

The names of European mosquitoes: Part 2

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This article is the second in a series to be published in the *Bulletin* to add meaning to the names of European mosquitoes. The first article appeared in issue number 3, pages 12-13. For each entry the name of the taxon is given together with the author and date and the reference to the original description. There is also either a quotation from the original description, translated where necessary, or a résumé indicating the author's reason for using the name in question. Where appropriate, a brief explanation of the etymology is provided. In some cases the explanation is not clear and correspondence to the author is invited and additional information will be included in future issues of the *Bulletin* as letters to the editors.

*Anopheles labranchiae* Falleroni, 1926

Falleroni, D. (1926) Fauna anofelica italiana e suo "habitat" (paludi, risaie, canali). Metodi di lotta contro la malaria. *Rivista di Malariologia* 5, 553-593.

Falleroni dedicated *An. claviger*, Mg., var. *labranchiae* Falleroni to Antonia Labranca. On page 564 he states: "Le ho dedicate ad ... A. Labranca, Capo Divisione della Sanità Pubblica, in omaggio alle loro benemerienze nella lotta contro la malaria nel nostro Paese".

Antonio Labranca was born in 1876 in Trinitapoli, Foggia, and was awarded a medical degree from the University of Rome in 1900. He then worked in professor Celli's malaria laboratory before entering the public health department (Sanità Pubblica) in 1904 where he remained for 43 years as a medical administrator attaining the position vice-director of Sanità Pubblica. When the Istituto Superiore di Sanità was founded he was appointed head of epidemiology. He authored over 80 papers in hygiene, public health and demography, and contributed to two major books on hygiene. He died in Rome in 1947.

*Anopheles maculipennis* Meigen, 1818

Meigen, J.W. (1818) *Systematische Beschreibung der Bekannten Europäischen Zweiflugeligen Insekten* 1, xxxvi + 334 pages. Aachen. Forstmann.

Meigen defines the species in the first line of his account on page 11. "Flügel mit fünf braunen Punkten." And repeats this in Latin: "Alis punctis quinque fuscis." Later he expands his description: "Flügel mit fünf braunen Punkten, welche die nämliche Lage haben wie bei *Culex annulatus*." He used the Latin, *macula* (spot), *penna* (wings) and *-is* (adjectival suffix) to name his species

*Anopheles marteri* Senevet and Prunnelle, 1927

Senevet, G. & Prunnelle, M. (1927) Une nouvelle espèce d'anophele en Algérie, *Anopheles marteri* n. sp. *Archives de l'Institut Pasteur d'Algérie* 5, 529-533.

Georges Senevet, one of the greatest of French entomologists named this species after his wife Marie Louise Marter who originated from Camp du Maréchal in Algeria. Tragically Marie died of pneumonia a year after their marriage and was buried in her hometown. On a visit to the grave he discovered the mosquito which he named *An. marteri*. His only reference is to the location of the type.... "Nous avons trouvé des exemplaires aux saisons indiquées à Camp du Maréchal".

*Anopheles melanoon* Hackett, 1934

Hackett, L.W. (1934) The present status of our knowledge of the subspecies of *Anopheles maculipennis*. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 28, 109-128.

The reason for naming this species is quite clear, the name being derived from the Greek *melas, melanos* - black and *oon* - egg. Hackett says "The black egg, though recognised from the beginning as a variety by Falleroni and subsequent authors, has been considered until recently a modification of *messeae*... It is useful, however, to continue to separate the black-egg type from *messeae*, and for convenience we have given it the name *melanoon*".

*Anopheles petragnani* Del Vecchio, 1939

Del Vecchio, G. (1939) Sulle varietà de *A. claviger (bifurcatus)* nota I. *Revista di Parassitologia* 3, 27-37

This species was named, originally as a variety of *Anopheles claviger*, after Professor Giovanni Petragnani (1893-1968) who made important contributions to the eradication of malaria while working at the University of Cagliari in Sardinia and as Director General of Public Health. It may be noted that the species should, following correct Latin grammar, have been named *petragnanii* but the original spelling stands (Service, 1999).

Del Vecchio states on page 27, "...in omaggio a S.E. Giovanni Petragnani, direttore generale della Sanità Pubblica, il quale tanto impulso ha dato e dà ai servizi sanitari del Regno, con particolare riguardo a quelli anti-malarici..."

