

## A NEW GENUS OF ANTHRACINAE (DIPTERA: BOMBYLIIDAE) FROM INDIA

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*Abstract:* A new genus, *Meganthrax*, represented by the type-species, *Meganthrax bipunctatus*, is described and illustrated.

Three specimens examined of *Anthrax bipunctatus* Fabricius in the collections of the Bishop Museum (BISHOP) represent a new genus of Anthracinae most closely allied to the Neotropical *Walkeromyia* Paramonov. Its extremely large size (12–16 mm) and the conical shape of the 3rd antennal segment easily separates it from other Oriental anthracine flies.

### *Meganthrax* Evenhuis, new genus

*Length.* 12–16 mm. Body color generally black to brown clothed with short black pile and tomentum; antennal segment III conical, with pencil of hairs at apex; wing tinted brown basally fading toward wing margin; proximal ends of veins  $R_{2+3}$  and  $R_4$  with spur veins; 1st posterior cell much narrowed at wing margin; vein at base of 3rd posterior cell strongly angled.

*Type of genus.* *Anthrax bipunctatus* Fabricius.

Using Hull's (1973) key to the subfamily Anthracinae, *Meganthrax* comes closest to *Walkeromyia* Paramonov, but lacks the prominent fringe of long scales on the hind legs that characterizes that interesting Neotropical genus. Its large size and male genitalic characters ally it to both *Walkeromyia* and the *Anthrax tigrinus* group of Marston (1970). *Meganthrax* can be separated from the latter group by the shape of the 3rd antennal segment and the lack of wing patterning.

***Meganthrax bipunctatus* (Fabricius), new combination** FIG. 1–5

*Anthrax bipunctata* Fabricius, 1805: 118.

*Anthrax carbonaria* Walker, 1852: 173.

*Argyramoeba bipunctata*: Brunetti, 1920: 217.

A male in the Universitets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen with the label "A. 2 punctata/Tranquebury" here designated lectotype. The specimen is greasy with some mold on the head.

♀. *Head* (FIG. 1) black, black pilose; eyes separated at vertex by  $3\times$  width of ocellar tubercle; antennae (FIG. 2) with segment I short, cylindrical, black pilose dorsally and laterally; segment II globular,  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of segment I, with shorter black pile than segment I; segment III large, cone-shaped, almost  $2\times$  length of segments I and II combined, bare except for ring of minute hairs at apex; style segment I small, cylindrical, with ring of longer hairs than on antennal segment III; apical stylar segment minute, cone-

