

Names of European mosquitoes – an update

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Since Part 11 in this series was published (Snow, 2002), and a summary the following year (Snow, 2003), *Culex europaeus* has been described from Portugal (Ramos *et al.*, 2003) and *Anopheles daciae* from Romania (Nicolescu *et al.*, 2004) and subsequently from Britain (Linton *et al.*, 2005).

A change of generic name affecting a European species has been proposed by Reinert *et al.* (2006) and is generally accepted. Thus *Aedes* / *Ochlerotatus geniculatus*, described originally as *Culex geniculatus* Olivier, is transferred to the genus *Dahlia* (as *Da. geniculata*).

These new names will be considered here.

***Culex europaeus* Ramos, Ribeiro & Harrison, 2003**

Named after its place of discovery.

Specimens named as *Culex territans* Walker, 1856 from Portugal were re-examined and found to differ from those from the USA. These and other European records were considered to be a new species and named *Culex europaeus*.

Quoting from the authors: “The new species is named for Europe, its area of occurrence.”

europaeus [Europaeus -a -um] = belonging to Europe

***Anopheles daciae* Linton, Nicolescu & Harbach, 2004**

Also named after its place of discovery.

Examination of *Anopheles* mosquitoes from the *An. maculipennis* species group in Romania indicated a new species based on molecular evidence. It was collected in the Black Sea coastal region and plains adjacent to the Danube River in southern Romania. The new species was named *daciae* to reflect the collection site, Dacia, a Province of the Roman Empire, which is now part of modern Romania.

The authors state that *Anopheles daciae* is most similar to and sympatric with *An. messeae*. The new species is characterized on the basis of unique nuclear ITS2 and mitochondrial COI DNA sequences, and morphological characters of the eggs. The authors compared the larval, pupal and adult stages of the two species but found no reliable distinguishing features. They conclude that *An. daciae* is almost certainly more widespread in eastern Europe and the Balkan States, where it could be responsible for malaria transmission that is currently attributed to *An. messeae*. Its presence in Britain suggests an even wider distribution.

Daciae [Dacia -ae] = of Dacia

***Dahlia* geniculata (Olivier, 1791)**

Mosquito phylogeny and classification has recently been the subject of a series of papers by John Reinert and co-researchers. Among the changes proposed is the creation of a new genus, *Dahlia* (Reinert, Harbach & Kitching, 2006) for the type species, *Culex geniculatus* Olivier. *Dahlia* is named to honour Christine Dahl, Emeritus Professor at the University of Uppsala in Sweden, in recognition of her many important contributions to the taxonomy and bionomics of Palaearctic mosquitoes.

-iana = a group or collection of objects etc that are related to someone or something

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