

The names of European mosquitoes: Part 9

Keith R. Snow

School of Biosciences, University of East London, Romford Road, London E15 4LZ, UK Email:
k.r.snow@uel.ac.uk

This article is the ninth in a series to be published in the *Bulletin* to explain the names of European mosquitoes. For each entry the name of the taxon is given together with the author, date and reference of 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. Where appropriate, a brief explanation of the etymology is provided. In some cases the reason for naming the species may not be clear and correspondence to the author is invited. Further explanations will be published as letters to the editors in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

Subgenus *Maillotia* Theobald, 1907

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

French, maillot = swaddling-clothes; -ia, suffix commonly used in generic names but normally reserved for those derived from personal names

On page 274 Theobald introduces "GENUS MAILLOTIA. nov. gen. Head clothed with rather broad, large curved-scaled, upright forked scales and pyriform and flat lateral scales. Thorax clothed with large scales similar to those of the head; scutellum with short, rather broad, spindle-shaped scales. Wing scales dense; lateral ones thin. The genus is near *Culex*, but is quite distinct, its peculiar characters were noticed by Dr. Edmund Sergent, who suggested the name under which it is described." Theobald does not explain the use of the name or say why Sergent suggested it, but it may be assumed that he considered the vestiture of the head and thorax to be sufficiently striking to warrant the comparison of being wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Culex deserticola Kirkpatrick, 1925

Kirkpatrick, T.W. (1924) [1925] Preliminary notes on the determination of Egyptian mosquitos, with descriptions of three species new to science. *Bulletin de la Société Royale Entomologique d' Egypte* 8, 362-391.

Latin, desertus = waste; colere = to inhabit

This species is first listed on page 363 and later described on pages 378-383. There is a clear reference to the discovery of this species in a desert: "Mr F.W. Edwards has informed me that he has received specimens of this species from the Sahara, (Beni Ounif de Figuig and other places)."

Culex hortensis Ficalbi, 1889

Ficalbi, E. (1889) Notizie preventive sulla zanzare Italiane. I^a. Nota preventiva. Alcune generalità. Descrizione di una specie nuova *Culex hortensis*. *Bullettino della Società entomologica Italiana* 21, 20-30.

Latin, hortensis = of or belonging to a garden

The description of this species appears on pages 27-30 and on the last page Ficalbi says "Ho trovato questa zanzara dalla primavera all'autunno nel giardino botanico di Pisa, avendola da larve prese in acque ferme del giardino stesso. La ho trovata poi nel giardino botanico di Siena e in diversi giardini di Firenze". The finding of this species in gardens thus explains his choice of name.

Subgenus *Neoculex* Dyar, 1905

Dyar, H.G. (1905) Remarks on genitalic genera in the Culicidae. *Proceedings of the entomological Society of Washington* 7, 42-49.

Greek, neos = new and genus *Culex*

The first mention of the name *Neoculex* appears on page 45 in a key, "21. Leaf-like scale of apical lobe of side piece absent ... *Neoculex*" but the genus is formally introduced on page 48 "Genus NEOCULEX, new genus ... This species may be separated from *Culex* proper on the characters given above..." The new taxon is therefore differentiated from *Culex*.

Culex impudicus Ficalbi, 1890

Ficalbi, E. (1890) Notizie preventive sulle zanzare Italiane. VII^a. Nota preventiva. Descrizione di una specie nuova. Zanzara impudica *Culex impudicus*, sp.n. *Bullettino della Società Entomologica Italiana* 22, 81-84.

Latin, impudicus = impudent, shameless

Ficalbi names his "zanzara impudica" (immodest mosquito) on the basis of the characteristic appearance of the male genitalia in which the gonocoxites are extremely prominent and carry long, stout setae:

"Caratteristicamente sviluppati gli organi copulatori maschili, che sono grossi, cordiformi, pelosi e setolosi" and "Caratteristici sono gli organi copulatorii maschili, che, a differenza di altre zanzare, appaiono a guisa di due grossi lobi quasi cordiformi, che terminano l'addome, *debordando* ai lati ..."

Culex martinii Medschid, 1930

Medschid, E*. (1930) *Culex Martinii* n. sp. *Archiv fur Schiffs- und Tropfen Hygiene* 34, 364-369.

* only surname given in article

Although there is no explicit dedication to Erich Martini in the species description, a note at the end of the paper translates as: "Remarks on previous work of E. Martini. This is clearly the same species that was sent to me in 1927 by Apfelbeck from Metkovic in Yugoslavia. I was intending to publish it in the *Culex* section of Lindner's Handbook". The book referred to is *Die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region* which contains sections on mosquitoes written by Martini.

This species is therefore dedicated to the great German medical entomologist, Erich Martini. Born in 1880 in Rostock, Martini was awarded his PhD in 1902 and his MD in 1905. In 1912 he was invited to organise a department of entomology at the Tropeninstitut in Hamburg, where he was able to combine his interests in medicine and invertebrate zoology. He was made professor in 1923 and remained in post until 1945.

His more than three hundred publications between 1903 and 1959 cover many aspects of medical entomology and tropical medicine, and one hundred and twenty or so of these deal with mosquitoes. Among his most well known works on mosquitoes were his 1929, 1930 and 1931 contributions to Lindner's monograph *Die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region*.

He died in a road accident in 1960, aged 80.

