Yang (2007) stressed the following difference between *catoptosa* and *suthep*: the protuberance of former cerci is slightly narrower than the latter in dorsal view and the hind margin of former pregonite is wavy bending with a sharper tip, but those differences are minor. They still have the same shape, only varying in degree. Therefore, we consider these to be intraspecific differences.

Subgenus Liosarcophaga Enderlein, 1928

Liosarcophaga Enderlein, 1928:18. Type species: *Cynomya madeirensis* Schiner, 1868, by original designation.

Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) aegyptica Salem, 1935

Fig. 4

- *Sarcophaga dux aegyptica* Salem, 1935: 56. Egypt, Alexandria; Egypt, Abbassieh; Egypt, Monsouriah.
- *Parasarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) parkeri* Rohdendorf, 1937: 217. Ukraine, south shore of Crimea.

Material examined. 13, CHINA, Qinghai, Minhe, 22.vii.1976, Shaoyuan Ma leg. (SECA). Remarks. There has been disagreement among authors as to whether *Parasar-cophaga parkeri* is a valid species or a junior synonym of *S. aegyptica*. Rohdendorf (1937) evidently knew Salem's (1935) work on *Sarcophaga* (s.l.) from Egypt, but he did not study any material identified as *S. aegyptica* and therefore quoted Salem's description. Furthermore, the diagnostic differences in the shape of the juxtal arms and

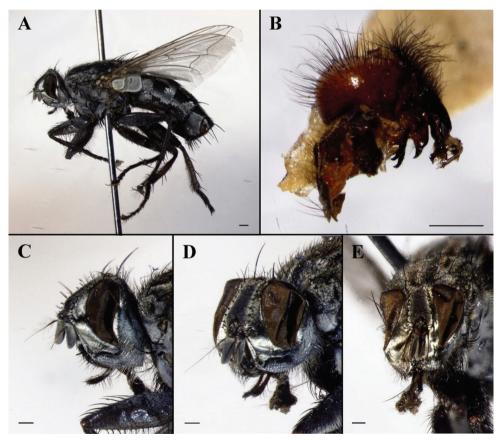


Figure 4. *Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) aegyptica* Salem, 1935; male (China, Qinghai; in SECA) **A** habitus, lateral view **B** terminalia, lateral view **C** head, lateral view **D** head, anterolateral view **E** head, anterior view. Scale bars: 1 mm.

harpes outlined in the key by Rohdendorf (1937: 440) were assessed based on Salem's illustrations. Gregor and Povolný (1960) synonymized the two nominal species, which was accepted by Rohdendorf (1970), and these taxa have since been considered either as separate species, e.g., by Lehrer (1995), Pape (1996), El-Ahmady et al. (2018), and Verves and Khrokalo (2020), or as synonyms, e.g., by Xue and Chao (1998), Nandi (2002), Povolný and Hula (2004), and Richet et al. (2011). The recent conspectus of Egyptian species of *Sarcophaga* (s.l.) by El-Ahmady et al. (2018) separated *aegyptica* and *parkeri* by vesica with two short processes apically and narrow harpes (*aegyptica*) versus vesica with three short processes apically and broad harpes (*parkeri*). The material at our disposal was not sufficient for a thorough assessment of the relevant morphological characters, but we have the impression that both the vesica and the harpes are variable structures, which furthermore present themselves very differently depending on the type of preparation and condition of the specimen. We have therefore chosen a conservative approach and consider the two nominal taxa as synonyms.

Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) kanoi Park, 1962

Fig. 5

Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) kanoi Park, 1962: 6. South Korea, Taegu, Mt Pal-gong. Pierretia autochthona Wei & Yang, 2007: 529. China, Guizhou, Leigongshan. Syn. nov. Pierretia autochtona: Verves 2020: 37, incorrect subsequent spelling of *P. autochthona*.

