

The names of European mosquitoes: Part 3

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This article is the third in a series to be published in the *Bulletin* to add meaning to the names of European mosquitoes. 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 cases where the explanation is not clear, correspondence to the editors is invited.

Anopheles sergentii Theobald, 1907

Theobald, F.V. (1907) *A monograph of the Culicidae or mosquitoes*. Vol. 4. 639 pp. London. British Museum (Natural History).

Theobald describes this mosquito on pages 68 and 69. The only reference to the naming of this mosquito is "Habitat - - Algeria (Dr E. Sergent)". This is believed to refer to Edmond Sergent (1876-1969) and not his brother, Etienne, although both worked in Algeria at the Pasteur Institute. Edmond is referred to by Theobald on page vii of this Monograph and is known to have collected mosquitoes and sent them to Theobald.

Anopheles superpictus Grassi, 1899

Grassi, G.B. (1899) Ancora sulla malaria. *Atti dell' Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. Rendiconti* 8, 559-561.

Latin, super = remaining, besides, moreover; pictus = ornate, decorated

This species was described from Italy in a footnote on page 560 by Grassi to differentiate it from *pictus* and *pseudopictus*, both presently regarded as synonyms of *hyrcanus*. He was convinced that this was an additional form and named it *superpictus* to distinguish it from the other two.

Aedes Meigen, 1818

Meigen, J.W. (1818) *Systematische Beschreibung der bekannten europäischen zweiflügeligen Insekten*. Vol. 1. xxxvi + 334 pp. Aachen. Forstmann.

Greek, aedes = distasteful, disagreeable, unpleasant, troublesome

Meigen names his genus on page 13, "Schnakenmücke. AEDES. Hoffmgg". Schnakenmücke is old German for gnat or mosquito and the ascription of the name to Hr. Graf v. Hoffmannsegg refers to a label by that collector on the material described by Meigen. Meigen describes the characteristics of his genus in both German and Latin and ends with an explanation of his generic name, saying that it is derived from the Greek meaning troublesome and that it was found in the collection of Hoffmannsegg, "Den Gattungsnamen hat der Hr Graf v. Hoffmannsegg, in dessen Sammlung sie sich befindet, aus dem Griechischen beschwerlich gebildet".

Aedes cinereus Meigen, 1818

Meigen, J.W. (1818) *Systematische Beschreibung der bekannten europäischen zweiflügeligen Insekten*. Vol. 1. xxxvi + 334 pp. Aachen. Forstmann.

Latin, cinereus = ash-coloured, grey

Like the genus *Aedes*, Meigen ascribes this species to Hr. Graf v. Hoffmannsegg, the collector of the material examined. Despite naming the species *cinereus* he was not convinced about its colour, noting that it is more brown than grey; "Diese einzige Art ist mehr braun als grau" (p 13). In a later description he also notes the grey wings, "die Flügel graulich" but gives its general coloration as "schwarzbraun" (Meigen, 1830) (reference given below for *Aedes vexans*).

Aedes geminus Peus, 1970

Peus, F., 1970. Bemerkenswerte Mücken am Tegeler Fließ. Berliner Naturschutzblätter. Special Number (May), 18-26.

Latin, *geminus* = twin

On pages 21-24 Peus describes *Aedes geminus* and compares it with *Ae. cinereus* using both text, illustrations and a key. He places both species in the *cinereus* group of the subgenus *Aedes*, and indicates their close affinity by naming the new species *geminus*, the twin of *cinereus*.

Aedes esoensis rossicus Dolbeškin, Gorickaja & Mitrofanova, 1930

Yamada, S. (1921) Description of ten new species of *Aedes* found in Japan, with notes on the relation between some of these mosquitoes and the larva of *Filaria bancrofti* Cobbold. *Annotationes Zoologicae Japonenses* 10, 45-81.

Dolbeškin, B., Gorickaja, V. & Mitrofanova, J. (1930) Beschreibung einer neuen Art der Gattung *Aedes* (in. sp.) aus Osteuropa. *Magazin de Parasitologie du Musée Zoologique de l'Académie des Sciences de l'URSS*. [Leningrad] 1, 253-260 [in Russian, German summary].

Yamada named *Aedes esoensis* from specimens collected from the islands of Hokkaido (Japan) and Sakhalin (now a part of Russia). Hokkaido was formerly known as Ezo or Yezo. It is from this ancient name, together with the suffix *-ensis* (meaning the place where found or named after) that Yamada named his species.

Tradition records that in the year 862 AD feuds among the Eastern Slavs around Novgorod became so violent that they invited one of the Scandinavian chiefs, Rurik, to unite them. From the Scandinavians, called Varangians or Rus, came the name *Rossiya*, or *Russia*, meaning the land of the Rus. *Aedes rossicus* was described from Orenburg and Perm in Russia and from Dnepropetrovsk in Ukraine, and was reduced to subspecies status by Peus (1972)*. The use of the name *rossicus* by Dolbeškin *et al.* derives from the country name *Rossiya* and the suffix *-icus*, meaning belonging to or pertaining to a locality.