Culex territans 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, *territans* = alarming, terrifying

Morphological characteristics of *Culex territans* are given by Walker in both Latin and English on page 428 but no reference is made to the bloodfeeding habits of this species which presumably led him to refer to it as "alarming or terrifying". In fact, although there are records of *Cx. territans* feeding on humans, it has most often been found feeding on lower vertebrates.

Genus/ Subgenus *Culiseta* Felt, 1904

Felt, E.P. (1904) Mosquitos or Culicidae of New York State. *New York State Museum Bulletin* 79, 239-400.

From Latin, *culex* = gnat, midge; Latin, *seta* = bristle

"*Culiseta* n. gen." is named on page 391c but no clear definition of the name is offered. Felt includes in his description "Larvae with pecten prolonged into setae and with stout, spined comb scales". It would appear that these characteristics of the larva led him to select his name, although it may be that prominent setae present in the adult, which he does not describe, contributed to his choice of name.

Subgenus *Allotheobaldia* Brölemann, 1919

Brölemann, H.W. (1919) Sur quelque *Culex* des Pyrénées. II (1). Campagne 1918. *Annales de la Société entomologique de France* 87, 65-103.

Greek, *allo-* = other, different and genus *Theobaldia* Neveu-Lemaire, 1902 (now *Culiseta*)

The subgenus is named by Brölemann on page 91 "ALLOTHEOBALDIA, nov. subg." On the following page he remarks on the peculiarities of his taxon, "...*Allotheobaldia* témoigne d'une différenciation notablement plus poussée que *Theobaldia*, qui lui-même est déjà plus différencié que *Culicada* ...". The genus *Culicada* Felt was used for species currently placed in *Ochlerotatus*.

Although not strictly a dedication to Theobald, as it was named after an existing genus, a few words about this pioneer in mosquito taxonomy are pertinent. Frederic Vincent Theobald (1868-1930) was invited by the Trustees of the British Museum to prepare a monograph on the Culicidae of the world. By 1901 he had produced the first two volumes with subsequent volumes in 1903, 1907 and 1910. From 1910 Theobald concentrated on agricultural entomology, producing a monograph of the British Aphidae.

Culiseta longiareolata (Macquart, 1838)

Macquart, J. (1838) Diptères exotiques nouveaux ou peu connus. *Mémoires de la Société des sciences, de l'agriculture et des arts de Lille* 2, 9-225.

Latin, *longus* = long; *areolatus* = with open spaces

The relevant parts of the description of this species in Latin and French are as follows (page 38): "CULEX LONGIAREOLATUS, Macq., Histoire naturelle des Canaries, Webb et Berthelot ... alis cellulis submarginali prima et postica secunda aequaliter longis" and "Ailes: première cellule sous-marginale et deuxième postérieure d'égale longueur (la base à la même hauteur), e plus longues qu' à l'ordinaire ...". Macquart is indicating in his species name the elongated wing cells which he clearly describes.

From this Macquart implies that the original description is in *Histoire Naturelle Îles Canaries* edited by Webb, P.B. and S. Berthelot, and published in Paris. Indeed a similar description does appear in Volume 2, part 2, page 99 of this work but was not published until November 1839.

Subgenus *Culicella* Felt, 1904

Felt, E.P. (1904) Mosquitos or Culicidae of New York State. *New York State Museum Bulletin* 79, 239-400.

Latin, culicella = a small gnat

Felt makes no reference to size in his description of his genus (page 391c). He introduces it as "Culicella n. gen." and follows this with a morphological description with information on the wing venation, the male genitalia and the larva.

Culiseta fumipennis (Stephens, 1825)

Stephens, J.F. (1825) Some observations on the British Tipulidae, together with descriptions of the species of *Culex* and *Anopheles* found in Britain. *The Zoological Journal* 1, 448-457.

Latin; fumus = smoke; penna = wing

Stephens gives his description of *Culex fumipennis* in Latin and English on page 453. The relevant sections are: "*Cu. fumipennis* Mihi ... alis obscuris ... the wings obscure." The Latin obscuris means dusky and Stephens is obviously using the English word obscure in this sense, hence *fumipennis*. Instead of using his surname after the species name to indicate the authority, Stephens uses the Latin *mihi* the dative singular of ego, I, meaning "to me".

Culiseta litorea (Shute, 1928)

Shute, P.G. (1928) A new variety of *Culicella morsitans* (Theobald) (Diptera). *The Entomologist* 61, 186.

Latin, litoreus/ -a = belonging to the sea shore

This species was first reported by Shute as a variety of *Culiseta morsitans*, as "CULICELLA MORSITANS var. LITOREA, nov.", breeding in very slightly brackish water close to the sea. Marshall & Staley (1933) on examining further material showed characteristic hypopygia and raised *litorea* to specific rank. Commenting on Shute's original description they said, "... since the material described had originated in a coastal marsh, the varietal name *litorea* was chosen."

[Marshall, J.F. & Staley, J. (1933) *Theobaldia (Culicella) litorea* (Shute), N.Sp. (Diptera, Culicidae). *Parasitology* 25, 119-126.]

Culiseta morsitans (Theobald, 1901)

Theobald, F.V. (1901) *A monograph of the Culicidae or mosquitoes* Vol. 2. viii+391 pp. London. British Museum (Natural History).

Latin, morsitans = biting

On page 8 Theobald names "CULEX MORSITANS. n.sp." and follows with a detailed description of the male and female. Under *observations* he says "... It is certainly a new species, but closely related to *C. vexans*." Theobald makes no reference to the origin of his name and does not mention its biting habits.