Material examined. 1⁽²⁾, CHINA, Shanghai (Zi-Ka-Wei), 3.ix.1917, no further data (MNHN). 1⁽³⁾, CHINA, Hunan, Anxiang, Guandang, 20–21.vii.2012, Ming Zhang leg.; 1⁽³⁾, CHINA, Hunan, Anxiang, Guandang, 7.vii.2013, Ming Zhang leg.; 3⁽³⁾, CHINA, Hubei, Shishou, Gaoling, 8.vii.2013, Ming Zhang leg.; 1⁽³⁾, CHINA, Beijing, Beijing Forestry University, 9.vii.2016, Miao Jiang & Yunyun Gao leg. (MBFU).

Remarks. Wei and Yang (2007) considered *P. autochthona* as close to *S. (Pseudo-thyrsocnema) caudagalli* Böttcher, 1912, but we are here proposing a synonymy with *S. (L.) kanoi*. Wei and Yang (2007: fig. 72) illustrated the phallus of the holotype of *P. autochthona* as having a short, arm-like extension arising from the left lateral part of the distiphallus (probably the proximal part of the juxta) and a long, slender, process arising from the right lateral part of the distiphallus (Fig. 6). We consider this apparent asymmetry to be an artefact, and possibly an inaccuracy of the original illustration. This could not be confirmed because the holotype of *P. autochthona*, deposited in CDCP, has not been available for study through ordinary loan.

Subgenus Phallantha Rohdendorf, 1938

Phallantha Rohdendorf, 1938: 101. Type species: *Phallantha sichotealini* Rohdendorf, 1938, by original designation.

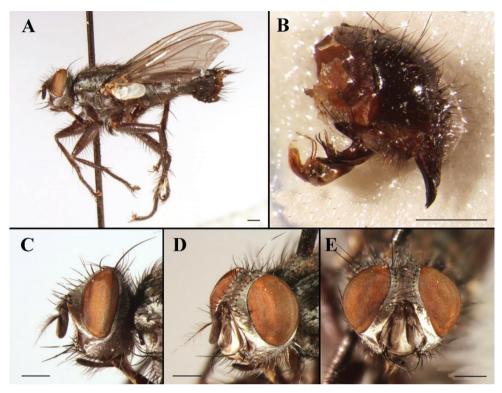


Figure 5. *Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) kanoi* Park, 1962; male (China, Hubei; in MBFU) **A** habitus, lateral view **B** terminalia, lateral view **C** head, lateral view **D** head, anterolateral view **E** head, anterior view. Scale bars: 1 mm.

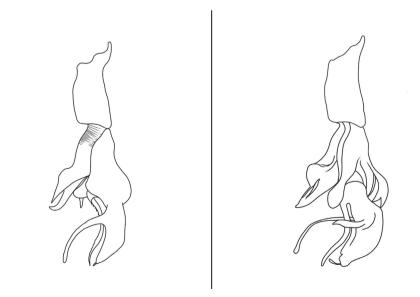


Figure 6. *Sarcophaga (Liosarcophaga) kanoi* Park, 1962; phallus, lateral view **A** adapted from Lehrer (2012) **B** adapted from Wei & Yang (2007, as *Pierretia autochthona*).

A

B

Sarcophaga (Phallantha) sichotealini (Rohdendorf, 1938) Fig. 7

- *Phallantha sichotealini* Rohdendorf, 1938: 102. Russia, Primorye, Sikhote-Alin State Reservation.
- *Pierretia daozhenensis* Wei in Wei & Yang, 2005: 424. China, Guizhou, Daozhen, Dashahe. Syn. nov.

Material examined. 1Å, RUSSIA, Primorye, SE Ussurijsk, 8.viii.1983, A. Ozerov leg. (NHMD). 1Å, China, Sichuan, Baoxing, 8.v.1981, unknown leg.; 1Å, China, Sichuan, Ya'an, 29.iv.2002, unknown leg. (SECA).

