

## Family TACHINIDAE

The Tachinidae are one of the most successful and diverse families of Diptera, the larvae of almost all being endoparasitic of various other insects. Over 8,000 species have been described worldwide, making the family the second largest in the Diptera (if the Tipulidae are considered as one). Adults of extant forms are primarily large and conspicuous in form and may be found on foliage, flowers, tree trunks, or in search of hosts. Larvae are the parasitic forms and attack a wide variety of insect hosts.

The fossil record of the family includes 10 species in 8 genera. All are of either Tertiary or Quaternary origin, the oldest record being the genera *Electrotachina* Townsend and *Palaeotachina* Townsend from the Eocene/Oligocene Baltic amber.

In addition to the determined forms listed below, undetermined material of this family has been recorded from the Oligocene/Miocene amber of the Dominican Republic (Poinar, 1992; J. Brodzinsky, *in litt.*).

Ref.: Townsend (1942, review of fossil genera).

### Genus ELECTROTACHINA Townsend

**ELECTROTACHINA** Townsend, 1938: 166. Type species: *Electrotachina smithii* Townsend, 1938, by original designation.

**smithii** Townsend, 1938: 166. PA: Baltic Region (Eocene/Oligocene) [A].

### Genus LITHEXORISTA Townsend

**LITHEXORISTA** Townsend, 1921: 133. Type species: *Lithexorista scudderi* Townsend, 1921, by original designation.

**scudderi** Townsend, 1921: 133. NE: USA (Oligocene) [C].

### Genus LITHOTACHINA Townsend

**LITHOTACHINA** Townsend, 1921: 133. Type species: *Echinomyia antiqua* Heer, 1849, by monotypy.

**antiqua** Heer, 1849: 247 (*Echinomyia*). PA: Switzerland (Miocene) [C].

**Genus MUSCIDITES Heyden**

**MUSCIDITES** Heyden & Heyden, 1866: 157. Type species: *Muscidites deperditus* Heyden & Heyden, 1866, by monotypy.

**deperditus** Heyden & Heyden, 1866: 157. PA: Germany (Oligocene) [C].

**Genus PALAEOTACHINA Townsend**

**PALAEOTACHINA** Townsend, 1921: 134. Type species: *Palaeotachina smithii* Townsend, 1921, by original designation.

**smithii** Townsend, 1921: 134. PA: Baltic Region (Eocene/Oligocene) [A].

**Genus PALEXORISTA Townsend**

\***PALEXORISTA** Townsend, 1921: 134. Type species: *Tachina succini* Giebel, 1862 [= *Masicera solennis* Walker, 1858], by original designation.

\***PROSTURMIA** Townsend, 1927: 69. Type species: *Prosturmia profana* Townsend, 1927 [= *Masicera solennis* Walker, 1858], by original designation.

**succini** Giebel, 1862: 319 (*Tachina*). LU (Holocene) [K].

*solennis* Walker, 1858. ← *profana* Townsend, 1927. ...

**Genus TACHINA Meigen**

**TACHINA** Meigen, 1803: 280. Type species: *Musca grossa* Linnaeus, 1758, by subsequent designation of Brauer (1893: 489).

Unidentified sp.—PA: Switzerland (Miocene) [C] (Schöberlin, 1888: 68).

**Genus VINCULOMUSCA Townsend**

**VINCULOMUSCA** Townsend, 1938: 166. Type species: *Musca vinculata* Scudder, 1877, by original designation.

**vinculata** Scudder, 1877a: 758 (*Musca*). NE: USA (Eocene) [C].

**Unplaced Species of TACHINIDAE**

**media** Meunier, 1905e: 212 (*Thryptocera*). AF: Tanzania (Pleistocene/Holocene) [K].

**multiciliata** Meunier, 1905d: 91 (*Myobia*). AF: Madagascar (Holocene) [K].