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Recent changes to the classification of the composite genus *Aedes* and tribe Aedini (Diptera: Culicidae)

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Abstract

Recent changes in the classification of the composite genus *Aedes* and tribe Aedini are provided. These include the division of *Aedes* into genera *Aedes* and *Ochlerotatus* (the latter was restored to generic rank), restoration of subgenera *Ayurakitia* and *Verrallina* to generic status, transfer of subgenus *Sinoaedes* to genus *Heizmannia* and synonymy with subgenus *Mattinglyia*, and synonymy of tribe Armigerini with tribe Aedini. A revised list containing generic and subgeneric abbreviations was given and included all genera and subgenera of tribe Aedini and family Culicidae.

Recent changes

The composite genus *Aedes* Meigen was divided into genera *Aedes* and *Ochlerotatus* Lynch Arribalizaga by Reinert (2000d) based on consistent characters of the female and male genitalia, and supplemental features of the female and male genitalia, pupae, and fourth-instar larvae. The genus *Ochlerotatus* was restored to generic rank and was further divided into two sections based on features of the fourth-instar larvae and pupae. The 22 subgenera included within genus *Aedes* are: *Aedes*, *Aedimorphus* Theobald, *Alanstonea* Mattingly, *Albuginosus* Reinert, *Belkinus* Reinert, *Bothaella* Reinert, *Canraedes* Edwards, *Christophersiomyia* Barraud, *Diceromyia* Theobald, *Edwardsaedes* Belkin, *Fredwardsius* Reinert, *Huaedes* Huang, *Indusius* Edwards, *Isoaedes* Reinert, *Leptosomatomyia* Theobald, *Lorrainea* Belkin, *Neomelanicion* Newstead, *Paraedes* Edwards, *Pseudarmigeres* Stone & Knight, *Scutomyia* Theobald, *Skusea* Theobald, and *Stegomyia* Theobald.

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The 21 subgenera included in genus *Ochlerotatus* are: *Abraedes* Zavortink, *Aztecaedes* Zavortink, *Chaetocruimyia* Theobald, *Finlaya* Theobald, *Geoskusea* Edwards, *Gymnometopa* Coquillett, *Halaedes* Belkin, *Howardina* Theobald, *Kenknightia* Reinert, *Kompia* Aitken, *Levua* Stone & Bohart, *Macleaya* Theobald, *Molpemyia* Theobald, *Mucidus* Theobald, *Nothoskusea* Dumbleton, *Ochlerotatus*, *Protomacleaya* Theobald, *Pseudoskusea* Theobald, *Rhinoskusea* Edwards, *Rusticooidus* Shevchenko & Prudkina, and *Zavortinkius* Reinert.

Changes in the status of other taxa formerly included in the composite genus *Aedes* are as follow: subgenus *Verrallina* Theobald was restored to generic rank and three subgenera (i.e., *Harbachius* Reinert (described as new), *Neomacleaya* Theobald, and *Verrallina*) were included (Reinert 1999b), subgenus *Ayurakitia* Thurman was restored to generic status (Reinert 2000c), the new subgenus *Zavortinkius* Reinert was described (Reinert 1999a), subgenus *Fredwardsius* Reinert was described as new (Reinert 2000a), and subgenus *Sinoaedes* Gong & Lu was transferred from genus *Aedes* and placed in synonymy with subgenus *Mattinglyia* Lien of genus *Heizmannia* Ludlow (Reinert 2000b).

Li & Lu (1997) removed genus *Armigeres* Theobald from Aedini and placed it in a new monogeneric tribe, Armigerini. Reinert (2000d) synonymized Armigerini with Aedini because the new tribe was not equivalent in rank relative to other tribes of Culicidae and the characters given by Li & Lu to define Armigerini also occur in members of other genera of Aedini.

A revised and updated list of 2-letter abbreviations for genera and 3-letter abbreviations for subgenera of Culicidae was provided by Reinert (2001). This list contained the currently recognized 39 genera and 135 subgenera of the family including the subgenera of tribe Aedini and notes on generic and subgeneric changes.

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