

Update on the names of European mosquitoes

I am grateful to Dr John Reinert for pointing out the omission of the subgenus *Fredwardsius* from the papers on the names of European mosquitoes published in this journal. Reinert (2000) compared *Aedes vittatus* with currently recognised subgenera and genera in the tribe Aedini and found that the species possesses unique and unusual features. He therefore established the new subgenus *Fredwardsius* within the genus *Aedes*, with *Ae. vittatus* as the type species. The subgenus is named after Frederick Edwards for his initial recognition of the distinctive features of *Ae. vittatus* and his outstanding work on the systematics of the Culicidae.

Frederick Wallace Edwards was born in 1888 in Peterborough, England and studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge. His distinguished career commenced in 1910 when he joined the Entomology Section of the British Museum (Natural History). He was in charge of Culicidae and was working at a time when there was an ever-growing interest in the group. He was an assiduous collector and made two major collecting expeditions to the Argentine and Chile in 1926 and to East Africa in 1934. He published on mosquitoes from home and abroad and on numerous other insect groups.

In the course of his career he described over 2000 new species and wrote more than 350 titles occupying some 6000 pages of print together with 2000 of his own drawings. His classic work "A revision of the mosquitos of the Palaearctic region" published in the Bulletin of Entomological Research in 1921 is a detailed 88-page paper in which he expertly reviewed and revised the mosquito fauna of Europe, North Africa and northern Asia through to Japan. The systematics of the Culicidae owes much to Edwards' lifetime of work. It was a loss to Science that Fred Edwards died prematurely at the early age of 51 in Letchworth, England in 1940.

Professor François Rodhain related three points to me. The first is that Georges Senevet told him that *Anopheles marteri* was named after his brother in law and not his wife, Marie Louise Marter (Snow, 1999). The original species description does not explain the dedication but the mosquito was discovered on a trip to the grave where Senevet's wife and other members of the Marter family were buried. The naming of the species after his brother in law explains the use of the masculine form *marteri* rather than the feminine *marterae*.

Professor Rodhain also remarks that in the summary (Snow, 2003) it should state that *Culex brumpti* was named after Emile Brumpt and not Alexandre Brumpt. In the more detailed account (Snow, 2001b), brief biographical details of Brumpt are given and, although he was known as Emile, his full name was Alexandre Joseph Emile Brumpt. However as he published as Emile, this name is more appropriate.

Finally François Rodhain has another proposal for the subgeneric name *Maillotia*. Theobald (1907), who named the subgenus, stated, "... its peculiar characters were noticed by Dr. Edmund Sergent, who suggested the name under which it is described". As discussed (Snow, 2001a), the vestiture of the head and thorax were seemingly sufficiently striking to warrant comparison with being "wrapped in swaddling clothes", derived from the French "maillot". Professor Rodhain suggests that the subgenus may have been named after François Maillot, a French military doctor involved in therapeutic malaria research in Algeria during the 19th century. This would explain the "-ia" suffix, which normally indicates derivation from a personal name. However, it would appear that Theobald was naming the subgenus after "its peculiar characters".

References

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

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