

The names of European mosquitoes: Part 10

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This article is the tenth 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. Additional information will be published in future issues of the *Bulletin* as letters to the editors.

This article completes the listing of the mosquitoes currently recorded from Europe. No doubt, additional species will be discovered and these will be the subject of future updates. A paper analysing the names discussed in the ten articles will follow to complete the series.

Culiseta ochroptera (Peus, 1935)

Peus, F. (1935) *Theobaldia* (Subg. *Culicella*) *ochroptera* sp. n., eine bisher unbekannte Stechmücke. *Märkische Tierwelt (Zeitschrift für die Faunistische Erforschung der Kurmark) Berlin* 1, 113-121.

Greek, ochros = yellow; Greek, pteron = wing

In his description of the female commencing on the first page of his paper, Peus reports on the appearance of the wing, describing its iridescent appearance with hues of red (carmine), violet and green and the scales on the outer border of the costa which are mainly pale ochre coloured and extend to the long fringe scales at the end of the wing: "Flügel auf der ganzen Membran stark irisierend (karmin, violett, grün). c [costa] an der ganzen Außenkante mit bleichockerfarbenen Schuppen besetzt bis zu Beginn der langen fransenartigen Randschuppen kurz vor der Spitze."

Culiseta alaskaensis (Ludlow, 1906)

Ludlow, C.S. (1906) An Alaskan mosquito. *The Canadian Entomologist* 38, 326-328.

Alaska = country name; -ensis = belonging or pertaining to

"*Theobaldia Alaskäensis*. n.sp." is named on page 326. In a paper devoted to this new species there is a description of the male and female and discussion on its taxonomic position. Included are details of the location of the collection on page 328, which are given as "Fort Egbert, Alaska". Hence the name of this species.

Culiseta annulata (Schrank, 1776)

Schrank, F. von P. (1776) *Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte*. Leipzig. Fritsch. 137 pp.

Latin, annulatus = ringed

Schrank introduces his species on page 97 as "Ringelgelse" - ringed gnat - and continues "*Culex annulatus*. C. niger, abdomine cingulis quinque albis, pedibus albo annulatis" and "... Ueber den Rumpf gehen fünf weiße Binden. Die Füße ... mit schwarz und weißen Ringen bekleidet." Schrank is thus emphasising the white abdominal bands and the black and white banded feet. Presumably both characters influenced the use of the epithet "ringed".

Culiseta bergrothi (Edwards, 1921)

Edwards, F.W. (1921) A synonymic list of the mosquitoes hitherto recorded from Sweden, with keys for determining the genera and species. *Entomologisk Tidskrift* 42, 46-52.

This species is listed on page 47 as "*Theobaldia bergrothi* EDW. MS." and is subsequently included in a key on page 50 as "4. Tarsi entirely dark ... *bergrothi* sp.n. There is no explanation of the name or mention of a collector. However Edwards (1921), states on page 287 in a section on *Theobaldia glaphyoptera* in which he is synonymising *Theobaldia bergrothi*: "I was led to regard the specimens sent to me by Drs. Bergroth and Frey as a distinct new species. Later, however, I received a series of specimens ...". *Culiseta bergrothi* is therefore dedicated to Dr Bergroth, the collector of the specimens sent to Frederick Edwards.

Dr Ernst Evald Bergroth (1857-1925) was a German dipterist who led and participated in a number of expeditions throughout Europe and Africa to collect insects, and was a leading authority on heteropterous bugs.

Culiseta glaphyoptera (Schiner, 1864)

Schiner, J.R. (1864) *Fauna Austriaca. Die Fliegen (Diptera)*. Vol. 2. xxxii + 658 pp. Wien.

Greek, glaphyros = elegant; Greek, pteron = wing

This species is included in a key, in German, as *Culex glaphyopterus* on page 628 of the article. The wing is described as being nearly transparent with dark overlapping scales, and with blackish scales at the front edge of the wing forming indistinct spots. "Flügel fast glashell, die schuppenartige Behaarung sehr dicht, dunkel, am Vorderrande fast schwarz, mit den angedeuteten Flecken."

This wings must have struck Schiner as being particularly ornate and elegant, and led him to base his naming of the new species on their appearance. So he coined the name glaphyopterus which, following reclassification of the species, was amended to glaphyoptera.

Culiseta subochrea (Edwards, 1921)

Wesenberg-Lund, C. (1920-21) *Contributions to the biology of the Danish Culicidae*. Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et des Lettres de Danemark, Copenhagen. Section des Sciences, 8th series 7 (1). A.F. Host & Son. Copenhagen. 210 pp.

Latin, sub- = almost; Greek, ochros/ ochrea = yellow

In the postscript to his paper on the Danish Culicidae (page 198) under the heading *Theobaldia annulata*, Wesenberg-Lund writes: "On an excursion to Amager [near Copenhagen] Mr. Kryger and I found a remarkable mosquito closely related to *T. annulata*; the white scales were however yellow and the black brown. After this work was sent to the press Mr. Edwards told me that the specimens were identic with specimens adapted to desert conditions and hitherto found in Mesopotamia; it may be named *T. annulata* var. *subochrea* Edw."

However the same year, Edwards (1921) elevated the variety to species level and describes *T. subochrea* on page 289 as "Abdomen almost uniformly ochreous, the dark brown scales of *T. annulata* being replaced by light ochreous brown, and the white ones by almost the same colour". Coloration was therefore the basis of his naming this species.

