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The identity of *Culex perexiguus* Theobald versus *Cx. univittatus* Theobald in southern Europe

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The purpose of this note is to clarify the specific name of the species of *Culex* in southern Europe commonly known as *Culex univittatus*. It appears that continued use of the name *univittatus* Theobald, 1901 for this species stems from Minar (1991), who listed *perexiguus* Theobald, 1903 as a junior synonym of this epithet. Contrary to the evidence, I am surprised that *univittatus* is still in use for this taxon. It is obvious that Minar (1991) prepared his contribution to the Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera without knowledge of my monograph on the subgenus *Culex* in southwestern Asia (Harbach, 1988). It seems he only had access to literature that was 10-12 years out of date, and simply repeated what was listed in the world catalogue of mosquitoes by Knight & Stone (1977), which he incorrectly cited as 1978. He did not reference the supplement to the world catalogue by Knight (1978) which listed *Cx. perexiguus* as a valid species (after White, 1975). Furthermore, Minar apparently had no knowledge of the crossmating experiments performed by Jupp (1971) (*Cx. univittatus* x *Cx. neavei* Theobald) and Jupp & Harbach (1990) (*Cx. perexiguus* x *Cx. neavei*). The available data indicate that *Cx. univittatus* is restricted to the temperate highlands in the East African Subregion of the Afrotropical Region, while *Cx. perexiguus* inhabits more arid areas in eastern Africa and the Mediterranean Subregion of the Palaearctic. I have examined only a few specimens from southern Europe (Greece, Italy and Turkey), but these appear to be *Cx. perexiguus* based on characters of the male genitalia and larvae. Hence, based on the available evidence, the species of the *Univittatus* Complex that occurs in southern Europe should be regarded as *Cx. perexiguus* rather than *Cx. univittatus*.

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