NOTES ON THE GRAMMAR OF NAMES IN THE DERMAPTERA

GEORGE C. STEYSKAL

The most recent comprehensive works on the Dermaptera are a) A Systematic Monograph of the Dermaptera of the World (Pygidicranidae only; Hincks, 1955, 1959), b) A Key to the Dermaptera Subfamilies (Popham, 1965), c) the series entitled Genera and Species of the Dermaptera (Popham and Brindle, 1966-1969), d) the Catalogue of New World Dermaptera (Reichardt, 1968-1971), and e) the Dermapterorum Catalogus Praeiminaris I-VI (Sakai, 1970, 1971). These works contain a number of irregularities in the formation of family-group names, a few cases of erroneous gender, etc., that I would like to bring to the attention of workers on these insects, particularly because it would appear that a new catalogue of the species of the world is projected.

Reichardt and Sakai have followed Hincks and Popham and Brindle quite closely; nearly all of the names used by the former authors are in the form used by the latter, but in Sakai there are also a considerable number of usually rather obvious typographical errors.

The suprageneric classification used in these works is as follows, with the form of the names as required by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, with the genus-names upon which the family-group names are based shown in parentheses, and with the taxa, except for typical subordinate groups, listed in alphabetic rather than the so-called systematic order.

Superfamily Forficuloidea

Forficulidae
   Forficulinae (Forficula)  Eudohriiinae (Eudohrnia)
   Ancistrogastrinae  Neolobophorinae (Neolobophora)
      (Ancistrogaster)  Opisthocosmiinae (Opisthocosmia)
   Anechurinae (Anechura)  Apachyinae (Apachyus)
   Diaperasticinae  (Diaperasticus)
   Cheliscochidae (Chelisoches)
   Labiduridae  Apachyinae (Apachyus)
      Labidurinae (Labidura)
      Allostethinae (Allostethus)

Several of the above names have appeared without the double i in their ending, e.g., Anataeliinae instead of the correct Anataellinae. Three names formed with the Greek word labis, the genitive stem of which is labid-, have apparently never been used correctly; these are Brachylabidinae, Parisolabidinae, and Protolabidinae. The Greek word psalis, part of the genus-name Strongylopsalis, also has an imparisyllabic genitive with the stem psalid-; the subfamily name should therefore be Strongylopsalidinae. The subfamily whose type is Gonolabina has been cited as Gonolabinae, with a whole syllable dropped; the correct form is Gonolabininae.

The generic names Allostethus (or Allosthetus) and Allosthetella call for extended comment. The first of these names was proposed by Verhoeff (1904) in a very confused manner. The very first line of the article in which it is proposed reads “1. Fam. Allostethidae n. fam. ...” and then 4 species are described, 3 in “Allosthetus” and one in “Allostethus.” The family name is cited 6 times after the first line as either Allosthetidae or Allosthetiden. I believe that it is logical to conclude that Verhoeff did not read proof of his article, especially because the subfamily Parisolabidinae, also erected in this article, has the genus on which it is based appearing on the next page as Parisolabris (sic), a form which has been presumed erroneous because of derivation of Parisolabis from Isolabis. Inasmuch as one of the chief characters of the
Allostethidae, cited in spaced type, is the structure of the thoracic sternites: "Besonders characteristisch sind die Bruststernite," and because Allostethus is a Greek compound meaning ‘different thorax,’ while Allosthetus is meaningless, it may be argued on semantic grounds that Allostethus was indeed the spelling that Verhoeff intended to use. Burr (1915: 438-439) in making a few combinations with Allosthetella and in stating ‘... Allosthetella (which should be written Allostethella) ...’ may possibly be considered first reviser in choosing between Allostethus and Allosthetus as the basis of Allostethella. Townes (1945: 344) has also remarked “Presumably, Allosthetus is a lapsus or a typographical error.” When Zacher (1910) proposed the genus Allosthetella, he referred several times to the genus “Allosthetus” or the family “Allosthetidae,” but he made no mention of the spelling Allostethus.

I believe that an application should be made to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for either a) rejection of Allosthetus, Allosthetidae, and Allosthetella in favor of Allostethus, Allostethidae, and Allostethella or b) the reverse. Either course would promote regularity and lessen confusion, but the former I believe has the firmer basis, both in fact and logic.

A few species-names appear in Popham and Brindle in the genus Allostethus in the neuter form, perhaps because the classical gender of stethos is neuter. However, latinizing this Greek word to stethus is considered in the Code (Art. 30a.i.3), although contrary to classical practice, as changing the ending and the gender of the word to masculine. These names should therefore be A. celebensis, A. indicus, A. lombokianus, and A. philippinensis.

The wrong gender has been apparently consistently attributed to the genus-names Ancistrogaster, Cylindrogaster, and Nesogaster. Because the Greek word gaster is feminine both in the original Greek and in Latin usage as well (see the Code, Art. 30a.i), these names must be feminine. The following are the correct forms of names shown in the lists in the masculine form: Ancistrogaster arthritica, A. hirsuta, A. lactuosa, A. uncinata (see Reichardt, 1971, 24: 177), A. variegate, Cylindrogaster (see Hincks, 1955; Reichardt, 1968, 21: 192; Sakai, 1971, V: 3-10), C. bicyclura, C. thoracica; Nesogaster aculeata, N. amoena, N. dolicha, N. intermedium, N. javanica, N. minuscula, N. nigrita, N. papua, N. venusta. N. reditus, however, is correct because reditus is a noun.

The patronymics in the binomina Arlex sjoestedti and Forficula sjoestedti (both originally spelled sjöstedti), should be spelled sjoestedti because the man to whom they are dedicated was not German (see the Code, Art. 32c.i). Isolabis traegaardhi was originally proposed as Brachylabis trågardhi on page 3 and as B. traegaardhi on page 4 by Burr (1913). It seems best to follow the present rules and spell this patronymic as tragardhi.

The genus-name Dacnodes (see Hincks, 1959) is properly masculine according to the Code (Art. 30a.ii), and the proper forms of the names now listed in the feminine form are as follows: D. acutangulus (noun), D. caffer, D. elongatus, D. lividus, D. littatus, D. separates. The name of the genus Cipex, which was proposed only with a species whose name is in the genitive case (schwarzi), should also be masculine (see the Code, Art. 30b.ii), as are several other dermapteran generic names ending in -ex.
Cipex elongatus should therefore be the name of a species referred to this genus by Reichardt (1971, 24: 167).

Several species-names in masculine genera are listed in the feminine form and vice versa, and a few in non-neuter genera are listed in neuter form. The proper forms of these are: Afrocospinia denticulata, Anisolabis colorata, A. egregia, A. nitida, A. picea, A. recurva, A. robusta, Apachyus queenslandicus, Auchenomus intermedius, Carcinophora peruiviana, Cranopygia kallipyga, Diplatys coriaceus, D. sumatratus, Doru gracile (see Reichardt, 1971, 24: 168), Euenkrates variegatus, Hamaxas quadrituberculatus, Isolaboides tuberculatus, Parablandex albovittatus, P. abovittatus, Pseudovostox afer (for a/rum), Skalistes inopinatus, S. lugubris var. metricus, S. peruvinus, S. viduus, Spongovostox aborus (for aborum). A variety of Echinosoma concolor should be cited as longipenne (not longipennis).

Two species-names should have hyphens removed: Labia arae-divitis, Spongovostox aloysiisabaudiae.


References

Burr, M.


Hincks, W. D.


Popham, E. J.


Popham, E. J. & A. Brindle


Reichardt, H.

Sakai, S.


Townes, H. K.


Verhoeff, K. W.


Zacher, F.
