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The names of European mosquitoes: Part 11

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This article is the eleventh in a series aimed at adding 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 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.

The following five species, which were omitted from earlier papers in this series, complete the list of mosquitoes currently recorded from Europe.

Anopheles pulcherrimus Theobald, 1902

Theobald, F.V. (1902) A Short Description of the Culicidae of India, with Descriptions of New Species of Anopheles. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, series B **69**, 367-394.

Latin, pulcherrimus = very beautiful

The female of this species is described on pages 369-370, the male being unknown at the time. Theobald describes the female, drawing attention to features such as "Thorax ashy-brown with frosty grey and pale ochraceous scales"... "Wings ... with seven more or less distinct dark patches" ... "costal border with four large black spots" ... "Head ... creamy white in front, rich ochraceous behind" ... "Thorax brown to ashy-brown, covered with broad, flat, spindle-shaped grey scales, giving it a frosty appearance" ... "mesonotum brown" ... "abdomen black" ... "legs with pale bands". He is drawing to the reader's attention the ornamentation and coloration of this newly described species of mosquito. Theobald explains the use of the name *pulcherrimus*, saying that "It is a very well defined and beautiful species ...". At the end of the section he states that "The name was proposed by the collectors", who are previously stated as Captain James, and Drs Christophers and Stephens.

Ochlerotatus nigrocanus (Martini,1927)

Martini, E. (1927) Über zwei neue Stechmückenarten aus Anatolien. *Archiv für Schiffs- und Tropen-hygiene Pathologie und Therapie Exotischer Krankheiten* **31**, 386-390.

Latin nigro = to be black; canus = whitish-grey

Martini clearly named this species on account of its coloration. A description of the male is given on page 390 which contains many references to features of the mosquito that are black:

"Koft schwarzhäutig ... Augen schwarz ... Thorus schwarz ...Hinterleib oben schwarz".

Also there are references to whitish-grey coloration:

" ... Underseite des Abdomens bei vorliegendem Stück stark beschädigt, schwarz mit einer Anzahl grauweißer Schuppen"

" ... Hinterleib oben schwarz, basale helle Bilden sind vorhanden und au den Seiten zu starken grauweißen Seitenflecken ausgezogen ...".

Ochlerotatus phoeniciae (Coluzzi & Sabatini, 1968)

Coluzzi, M. & Sabatini, A. (1968) Divergenze morphologiche e barriere di sterilita' nel complesso *Aedes mariae* (Diptera, Culicidae). *Rivista di Parassitologia* **29**, 49-70.

In their paper Coluzzi & Sabatini recognised three subspecies of ***Aedes mariae***: the Tyrrhenian *mariae*, the Adriatic *zammitii* and the Middle-Eastern *phoeniciae*. The larva of "***Aedes (Ochlerotatus) mariae phoeniciae*** sottospecies nuova" is described on page 68 and the type locality is given as Beirut, Lebanon. This explains the selection of the name *phoeniciae* derived from Phoenicia, the ancient name for a territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, now largely in modern Lebanon.

Later, Coluzzi *et al.* (1970) elevated the subspecies to species status.

Culex tritaeniorhynchus Giles, 1901

Giles, G.M. (1901) A plea for the collective investigation of Indian Culicidae, with suggestions as to moot points for enquiry, and a prodromus of species known to the author. ***Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*** **13**, 592-610.

Latin, tri- = prefix indicating three; Latin, taenia, Greek, tainia = band, ribbon; Greek, rhynchos = snout

At the bottom of page 606 and continuing on to the following page, Giles writes:

45a. CULEX TRITÆNIORHYNCHUS, sp.n.

Wings unspotted; tarsi minutely basally banded pale ochreous; thorax unadorned, fuscous; abdominal segments fuscous, with rather narrow yellowish-white basal bands. Proboscis with three ochreous bands.

The last character in this description, namely the three bands on the proboscis, clearly influenced Giles in naming this new species.

Culex vagans Wiedemann, 1828

Wiedemann, C.R.W. (1828) *Aussereuropäische zwieflügelige Inseckten.* [Vol. 1.] xxxii + 608 pp. Hamm.

Latin, vagans = ranging, wandering

The morphological characteristics of the male and female of ***Culex vagans*** are described by Wiedemann in Latin and, more extensively, in German on page 545. There is also the brief statement "Aus China" and reference to the fact that the specimens were collected in China by Dr Trentepohl. Wiedemann may have considered naming this mosquito after the country of capture but he had done this already on page 30 of his book for *Anopheles sinensis*, also from China. Quite why he selected ***vagans*** is not clear, but he may have been informed by the collector that the species was widely distributed.

Additional reference

Coluzzi, M., Gironi, A.M. & Muir, D.A. (1970) Ulteriori esperimenti d'incrocio tra le forme del complesso *mariae* del genere *Aedes*. *Parassitologia* **12**, 119-123.

Announcement

First International Workshop: VECTOR -BORNE DISEASES AND PROBLEMS OF GENETIC SAFETY

To be held at the Vavilov Institute of General Genetics, Russian Academy of Sciences Moscow, Russian Federation
6-12 October 2002

Scientific Head of Workshop: Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Director of VIGG RAS
Yuri P. Altukhov

The workshop will focus on vector borne diseases and genetic safety and is intended for heads of departments of the Ministries of Public Health, Culture and Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation and Independent States of CIS, representatives of international organisations concerned with vector-borne disease, and those engaged in medical entomology and tourism.

Topics to be presented include:
Conservation genetics
Genetic problems of the epidemiology of vector-borne diseases
Prevention and treatment strategies and approaches to vector-borne diseases: new pharmaceuticals and vaccines
Modern technologies for the control of haematophagous insects.

Financial support for the workshop has been provided by Roll Back Malaria, World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe.

The registration fee is US$ 400. The cost includes hotel reservation, transfer from airport to hotel, coffee breaks with beverage and light refreshment, materials folder for workshop participants, welcome reception, business-lunch at the House of Scientists and interpreting service. The cultural program will include visits to museums, exhibitions, and theatres.

For more information, please contact the Science and Information Department, Headquarters of the Society for Geneticists (Moscow), Vavilov Institute of General Genetics RAS, 3 Gubkin Street, 119991 Moscow GSP-1, Russia or E-mall: msgs@Wvigg.ru or msokolova@vigg.ru (Dr Marina Sokolova). Overseas participants in the conference will require a visa that must be obtained 45 days before the date of arrival.

European Mosquito Control Association

The European Mosquito Control Association (EMCA) was launched in 2000 with the overall objective to "promote control of mosquitoes and related subjects in the broadest sense and to disseminate affiliated information to its members and others in Europe and neighbouring regions."

To join the EMCA please contact the EMCA Office. The annual fee for regular membership is currently 50 Euros. For commercial membership it is a minimum of 200 Euros annually.

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