*Anopheles sacharovi* Favre, 1903

Favre, V.V. (1903) *An attempt at the study of malaria in Russia*. Kharkov. 344 pp.

Although clearly named by Favre after his mentor, Nikolai Alekseevich Sacharov (1852-1927), there is no reference to this in the description of the species. On page 189 he says, "...I am provisionally calling it *Anopheles sacharovi*..."

Sacharov was a medical doctor and researcher and became medical consultant for the railway and was especially involved with the problem of malaria associated with the construction of the Transcaucasian Railroad. The disease affected construction workers and people living alongside the route and was, incidently, transmitted by the very mosquito, *An. sacharovi*, that was to be named after him.

*Anopheles subalpinus* Hackett and Lewis, 1935

Hackett, L.W. & Lewis, D.J. (1935) A new variety of *Anopheles maculipennis* in southern Europe. *Revista di Malariologia* 14, 377-383.

This species was described from Albania as "...a separate race, which since it has never been reported from northern Europe, we have called *Anopheles maculipennis subalpinus*, var. nov." The name originates from the Latin *sub* meaning below and apparently used here in the sense of south of the Alps (Latin *alpinus*, alpine).

Subgenus *Cellia* Theobald, 1902

Theobald, F.W. (1902) The classification of the Anophelina. *Journal of Tropical Medicine* 5, 181-183.

Theobald dedicated this taxon on page 181 to the Italian malariologist Angelo Celli (1857-1914) although he makes no reference to him in the article. However Blanchard (1905) says (page 24) "Genre dédié au professeur A. Celli de l'Université de Rome". Celli was a contemporary of Ross and Grassi and made significant contributions to the study of malaria and other areas of public health. Among his greatest contributions was the use of vital dyes to study living malarial parasites.

*Anopheles cinereus* Theobald, 1901

Theobald, F.V. (1901) *A monograph of the Culicidae or mosquitoes*. Volume 1. 424pp. London. British Museum (Natural History).

Theobald makes a number of references on pages 161-163 to the ash-grey colour of this mosquito (Latin, *cinereus*, ash-coloured, grey)...“Head black, an ashy-grey border round the eyes...thorax with a broad ashy-grey line in the middle ... the median grey area covered with long whitish hair-like scales...”

*Anopheles multicolor* Cambouliu, 1902

Cambouliu, M. (1902) Contribution à l'étude des *Anopheles* de l'isthme de Suez. *Compte Rendu de l'Académie des Sciences, Paris* 135, 704-706.

Cambouliu described *An. multicolor* on page 704 noting the many attractive colours of the species (Latin, *multus*, many; *color*, colour): “Trompe noire, à olive beige ... de minces anneaux blonds ... un petite bouquet de poils noirs ... ailes gris clair, transparentes, avec six petites taches noires entrecoupant le costa et les premières nervures...trâinées bleu et or le long des autres nervures ... visibles plutôt sur fond noir.”

## References

Blanchard, R. (1905) *Les moustiques. Histoire naturelle et médicale*. Paris. F. de Rudeval. 673pp.  
Service, M.W. (1999) Letter to the editors. *European Mosquito Bulletin* 3, 32.

## Letter to the Editors

Dear Sirs,

The last issue of the *European Mosquito Bulletin* included a paper by Ribeiro & Ramos in which the ‘*molestus*’ form of *Culex pipiens* was afforded species status. Despite highly questionable news media reports last August of a ‘new species’ (= *molestus*) breeding in the London Underground, there is no convincing evidence that ‘*molestus*’ is anything more than an adaptive form of *Culex pipiens*. Treating this form as a species disregards an important conceptual point: the biological species concept. If one adheres to this concept of a species, then the recognition of ‘*molestus*’ at this taxonomic level defeats the purpose of applying binomial nomenclature to biological species. The authors should draw their taxonomic conclusions from the wealth of published data that clearly shows that *Cx. pipiens* is a plastic species that adapts easily, with concomitant expression of certain physiological and phenotypic characteristics, to thrive in a variety of habitats. The existence of species does not depend on the whimsy of authors or for the convenience of taxonomic nomenclature.

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