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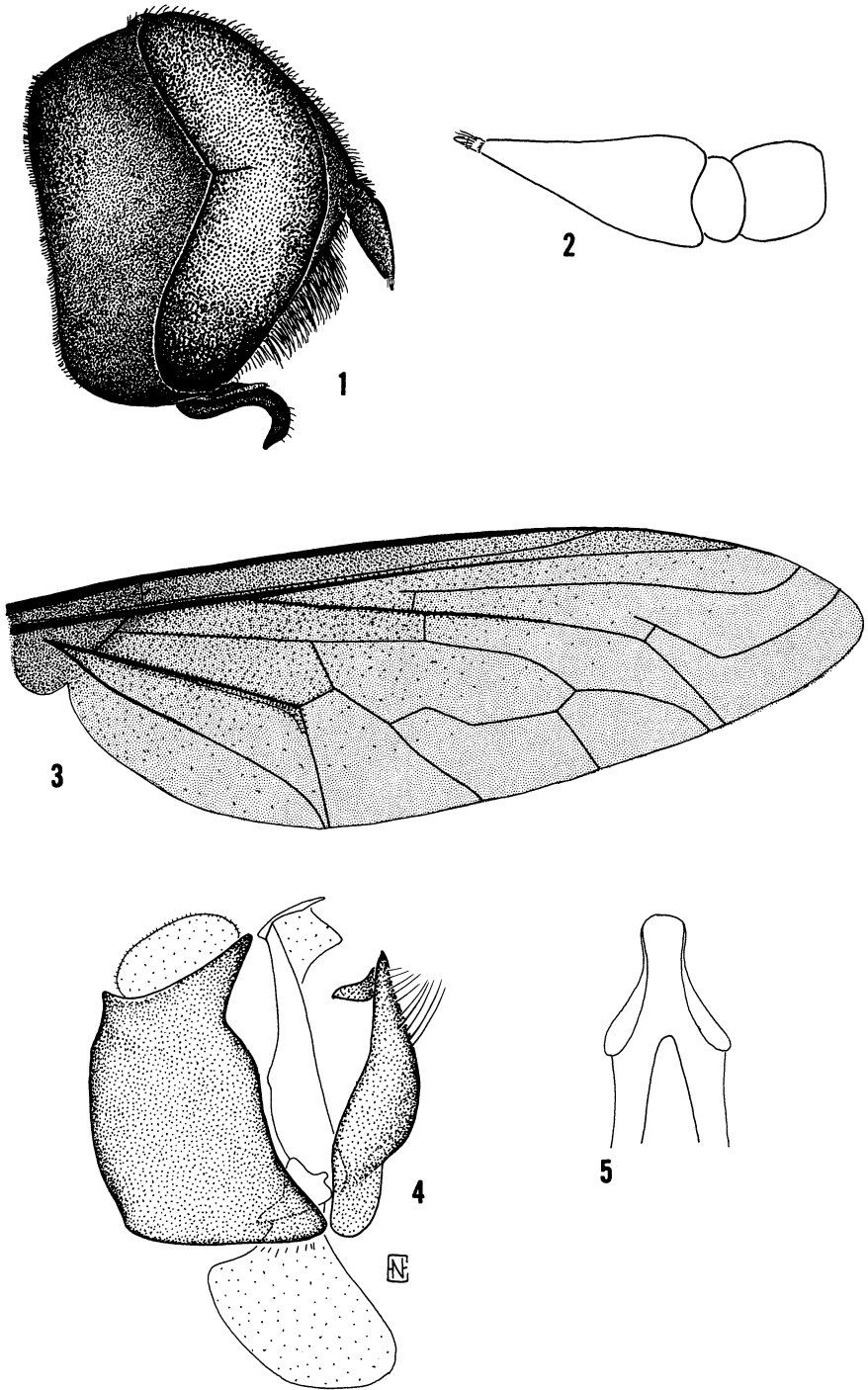


FIG. 1-5. *Meganthrax bipunctatus*: 1, head of ♀, lateral view; 2, antenna; 3, wing of ♂; 4, ♂ genitalia, lateral view; 5, apex of epiphallus, ventral view.

shaped, bare. *Thorax*. Scutum dull black, short black pilose and tomentose; postalar calli brown with short black pile; scutellum brown with black tomentum basally, long black hairs on posterior margin; pleura dark brown, black pilose on meso-, sterno-, and hypopleura, bare elsewhere; halteres dark brown with knob black dorsally. *Legs* brown; coxae with black pile and tomentum; femora with sparse black scales and fine black to brown pubescence; row of black spines on all femora, strongest on hind femur; tibiae with black scales, densest on hind tibia, and 2 rows of black spines; tarsi with numerous black spines; claws black, pulvilli  $\frac{1}{4}$  length of claw. *Wing* (FIG. 3): 18 mm in length; tinted brown basally, extending to end of vein R<sub>1</sub> and r-m crossvein, fading beyond to wing margin; costal cell dark brown; squama dark brown with black-brown fringe. *Abdomen* with tergites black; tergite I with transverse band of white scales posteriorly interrupted medially by black tomentum; tergites II–VII short black tomentose; sparse long black pile on posterior margins of all tergites; sternites I–II brown, sparse black pilose and tomentose; succeeding segments black, sparse black pilose and tomentose.

♂. Indistinguishable from ♀ except for darker tinting of the basal portion of the wing. Genitalia (FIG. 4–5) with basistylus subtriangular, rounded lobe basally; dististylus long, thin, with slightly hooked apex; apical portion of epiphallus strongly angled ventrally; basal apodeme subovular; epandrium larger than basistylus, subquadrate, with large pointed posteroventral process; cerci large, rounded.

*Material examined.* INDIA: Madras: 1 ♀, Madras Airport, IX.1959, P. S. Nathan (BISHOP); Pondicherry: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Karikal, IV.1958, P. S. Nathan (BISHOP).

*Meganthrax bipunctatus* is easily separated from any Oriental anthracine bombyliid by its large size and by the shape of the 3rd antennal segment.

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