

The names of European mosquitoes: Part 4

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This article is the fourth 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 some cases the explanation may not be 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.

Ochlerotatus Lynch-Arribáizaga, 1891

Lynch-Arribáizaga, F. (1891) *Dipterologia argentina. Revista del Museo de La Plata* 1, 345-377; 2, 131-172.

Greek, ochleros = troublesome; Greek, -tatos = superlative

This article by Lynch-Arribáizaga is in two parts. In the first section on page 374 *Ochlerothatus* (sic) is given in a key to genera and in the continuation of the work (page 143) the then genus is described and the name explained "...Ochlerotatus, nov.gen. Ab. ochleros molestus (superl. otatos)..." In the original, ochleros and otatos are in Greek script. The Latin equivalent of ochleros, i.e. molestus, is also given.

Aedes annulipes (Meigen, 1830)

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

Latin, annulus (a late Latin form of anulus, diminutive of anus) = ring; Latin, pes = foot

Meigen describes his species (as *Culex annulipes*) on page 241 making reference to the brown feet with white rings in both Latin and German: "... tarsis fuscis albo annulatis..." and "Fusse braun, mit weissen Ringen..."

Aedes atropalpus (Coquillett, 1902)

Coquillett, D.W. (1902) Three new species of *Culex*. *The Canadian Entomologist* 34, 292-293.

Latin, atro (ater) = black; palpus = palp, feeler

Under the heading "*Culex atropalpus*, new species" on page 292, Coquillett provides a full description of the female. Regarding the palps he says, "scales of palpi black", indicating the basis for his choice of epithet.

Aedes behningi Martini, 1926

Martini, E. (1926) Ueber die Steckmücken der Umgebung von Saratow. *Arbeiten der Biologischen Wolga-Station* 8, 189-277.

Although there is no reference to the naming of the mosquito in the paper, it was clearly dedicated to Arvid Liberovich Behning (1890-1943) who was the Director of the Volga Biological Station in Saratov from 1912 until 1926. Martini collected his new species from Saratov, situated on the River Volga, and published the account of his discovery in the journal of the Volga Biological Station. Behning was an expert in Crustacea and on many other animal taxa from the River Volga. His name is also associated with the Ephemeroptera (mayflies); the genus *Behningia* Lestage, 1930 and the family *Behningiidae* Tshernova, 1938 bearing his name.

Aedes berlandi Seguy, 1921

Séguy, E. (1921) Description d'un nouveau moustique Français du groupe de l'*Aedes Mariae* et synopsis des espèces de ce groupe. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* 1921, 192-195.

On page 194 of his article Séguy states clearly the part played by Monsieur Berland in the discovery of this new species, "La première ♀ a été capturée par M.L. BERLAND dans le laboratoire d'Entomologie du Muséum, 55, rue de Buffon, le 7-VII vers 15 heures (1921)..."

Aedes cantans (Meigen, 1818)

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

Latin, cantans = singing

Meigen's descriptions of this species (as *Culex cantans*), in Latin and German, contain no reference to the sound produced in flight, which influenced his naming of this species. In the title of this description Meigen once again ascribes the species to the collector "Hrn. Grafen v. Hoffmannsegg" as follows: "Cul. cantans. Hoffmegg" (p 6).

Aedes caspius (Pallas, 1771)

Pallas, P.S. (1771) *Reise durch verschiedene Provinzen des Russischen Reichs* 1. 504 pp. St Petersburg.

Latin, caspius = of or belonging to the Caspian Sea.

On page 475, Pallas describes in Latin "CULEX caspius... Versus mare Caspium in paludosis salsis..." telling us precisely that his species occurred in salt marshes near the Caspian Sea.

Aedes cataphylla Dyar, 1916

Dyar, H.G. (1916) New *Aedes* from the mountains of California (Diptera, Culicidae). *Insecutor Inscitiae Menstruus* 4, 80-90.

Greek, kata = down, under; phyllon = leaf

Dyar describes the female and the egg on pages 86-87. He describes the type as "A captured female, Fallen Leaf, Lake Tahoe, California, June 11, 1916, taken biting in the woods at the south end of the lake." The species is presumably named after the location, Fallen Leaf, from which it was first described. The remote possibility exists that Dyar may have observed larvae of the species literally "under leaves" but the former explanation is preferred. A more correct translation of Fallen Leaf would have been *pismenophylla*, but *cataphylla* was chosen.