Remarks. The holotype of *P. daozhenensis* is deposited in CDCP and not currently available for loan and study. This nominal species was not included by Verves (2020), probably in an oversight. Wei (2005) described the vesica as flower-like, the cerci as having pointed apices and being slightly bent in lateral view, and the juxtal

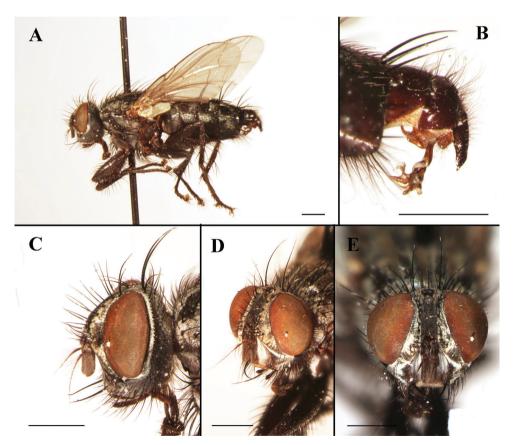


Figure 7. *Sarcophaga (Phallantha) sichotealini* (Rohdendorf, 1938); male (China, Sichuan; in SECA) **A** habitus, lateral view **B** terminalia, lateral view **C** head, lateral view **D** head, anterolateral view **E** head, anterior view. Scale bars: 1 mm.

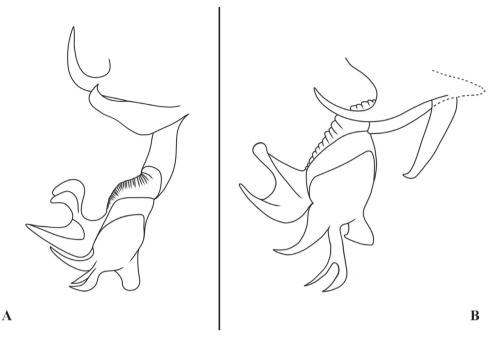


Figure 8. *Sarcophaga (Phallantha) sichotealini* Rohdendorf, 1938; phallus, lateral view **A** illustrated from figure 7B **B** adapted from Wei and Yang (2005, as *Pierretia daozhenensis*).

extension as well developed, flexed at its base and bent forward apically (Fig. 4). All of these features are consistent with S. sichotealini, and we consider the illustrations of the phallus provided by Xue and Chao (1998: 677, fig. 1332 m), and Wei and Yang (2005: fig. 3) to be a fully acceptable match (Fig. 8). We notice that Wei and Yang (2005) mentioned that P. daozhenensis was assigned to Pierretia using the key by Xue and Chao (1998), but the species was not assigned to any of the subgenera applied by Xue and Chao (1998), which includes *Phallantha*. Wei and Yang (2005) made no discussion about the subgeneric affiliation of P. daozhenensis, and there is no comparison with *P. sichotealini* in spite of the significant similarities with the illustration provided by Xue and Chao (1998). Vesica and harpes are of the same overall configuration, and as these are composed of flattened, partly membranous structures, even small changes in orientation may result in considerable changes in outline. The juxta has a very characteristic shape, with an almost exact match. Sarcophaga (P.) sichotealini is distributed in China (Guizhou, Hunan, Sichuan, Yunnan), the Russian Far East, South Korea, and temperate Japan (Pape 1996; Xue and Chao 1998; Verves 2020).

Subgenus Pterosarcophaga Ye, 1981

Pterosarcophaga Ye, 1981: 229. Type species: *Pterosarcophaga emeishanensis* Ye & Ni, 1981, by original designation.

- *Pterosacophaga*: Ye 1981: 230. Incorrect original spelling of *Pterosarcophaga*, by First Reviser action of Ye (1982: 21).
- *Magnicauda* Wei, 2005: 405. Type species: *Magnicauda linjiangensis* Wei, 2005, by original designation. Syn. nov.
- *Maginicauda*: Wei 2005: 409. Incorrect original spelling of *Magnicauda*, by First Reviser action in the present paper.

Remarks. Monotypic subgenera in *Sarcophaga (sensu lato)* are often erected for lack of evidence as to their phylogenetic relationships, and as such they convey little if any information. We prefer a classification based on similarities rather than on differences, and as Wei (2005) considered *Magnicauda* to be closely related to *Pterosarcophaga* due to the male cerci of the type species of both subgenera being expanded, wing-like, in lateral view, we are here treating the two nominal subgenera as synonyms.

Ye in Ye and Ni (1981) provided two different spellings: "*Pterosarcophaga*" (pp. 229, 232, 233) and "*Pterosacophaga*" (p. 230). By using only the spelling "*Pterosarcophaga*", Ye (1982: 21) acted as First Reviser according to Article 24.2.4 of the Code.

