

P P R E F A C E

A comprehensive account of the Taxonomy of Sarcophagidae from West Bengal is presented in this work. The Chapter 1 dealing with Taxonomy is mostly based on collections made by the author from different parts of West Bengal, - from the foot-hills of the Himalayas to the shores of Bay of Bengal. The author could also examine a fair large number of specimens in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. More than 22 identified species of the family, from different parts of the world was received from Dr. H. S. Lopes of Academia Brasileira de Ciências, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for reference and aid to study.

A total of 37 species, under 15 genera of the tribe Sarcophagini, are included in the present work. Of these, 12 are new to science and 12 are being recorded for the first time from West Bengal. Female are described only if they were collected either in copula or were reared in the laboratory. Reprints of 2 papers, dealing with 3 new and two known species of the group are being attached under addenda.

An attempt has been made, for the first time, to study the Taxonomy of the immature forms of some of these flies from India.

The author is thankful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for permission to work on the material and also for laboratory facilities.

The author is indebted to Dr. A. N. T. Joseph of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for valuable suggestions and encouragement.

The author wishes to record his gratitude to Dr. P. T. Cherian of the Zoological Survey of India, for his constant support and untiring help throughout the course of the work. He was kind enough to go through the manuscript and suggest improvements.

Valuable help rendered by all the Research Assistants in the Diptera Section of the Zoological Survey of India is acknowledged.

The author expresses his thanks to Dr. H. S. Lopes of Academia Brasileira de Ciências, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for his constant help from the very beginning of this work. Dr. Lopes was kind enough to supply relevant literature and sent suggestions and comments about the identity of the species which were referred to him. Dr. Lopes also very kindly sent to the author about 22 identified species from various parts of the world for reference and comparison.

The author also wishes to express his thanks to Prof. B. B. Rehdendorf of the Palaeontological Institute, Leningrad, U.S.S.R.; to Prof. P. Kane of Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan; to Dr. H. Kurahashi of the Department of Medical Entomology, National Institute of Health, Tokyo, Japan; to M. T. James of the Washington State University, Department of Entomology, Washington; and to Dr. F. Zumpt of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg, South Africa, for providing valuable literature on the subject.

Thanks are due to Prof. S. K. Dasgupta, Head of the Department of Zoology, Hooghly Mahesin College, for suggestions and useful comments.

The Research Fellowship granted to the author by the Govt. of India, Department of Science and Technology, is also duly acknowledged

Finally, the author wants to express his deep sense of gratitude to Prof. B. Dasgupta, Principal, Darjeeling Govt. College, for constant encouragement and invaluable guidance received at every stage of the work.