

to raise what he rightly calls the "virtual blockade" in this group. The chief object of the author has been to make the species recognizable and their determination as easy as possible. To this end he has subordinated the desire so frequently prevalent among certain systematists to create a large number of genera. Had he not been conservative in this respect there is little doubt that no one but the author would have been able to recognize the genera. The author's remarks on this aspect of the subject will find much sympathy among working entomologists. He says: "A survey of the present status of the Muscoid Diptera indicates unmistakably that our great need is not more genera, but a more complete knowledge of species. The tendency of extreme generic specialization is to erect about itself impenetrable barriers of names, as is well illustrated by Desvoidy and Bauer. Genera conceived in this mental atmosphere are likely to be almost wholly subjective creations, which make no impression on the minds of others. The argument that the classification must express the relations has its dangers, partly from the subjective elements involved, and partly from the fact that the classification has also another important function—to provide us with names for our species, which should be as stable as possible if they are to have any usefulness. Furthermore, to separate a species from the genus in which it has been located expresses one relation, that of difference; but it obscures another, that of resemblance, which may be more important. One of the main objects of the present work is to make the identification of species as simple and certain as possible, and thus to attract biological and economic workers to the group. This object would inevitably be defeated by the erection of a considerable number of separated genera. These are the governing considerations which have prompted the preservation as nearly as practicable of the old genus *Sarcophaga*."

The species are separated on the characters of the genitalia which method of separation in this group was first employed by Parker in his study of the Sarcophagidæ of New England. The taxonomic value of the genitalia in different groups of insects, such as Diptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera and Mallophaga, is now being clearly demonstrated by different workers, and a valuable and