Wei (2005) provided two different spellings: "Magnicauda" (pp. 404–406, 408) and "Maginicauda" (p. 409). Since then, the only mention of this genus-group name we have found is that of Verves (2020: 48); however, as only the spelling "Maginicauda" was used, the criteria of Article 24.2.3 for a First Reviser action were not fulfilled. Wei (2005) did not provide an explicit etymology, but the description of a remarkably broad male cercus is here taken to indicate that "Magnicauda" was the intended spelling. This is supported by the repeated use of this spelling, whereas the spelling "Maginicauda" was used only once. We herewith select "Magnicauda" to be the correct original spelling, by First Reviser action.

Sarcophaga (Pterosarcophaga) linjiangensis (Wei, 2005) Fig. 9

Magnicauda linjiangensis Wei, 2005: 405. China, Guizhou, Xishui, Linjiang National Nature Reserve.

linjianensis: Wei 2005: 408, incorrect original spelling of *linjiangensis* Wei, 2005, by First Reviser action in the present paper.

Material examined. None.

Remarks. This species can be distinguished from other species of *Sarcophaga* by the flag-like pregonite. Wei (2005) provided two different spellings: "*linjiangensis*" (pp. 404–406, 409) and "*linjianensis*" (p. 408). Since then, the only mention of the species we have found is that of Verves (2020: 48); however, as only the spelling "*linjiangensis*" was used, the criteria for a First Reviser action were not fulfilled (see Art. 24.2.3 of the Code). As the species was evidently named after its type locality, we herewith select "*linjiangensis*" as the correct original spelling by First Reviser action.

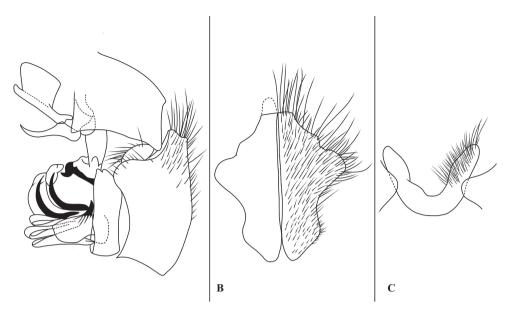


Figure 9. *Sarcophaga (Pterosarcophaga) linjiangensis* (Wei, 2005); male terminalia **A** terminalia, lateral view **B** cerci, dorsal view **C** sternite 5, ventral view. (Adapted from Wei 2005).

Subgenus Robineauella Enderlein, 1928

Robineauella Enderlein, 1928: 23 (as subgenus of *Parasarcophaga* Johnston & Tiegs, 1921). Type species: *Sarcophaga scoparia* Pandellé, 1896 [= *Sarcophaga caerulescens* Zetterstedt, 1838], by original designation.

Sarcophaga (Robineauella) huangshanensis (Fan, 1964)

Figs 10–12

- Parasarcophaga (Robineauella) huangshanensis Fan, 1964: 312. China, Anhui, Huang-Shan.
- Parasarcophaga simultaneousa Wei & Yang, 2007: 528. China, Guizhou, Leigongshan. Syn. nov.

Material examined. *Holotype* of *Parasarcophaga* (*Robineauella*) *huangshanensis* Fan, 1964: ♂, CHINA, Anhui, Huangshan, 19.vi.1936, [unknown collector] [terminalia not recovered]. *Paratypes:* 2♂♂, CHINA, Zhejiang, Tianmu mountain, 1100 m, 5.vii.1962, Zhizi Chen leg. (SECA).