*Peus, F. (1972) Über des subgenus *Aedes s.s.* in Deutschland. *Zeitschrift für Angewandte Entomologie* 72, 177-194.

s.g. *Aedimorphus* Theobald, 1903

Theobald, F.V. (1903) *A monograph of the Culicidae or mosquitoes*. Vol. 3. xvii + 359 pp. London. British Museum (Natural History).

From genus *Aedes* (Meigen, 1818) and Greek *morphos* = form

Theobald erected the genus *Aedimorphus* for *Aedimorphus domesticus*, previously *Uranotaenia domestica* Theobald, 1901. He remarks on the distinctions from *Aedes* yet obviously considers his new taxon to be close to *Aedes*, "...The genus differs from others near *Aedes*, in (1) the presence of mixed head scales and flat scutellar ones, and (2) in the *Uranotaenia* - like appearance of the thorax, but differs from the latter in having long fork-cells and no flat thoracic scales" (p 290).

Aedes vexans (Meigen, 1830)

Meigen, J.W. (1830) *Systematische Beschreibung der bekannten europäischen zweiflügeligen Insekten*. Vol. 6. xi + 401 pp. Hamm. Schulz.

Latin, *vexare* = to annoy, injure

Meigen describes his species in both Latin and German on pages 241 and 242 under the name of *Culex vexans*. He noted its brown coloration, abdomen with white patches and, like *Culex* (= *Aedes*) *annulipes*, tarsi with white rings. Having just named a species (*annulipes*) on the basis of its ringed tarsi, Meigen was presumably forced to find another name and chose to use *vexans* to indicate the annoying and injurious qualities of this species. However, Meigen makes no reference to his reasons for using this trivial name.

Aedes vittatus (Bigot, 1861)

Bigot, J. M. F. (1861) Trois diptères nouveaux de la Corse. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (4th series) 1, 227-229.

Latin, vittatus = bound with a fillet or chaplet, from vitta (-ae) ribbon, band, fillet

Bigot describes this species on the first page of his article: "1. CULEX VITTATUS ♀ (nov. spec.)". He describes the new species as being generally deep black with white markings. He especially notes the white rings on the legs and, although not referring to *vittatus* specifically, it would appear that the presence of the distinctive white ring on the tibiae (... tibias, vers leur milieu, [et tarse à la base des articles,] ornés d'anneaux blancs) led Bigot to adopt this specific name.

s.g. *Finlaya* Theobald, 1903

Theobald, F.V. (1903) *A monograph of the Culicidae or mosquitoes*. Vol. 3. xvii + 359 pp. London. British Museum (Natural History).

Theobald describes "Finlaya nov. gen." on page 283 and remarks "I have named this genus after Dr Finlay, the originator of the yellow-fever mosquito theory." Carlos Juan Finlay proposed the yellow-fever mosquito theory in 1881 and in 1903, when the generic name was dedicated to him, was Chief Sanitary Officer of Cuba. Finlay was born in Puerto Principe, Cuba on December 3rd 1833. In 1855 he received the degree of M.D. from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He died in Havana, Cuba on August 20th 1915.

Aedes echinus (Edwards, 1920)

Edwards F. W. (1920) Mosquito notes. *Bulletin of Entomological Research* 10, 129-137.

Latin, echinus = sea urchin /spiny

Edwards describes this species on pages 133-134 under the heading "Ochlerotatus (Finlaya) echinus sp. nov." He describes the female that was raised from a larva collected in Macedonia and differentiates it from *Ochlerotatus* (now *Aedes*) *geniculatus*. He notes that the larva is very different from *O. geniculatus* but does not describe it. However, it is the form of the larva that clearly led to the use of the name *echinus*. The fourth instar larva has unusually strongly developed thoracic and abdominal setae, which are stellately branched giving the appearance of a hedgehog.

Aedes geniculatus (Olivier, 1791)

Olivier, G.A. (1791) *Encyclopedie methodique. Histoire naturelle. Insectes*. Vol. 6. 704 pp. Paris, Panckoucke.

Latin, geniculatus = having a knee, jointed

Olivier described *Culex geniculatus* as "COUSIN genicule" on page 134 and continues in Latin and French, "Culex ... geniculis albis" and "Les pattes sont noirâtres, avec la base des cuisses et le genou blancs..." Indeed *Ae. geniculatus* is readily recognised by its dark legs and the conspicuous whiteness of the knee-joints (tibio-femur joint) and the proximal areas of the thighs (femora).

Aedes gilcolladoi Villa, Rodríguez & Llera, 1985

Villa, A.S-C., Rodríguez, J.A.R. & Llera, J.L.G. (1985) Estudio de la larva de cuarto estado de las especies del subgenero *Finlaya* (Diptera, Culicidae) de España Peninsular. Actas do II Congreso Ibérico de Entomologia. *Boletim da Sociedade Portuguesa de Entomologia* 1 (Suplemento 1), 439-448.

This species was differentiated from *Aedes echinus* and *Ae. geniculatus* in Spain on characters of larval chaetotaxy. It was named after the Spanish mosquito researcher J. Gil Collado, who was one of the earliest workers to describe the Culicidae of Spain and to record the presence of *Aedes geniculatus* and *Ae. echinus* in the Spanish fauna. He published a number of major papers from the mid 1920s until the very late 1950s.