

31. Family RACHICERIDAE

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The family Rachiceridae contains 3 extant genera, *Gymnorhachicerus* Frey (1 sp.; Burma), *Paleorachicerus* Nagatomi (1 sp.; Philippines), and the more widespread *Rachicerus*. This family is here relegated to the superfamily Stratiomyoidea, comprising Xylomyiidae, Pantophthalmidae, Xylophagidae, Coenomyiidae, Exeretonevridae and Heterostomidae. The latter 4 (or 5) families and Rachiceridae belong to the Xylophagidae s. l.

Rachicerus is comprised of 66 species worldwide but is not known from Africa, Australia,

Chile, or Argentina. Six species from the Papuan Subregion [New Guinea, New Britain, and Indonesia (Maluku)] are distinguished from typical *Rachicerus* by having vein M₂ absent or rudimentary (Nagatomi 1985).

The immatures of *Rachicerus nitidus* Johnson from North America are known to be predaceous, and are found in decayed tree trunks (Greene 1926).

Ref: Nagatomi (1982b, key Papuan spp.).

Genus RACHICERUS Walker

RACHICERUS Walker, 1848: 124. *Nomen nudum*.

RACHICERUS Walker, 1854: 103. Type species: *Rachicerus fulvicollis* Walker, 1854, mon.

RHYPHOMORPHA Walker, 1861d: 275. Type species: *Rhyphomorpha bilinea* Walker, 1861, mon.

RHACHICERUS, error for *Rachicerus*.

bilineus Walker, 1861d: 275 (*Rhyphomorpha*). Indonesia (Maluku).

fluidus Nagatomi, 1970: 437. PNG (PNG).

samuelseni Nagatomi, 1982b: 45. PNG (PNG).

steffani Nagatomi, 1982b: 46. PNG (PNG).

tenuiculus Nagatomi, 1970: 457. PNG (Bismarck Arch).

tenuis Nagatomi, 1970: 468. Indonesia (Irian Jaya).