



Article

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Sir Richard Owen's fly, *Gyrostigma rhinocerontis* (Diptera: Oestridae): correction of the authorship and date, with a list of animal names newly proposed by Owen in his little-known 1830 catalogue

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Abstract

The authorship and date of publication of *Oestrus rhinocerontis* is corrected from the Rev. F.W. Hope in 1840 to Sir Richard Owen in 1830. A list of new names proposed in Owen (1830) is given, many of which are earlier than published elsewhere and have been missed by previous workers. Additionally, the name *Gyrostigma rhinocerontis bicornis* Brauer is shown to be an available name dating from Brauer (1896).

Key words: Diptera, Oestridae, *Oestrus*, *Gyrostigma*, nomenclature

Introduction

The largest fly in Africa, *Gyrostigma rhinocerontis* (Fig. 1), a rhinoceros stomach bot fly recently discussed in an excellent overview article by Barraclough (2006), has long been attributed to the Rev. F.W. Hope (1840) in his paper on the bots of humans. In that paper, there is no description of the fly but the name is mentioned as a bot of the rhinoceros, named as "*Oestrus rhinocerontis*, Owen", and illustrated in figures 1 and 1a of plate 22 (Fig. 2) that accompanied that work (the illustration of it making the name available). Despite future workers giving credit of the name to Hope, Hope was correct when attributing the name to Owen, yet apparently the source of Owen's authorship has not been traced until now.

Discovery of an earlier date

Recent work by a colleague on the dating of decapods led to the discovery of a work by Owen (1830) in which Owen had made an inventory of the spirit collections of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. The catalogue by Owen (Fig. 3) contained some names of crabs that were earlier than subsequent publications. I examined the contents of that work and found a few names of previously described species, but only one new fly name. It is listed with scanty but enough characters to make the name available there as *Oestrus rhinocerontis* (Fig. 4). Thus, the year of publication of this name should be 1830 and not 1840, and the work by Hope (1840: 259, pl. 22, figs. 1, 1a) is thus merely a listing of the earlier publication of the name and not a new proposal of the name.

The question of authorship

Changing the date of availability of *Oestrus rhinocerontis* from 1840 to 1830 is clear. However, authorship of the 1830 name is a bit more complicated. The ICZN Code (Article 50) (I.C.Z.N. 1999) states that if there is no evidence within the work as to authorship of the name, the author should be considered anonymous. There is no author listed on the title page of the 1830 catalogue and there is no author for the "Advertisement" at the beginning