Remarks. We examined the type series of *S.* (*R.*) *huangshanensis* and found that the male terminalia are a close match with the description and illustrations provided for *P. simultaneousa* (Figs 11, 12). The most important difference would be

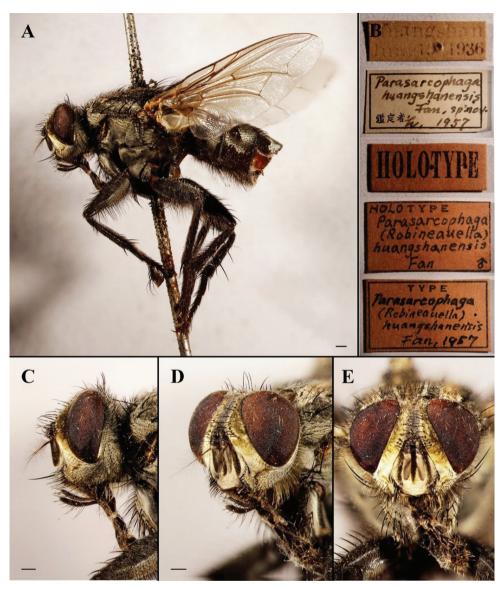


Figure 10. *Sarcophaga (Robineauella) huangshanensis* (Fan, 1964); holotype (China, Anhui; in SECA) **A** habitus, lateral view **B** labels **C** head, lateral view **D** head, anterolateral view **E** head, anterior view. Scale bars: 1 mm.

the difference in thickness of the proximal part of the juxtal processes, but this is here considered as infraspecific variation. Wei and Yang (2007) noted that this species could be confused with *S. (Liosarcophaga) kitaharai* Miyazaki, 1958; however, the latter, as a member of *Liosarcophaga* Rohdendorf, 1937, has a distiphallus with a better-developed dorso-median juxtal extension and an almost right-angled apico-dorsal part of juxta (Figs 11b, 12b, c). Lehrer (2012) examined the holotype

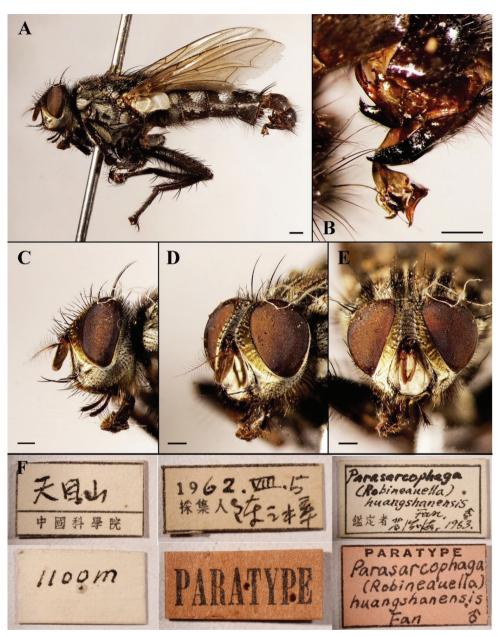


Figure 11. *Sarcophaga (Robineauella) huangshanensis* (Fan, 1964); paratype (China, Anhui; in SECA) **A** habitus, lateral view **B** terminalia, lateral view **C** head, lateral view **D** head, anterolateral view **E** head, anterior view **F** labels. Scale bars: 1 mm.

of *S. simultaneousa* and mentioned a similarity to *R. daurica* Grunin, 1964 and *R. mendeliana* Lehrer, 2008 (as "*mendelliana*"); however, he did not mention *S. (R.) huangshanensis*, maybe by an oversight.

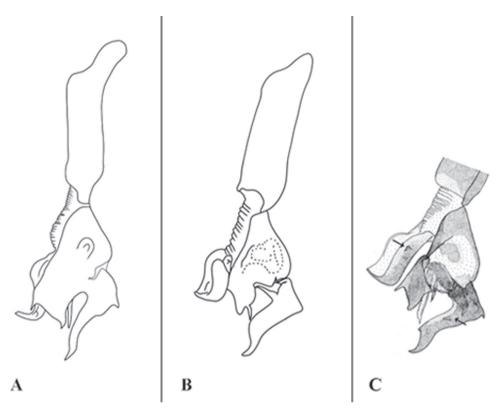


Figure 12. *Sarcophaga (Robineauella) huangshanensis* (Fan, 1964); phallus, lateral view **A** adapted from Fan (1964) **B** adapted from Wei and Yang (2007, as *Parasarcophaga simultaneousa*) **C** adapted from Lehrer (2012, as *Robineauella simultaneousa*).

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