Aedes coluzzii Rioux, Guilvard & Pasteur, 1998

Rioux, J.A., Guilvard, E. & Pasteur, N. (1998) Description d'*Aedes (Ochlerotatus) coluzzii* n.sp. (Diptera, Culicidae), espèces jumelles a du complexe detritus. *Parassitologia* 40, 353-60.

Two apparently morphologically identical forms of *Aedes detritus*, designated sibling species A and B, were detected by isomorphic analysis of wild populations from the Camargue area of France (Pasteur *et al.*, 1977). Evidence followed that the more northern European populations were species B and hence equate with the taxon described by Haliday (1833) from Holywood, Ireland (Rioux *et al.*, 1998). Species A was named *Aedes coluzzii* by Rioux *et al.* (1998) in honour of Professor Mario Coluzzii, who pioneered work on the identification of sibling species of mosquitoes using electrophoretic techniques.

Aedes communis (De Geer, 1776)

De Geer, C. (1776) *Memoires pour servir a l'histoire des Insectes* 6. viii + 522 pp. Stockholm: Hesselberg.

Latin, communis = common

De Geer describes "Cousin commun" on page 316, cousin being a word for mosquito at that time. He continued to discuss his species saying, "... Les larves de Cousins les plus communes de celles que j'ai trouvees aux environs de Leufita dans le mois de Mai..." De Geer therefore makes clear the use of his name *communis*.

Aedes cyprius Ludlow, 1919

Ludlow, C. S. (1919 [1920]) New Siberian Culicidae (Diptera). *Insecutor Inscitiae Menstruus* 7, 151-161.

Latin, Cyprius = relating to Cyprus/ copper

The female of this new species is described on pages 158-160 and in his last sentence Ludlow remarks that "The insect as a whole is brilliantly copper colored and stands out conspicuously in a collection of other mosquitoes." Pliny records that copper (cuprum) was called after Cyprus (Kypros) and Ludlow used the epithet cyprius, meaning copper coloured, to describe the species.

Aedes detritus (Haliday, 1833)

Haliday, A.H. (1833) Catalogue of Diptera occurring about Holywood in Downshire. *Entomologist's Magazine* 1, 147-180.

Latin, detritus = rubbed away

Haliday includes "Culex detritus, N.S." in his locality list on page 148 and on page 151 he describes his species as follows: "Culex detritus. *Nigro-fuscus, abdomine pallido-annulato, ventre trifariam fuscopunctato, femoribusque basi luteis*. Size of *C. pipiens*. Palpi of male rather thick, as long as the proboscis. Wings thickly clothed with dusky black scales: disk of the thorax nearly naked". It is from this last observation that Haliday named his species.

Aedes diantaeus Howard, Dyar & Knab, 1912 (1913)

Howard, L.O., Dyar, H.G. & Knab, F. *The mosquitoes of North and Central America and the West Indies*. Publication 159. Vol. 2 (1912 [first issued 1913]) x+150 plates; Vol. 4 (1917) 525-1064 pp. Washington, D.C. Carnegie Institute of Washington.

Greek, di- = two; Latin, anta; plural -antae = square pillasters, columns, pillars

The first mention of the specific name is in Volume 2 (Plate 24, Figure 167) where the male genitalia are depicted. There are further descriptions in Volume 4 on pages 617 (in key to adults), 619 (in key to male genitalia) and 622 (in a list titled "Of the following species of *Aedes* we possess no larvae"). The actual description (of the male only) appears on page 758 of Volume 4. The palps of the male are described as "slightly exceeding the proboscis in length, blunt at apices; vestiture brownish-black; end of long joint and last two joints slightly enlarged, with dense, moderately long, black hairs". It is presumably the blunt nature of the palps that led to the adoption of the specific name.

Additional references: Haliday, A.H. (1833) Catalogue of Diptera occurring about Holywood in Downshire. *Entomologist's Magazine* 1, 147-180.

Pasteur, N., Rioux, J.A., Guilvard, E., Pech-Perieres, M.J. & Verdier, J.M. (1977) Existence chez *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) detritus* (Haliday, 1833) (Diptera Culicidae) de Camargue de deux formes sympatriques et sexuellement isolées (espèces jumelles). *Annales de Parasitologie humaine et comparée* 52, 325-337.