Orthopodomyia Theobald, 1904

Theobald, F.V. (1904) New Culicidae from the Federated Malay States. *The Entomologist* 37, 236-239.

Greek, orthos = straight; podos, = of foot, myia = fly

Theobald names his genus at the beginning of the paper as "Genus ORTHOPODOMYIA, nov.gen." and on the next page (237) says "... The hind legs, when the insect is resting, are held straight out, close together and quite close to the surface upon which the fly rests, an abnormal attitude in the Culicinae". Thus Theobald describes his "straight-footed-fly".

Orthopodomyia pulcripalpis (Rondani, 1872)

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

Latin, pulcris (= pulchris) = beautiful; palpis = palps, feeler (from palpus)

Despite naming it because of its beautiful palps (which in the female are long and black with white bands), Rondani makes no reference to them. His full description is as follows (page 31): "Sp.9. pulcripalpis N. Abdomen fusco-lutescens, singuli segmenti dorso nigricante bimaculato".

From this account the following should be noted:

- (i) The species is described as "abdomen brownish-yellow, each segment with two black spots dorsally". *Or. pulcripalpis* has deep black abdominal tergites with snow-white basal bands.
- (ii) The characteristic scutum was not described. However according to Theobald (1901) Rondani's specimen was poor and had the thorax denuded.

Genus *Uranotaenia* Lynch Arribálzaga, 1891

Lynch Arribálzaga, F. (1891) Dipterologia argentina. *Revista del Museo de la Plata* 1, 345-377 (1890-91); continued in 2, 131-172 (1891).

Latin, uranus, Greek, ouranos = heaven; Latin, taenia, Greek, tainia = headband, ribbon

The generic name is first mentioned on page 351. Then on page 375 in a key, an account is given in Latin. This describes the proboscis and the wings, and continues:

"Corpus fuscum vel obscure testaceum, parum squamatum, coeruleo maculatum et vittatum.....URANOTAENIA". [The body is tawny or dark brick-coloured, somewhat scaly, with a spotted sky blue band.] *Coeruleo* means blue, particularly cerulean or azure, and is used to describe the colour of the sky and the surface of the sea.

Then in the continuation of his article on page 163 he heads the section on *Uranotaenia* with the Latin "Caelum" (the classical Latin word for heaven) and "fascia vel taenia (girdle/band or headband/ribbon) and their Greek equivalents. Furthermore on the following page he writes "Las especies de *Uranotaenia* son pardas ó testáceas con manchas ó rayas de color metálico, ó celestes con reflejos de raso." (*Uranotaenia* species are brown or terracotta coloured with spots or stripes of metallic colour, or bluish with a satin sheen.)

He then describes (pages 164 and 165) two new species which he places within his new genus: *Uranotaenia nataliae* and *Ur. pulcherrima*. The latter is figured in a colour plate and shows the blue ornamentation.

Interestingly Lynch Arribálzaga used the word, *uranus*, as part of his generic name to describe the heavenly (sky) colour of the headband (*taenia*), rather than *caelum* or *coeruleo*. It is also of note that, in the key above, Lynch Arribálzaga uses the Latin *vittatum* (from *vittatus*), meaning bound with a fillet or chaplet (derived from *vitta* = ribbon, band, fillet) rather than the word *taenia*, used in naming his species.

Subgenus *Pseudoficalbia* Theobald, 1912

Theobald, F.V. (1912) No. V.- Diptera, Culicidae. *The Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, second series* 15, 81-94.

Commenting upon a collection of mosquitoes from the Seychelles and dependent Islands, on page 81 Theobald remarks "... the remaining two [species] come in a new genus for which I propose the name *Pseudoficalbia* on account of their general resemblance to the Indian *Ficalbia*". Then on page 89 he formally describes the new genus (now a subgenus of *Uranotaenia*).

Ficalbia Theobald, 1903 was named after the Italian Eugenio Ficalbi (1858-1922) who wrote a number of papers on the Italian mosquito fauna and who discovered and described a number of mosquito species including *Coquillettidia richiardii*, *Culex modestus*, *Culex hortensis* and *Culex impudicus*.

Uranotaenia unguiculata Edwards, 1913

Edwards, F.W. (1913) 6. Tipulidae and Culicidae from the Lake of Tiberias and Damascus. *Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal (New Series)* 9, 47-51.*

Latin, *unguiculus* = a finger or toe-nail

The short description of this species, in section six of a multi-authored work entitled *A report on the biology of the Lake of Tiberius*, appears on page 51. Edwards states "Front legs not modified except that the claws are much longer than usual and unequal; they are not, however, so unequal as those of the mid legs, which are normal". Later, under the heading *Remarks*, he notes "In two respects – the unusual front claws, and the prolongation of the upper of the two lines of bluish scales to the front of the mesonotum – this species differs from all known Oriental or Ethiopian species of the genus ...". Hence the species is named because of the characteristic tarsal claws or ungues.

* The reference given for *Culex laticinctus* in an earlier paper in this series should be amended to that given above.

Addendum

The following species has recently been recorded in Europe:

Ochlerotatus japonicus japonicus (Theobald, 1901)

Theobald, F.V. (1901) *A monograph of the Culicidae or mosquitoes*. Volume 1. 424pp. London. British Museum (Natural History).

This species is described on page 385, with the type locality given as Tokyo, Japan, hence the species name, *japonicus* which is a Latinization of the word Japan.

Additional reference

Edwards, F.W. (1921) A revision of the mosquitos of the Palaearctic Region. *Bulletin of entomological Research* 12, 263- 351.

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