

The names of European mosquitoes: Part 5

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This article is the fifth 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.

*Aedes dorsalis* (Meigen, 1830)

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

Latin, *dorsalis* = of or pertaining to the back

Meigen described his species as *Culex dorsalis* on page 242 briefly in both Latin and German. He followed this with further details in German including his reference to the details of the "backshield" or scutum which he describes as having two closely situated black weals: "Rückenschild mit zwei genaherten schwarzen Striemen". Clearly the characteristic dorsal scutum of this species was the basis for Meigen's name, but his description is somewhat difficult to interpret as the scutum of *Ae. dorsalis* has a tripartite black marking with two narrow white stripes.

*Aedes duplex* Martini, 1926

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

Latin, *duplex*, *duplicis* = double, twofold

Martini described this species from two males collected from the Saratov Region of Russia. He describes how, compared with *Aedes dorsalis*, the two setae on the basal lobe of the gonocoxite of *Aedes duplex* are copied or replaced by similar ones.

"...Gleicht er auch im wesentlichen den von *dorsalis*, so sind doch beide Dornen am Basallappen der Zangen von *dorsalis* durch je zwei gleichartige Dornen ersetzt..."

*Ae. dorsalis* has two spines on each basal lobe of each gonocoxite, one fine and straight and one stout and curved. Martini (1930) illustrates the male genitalia of *Ae. duplex* showing very clearly a pair of similar fine, straight spines on each basal lobe. However, in the text Martini (1930) states that, in contrast to *caspius*, there are four setae on each basal lobe, two short and two long.

*Aedes euedes* Howard, Dyar & Knab, 1912

Howard, L. O., Dyar, H. G. & Knab, F. (1912) (1913). *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, Greek, *eueides* (*euedes*) = well shaped or comely; prefix *eu* = good, true; Latin, *edes* = feed, consume

Dyar provides a morphological description of the female and male (the larval stage was unknown at that time) on pages 714-716 of Volume 4, having used the name *euedes* for the first time in Plate 28 (Figure 191) of Volume 2 (illustration of the male genitalia). The species is also mentioned in keys and a list on pages 616, 619 and 622 of Volume 4.

The most likely explanation of the naming of this species is that *euedes* is derived from the Greek and refers to the well shaped or comely (handsome/ pretty) appearance of the adults. This is borne out from his description where detailed reference is made to this multicoloured mosquito. The coloration is also referred to in their final paragraph "... *Aedes euedes* is closely allied to *Aedes riparius*, but differs in the colour of the scales on the mesonotum..." It is also possible, that the name may have been derived from the feeding characteristics of the female, although this is unlikely as the life history and habits are stated as being unknown.

*Aedes excrucians* (Walker, 1856)

Walker, F. (1856) *Insecta Saundersiana: or characters of undescribed insects in the collection of William Wilson Saunders, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S., &c.* Vol. I., Diptera. 474 pp. London. John Van Voorst.

Latin, excrucians = torture, torment

A brief morphological description of the female in Latin on page 429, under the heading "CULEX EXCRUCIANS, Fœm" (female) gives no clue as to the reason for naming this species. It was obviously recognised as a nuisance insect and named accordingly.

*Aedes flavescens* (Müller, 1764)

Müller, O.F. (1764) *Fauna insectorum Fridrichsdalina, sive methodica descriptio insectorum agri Fridrichsdalinensis, cum characteribus genericis et specificis, nomibus trivialibus, locis natalibus, iconibus allegatis, novisque pluribus speciebus additis.* xxiv + 96 pp. Hafniae et Lipsiae.

Latin, flavescens = becoming yellow

Müller describes his species as *Culex flavescens* on page 87. He clearly wishes to emphasise the distinct yellow appearance of this mosquito, which has golden-brown scales on the scutum and straw-coloured scales on the abdomen. "CULEX flavescens luteus..."

*Aedes hexodontus* Dyar, 1916

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

Greek, hex = the number six; donti = tooth; -us = Latinised suffix

This species is first mentioned on page 81 and described on pages 83 and 84. On page 84 Dyar states "larva with ... comb scales six, each with a very sharp central spine and slight lateral fringes". The reason for naming the species is thus explained.

*Aedes hungaricus* Mihályi, 1955

Mihályi, F. (1955) *Aedes hungaricus* n. sp. (Culicidae, Diptera). *Annals of the Natural History Museum of Hungary* 6, 343-345.

Latinised form of the country, Hungary. -icus = adjectival ending, Hungarian.

Under the heading "*Aedes* (Ochlerotatus) *hungaricus* n.sp." Mihályi describes the male and female of this species, which was first collected in June 1949 from Budafok, near Budapest in Hungary. The species is thus named after the country from which it was first collected.

*Aedes impiger* (Walker, 1848)

Walker, F. (1848) *List of the specimens of dipterous insects in the collection of the British Museum*. Part I. 484 pp. British Museum. London.

Latin, *impiger* = active, quick, energetic

Walker makes no reference to the naming of this species. He describes the species briefly on page 6 in both Latin and English under the heading *CULEX impiger*, n.s., fem. It must be assumed that he observed the insect on the wing and was impressed by its rapid flight.

