

Gobryidae, a New Family of Acalyptrate Flies (Diptera: Diopsoidea), and a Discussion of Relationships of the Diopsoid Families

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ABSTRACT. Relationships among families referred to the superfamily Diopsoidea (or Nothyboidea) are discussed from the evidence of comparative morphology, particular attention being given to the Nothybidae, Psilidae, Syringogastridae, and Diopsidae. Some comments are made on selection of autapomorphies in cladistic methodology. The Tanypezidae and Somatiidae are removed from the Diopsoidea to *incertae sedis*. The new diopsoid family Gobryidae, or hinge flies, is established for the Oriental-Australasian genus *Gobrya* Walker, previously variously associated with the families Megamerinidae, Nothybidae, and Syringogastridae. A key to the families which have been included in Diopsoidea is given. A systematic arrangement of taxa mentioned in the discussion is appended.

MCALPINE, DAVID K., 1997. Gobryidae, a new family of acalyptrate flies (Diptera: Diopsoidea), and a discussion of relationships of the diopsoid families. *Records of the Australian Museum* 49(2): 167–194.

The genus *Gobrya* was described by Walker (1860) in the “Subfam. Psilides” of the family Muscidae. Walker’s only originally included species of *Gobrya* was *G. bacchoides* Walker, from Celebes, Indonesia (type species by monotypy).

Hendel (1913) treated *Gobrya* and his newly described genus *Syritomyia* in the “Megamerininae”, later raised to family rank as Megamerinidae. He separated *Syritomyia* from *Gobrya* because of the supposed reduction of the subcosta in the wing of the latter. This, however, was an error, as *Gobrya* consistently has a complete subcosta, and the two names were synonymised by Steyskal (1977). The Megamerinidae have commonly been referred to the superfamily Diopsoidea (subjective synonym Nothyboidea) following Hennig (1958), but D.

McAlpine (1997) transferred the Megamerinidae, excluding *Gobrya*, to the Nerioidea.

Gobrya is known from Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and New Guinea (Steyskal, 1977; and author’s observations). Steyskal listed five described species of *Gobrya* (loc. cit.), but has generously supplied me with a copy (dated 1967) of a preliminary manuscript key to seven species, two of them undescribed. I have on hand material of four species, at least one of which is not in Steyskal’s key. Hence, there are at least eight species of *Gobrya* in collections. I introduce the common name hinge flies for these insects, in reference to the hinge-like articulation between the thorax and abdomen (compare base of abdomen of *Gobrya*, Fig. 1, with that of *Nothybus*, Fig. 3).