*Aedes intrudens* Dyar, 1919

Dyar, H.G. (1919) Westward extension of the Canadian mosquito fauna (Diptera, Culicidae). *Insector Inscitiae Menstruus* 7, 11-39.

Latin, *in-trudens* (*trudo*) = thrust in, force in

Dyar describes this species on page 23 and adds "This is the only species of the fauna whose adults enter houses, which they do persistently. Both at White River and Banff, with other species in abundance out of doors, only this was encountered within, and often in such numbers as to be distinctly annoying". The characteristic of this mosquito to "intrude" into dwellings is thus stated clearly.

*Aedes leucomelas* (Meigen, 1804)

Meigen, J.W. (1804) *Klassifikation und Beschreibung der europaischen zweiflugeligen Insekten (Diptera Linn.)*. Erster Band. Abt. i, pp. ixxviii + 1-152, pls. 1-8; Abt. II, pp. i-vi + 153-314, pls. 9-15. Braunschweig.

Greek, *leucos* = white; *melas* = black

Meigen's description of *Ae. leucomelas* (as *Culex leucomelas*) is given on page 3 - he states that it is black, having an abdomen with white rings, and feet and wings without spots. The heading to his description emphasises his name of the black and white mosquito, "Schwarzweisse St. *C. leucomelas*", where St. is the abbreviated form of *Stechmücke*. He repeats references to the coloration in both German and Latin: "Schwarz; Hinterleib weiss geringelt... and "Ater; abdomine alboannulato..."

*Aedes mariaae* (Sergent & Sergent, 1903)

Sergent, E. & Sergent, E. (1903) Observations sur les moustiques des environs d'Alger. *Annales de l'Institut Pasteur* 17, 60-67.

Latin, *Mariaae* = dedicated to Maria/ Marie/ Mary

Edmond and Étienne Sergent describe their new species on pages 62-66. There are several references to the larval habitat and a commentary on the concentration of seawater tolerated by this species including: "Ces larves vivaient donc dans une solution de chlorures presque deux fois plus concentrée que l'eau de mer." However the species was not named from the Latin *mare* meaning sea but was dedicated to its discoverer. It is said that one Sunday when the Sergent family was at the seaside near Algiers, Marie, a grand daughter of one of the Sergent brothers, told her grandfather that she had found insect larvae in a rock pool. Larvae were taken for examination and found to be a new species and named *mariaae* after the discoverer, Marie.

*Aedes nigrinus* (Eckstein, 1918)

Eckstein, F. (1918) Zur Systematik der einheimischen Stechmuecken. *Centralblatt für Bakteriologie, Parasitankunde und Infektio* Abt. 1, Orig. 82, 57-68.

Latin, *nigrinus* (m), *nigrina* (f) = black, dark

Described as *Culicada nigrina* on pages 67 and 68, there are several references to the black colour of the mosquito, including "Rüssel schwarz"; "Flügeladern dicht mit schwarzen Schuppen besetzt"; "...von beiden durch die auffallend schwarze Grundfarbe des ganzen Körpers".

*Aedes nigripes* (Zetterstedt, 1838)

Zetterstedt, J.W. (1838) *Insecta Lapponica descripta*. vi + 1139pp. Lipsiae. Voss.

Latin *nigri* = black, dark; *pes* = foot

The last sentence of the brief description of this species in Latin on page 807, under the heading *C. nigripes*, gives the reason for the name: "Pedes toti nigri".

*Aedes pionips* Dyar, 1919

Dyar, H. G. (1919) Westward extension of the Canadian mosquito fauna (Diptera, Culicidae). *Insecutor Inscitiae Menstruus* 7, 11-39.

Greek, *pion* = fat, *ips* = worm

This is another of Dyar's fanciful names and the only indication that he gives for using the specific name is "Larvae ...are large, dark coloured fellows...". It is assumed that he named the species on the basis of the size of the larvae, which are larger than other spring-emerging *Aedes* with which it is associated.

It is described briefly on page 19 accompanied by a short account of male swarming, egg and larval morphology, larval habitat and capture data.

*Aedes pulcritarsis* Rondani, 1872

Rondani, C. (1872) Sulle specie Italiane del genere *Culex* Linn. *Bullettino della Società Entomologica Italiana* 4, 29-31.

Latin, *pulcher* -*chra* -*chrum* and *pulcer* -*cra* -*crum* = beautiful, lovely; Greek, *tarsos* = ankle; -*is* = adjectival suffix

On page 31 under the heading "Sp.8. *pulcritarsis* N", Rondani includes the description: "Tarsi postici tantum late et distincte albo-annulati...." He therefore notes that the hind tarsi are broadly and clearly white-ringed. A feature of this species is the broad white tarsal bands that encompass the joints of most tarsal segments, which obviously struck Rondani as being beautiful.

#### Additional reference

Martini, E. (1930) *Culicidae*. In: Lindner, E. (ed.) *Die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region* 3, 145-320.

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