ORIGIN OF STONEFLY NAMES PROPOSED BY RICKER AND COLLABORATORS

By
W. E. Ricker
3052 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, B. C. Canada

Reprinted from PERLA #2
Revised July 1992

Origin of stonefly names proposed by Ricker and collaborators

By W. E. Ricker
3052 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, B. C., Canada

Scientific names proposed for organisms should preferably be distinctive, euphonious and descriptive, in that order of importance. Latin and Greek roots have most commonly been used, but there is no rule making this compulsory. In coining the immense number of names now in existence the classical languages have been rather thoroughly ransacked, so that it is hard to make a new generic name that is short and euphonious, and still harder to be sure that it is new. The late Dr. Joachim Illies believed that for Plecoptera combinations ending in "perla" are most suitable. I have sometimes followed his advice, but the result always sounds a bit awkward unless there are no more than two preceding syllables, as in Neoperla. With species names it is much easier to avoid synonymy because you need worry about duplication only within the genus under consideration and closely related genera (in case of future "lumping"). However, the multitude of species named longus, brevis, novus, similis, etc. give the impression that systematists tend to be an unimaginative lot. This may be true, but it is surely not an essential qualification for our profession.

To avoid these difficulties there are two rather obvious courses. One is to make words out of previously meaningless combinations of letters, as L. J. Milne did for a number of caddisflies, but this does not appeal to me. The other plan is to take words from contemporary or recently extinct languages and cast them into Latin form; including, of course, names of persons and of geographical features. This is what I have done, but avoiding ordinary English words for no logical reason. Russian is the language used most often, but also Spanish and indigenous American tongues. Sometimes the spelling has been simplified, while Russian's different alphabet makes the borrowing less obvious.

The pronunciation of scientific names has always been a vexatious question, which I will not attempt to solve here. However, for the names proposed I would recommend that the vowels be as in Italian and consonants as in English, except that personal names should conform to their owners' usage. As regards accent, Latin requires that the penultimate syllable of a word be accented if its vowel is long, otherwise the antepenultimate is accented. However it is difficult to impose this rule on names from non-classical languages. An alternative is to keep the accent as in the language from which the name is derived, and for those who choose this option I have marked the accent on such words.

Still another possibility is to adopt the French custom of putting no special accent on any syllable.

In the list to follow, names are listed under the genus to which they are currently ascribed, and are followed by the genus in which they were described. Names now considered synonyms are marked with an asterisk.

Acroneuria Pictet

*cuestae Ricker 1935. Syn. carolinensis Banks. The types are from the cuésta or escarpment that crosses southwestern Ontario.

Allocapnia Claassen

aurora Ricker 1952. It suddenly dawned on me that this must be a new species.

cunninghami Ross and Ricker 1971. Dr. H. B. Cúnningham of Auburn University was an active collector of winter stoneflies.

frisoni Ross and Ricker 1964. Dr. T. H. Fríson was Chief of the Illinois Natural History Survey during the 1930s and 1940s, and a well known student of stoneflies.

indianae Ricker 1952. The types are from Indiána.

loshada Ricker 1952. Russian lóshad = horse. The types are from Horse Creek, West Virginia.

mohri Ross and Ricker 1964. Dr. Carl 0. Mohr was an entomologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey.

ohioensis Ross and Ricker 1964. The types are from Ohío.

pechumani Ross and Ricker 1964. Dr. L. L. Péchuman of Cornell University collected many specimens of winter stoneflies.

peltoides Ross and Ricker, 1964. From Greek, "resembling a shield". Refers to the shield-like rugose area on the process of the male 8th tergite.

perplexa Ross and Ricker 1964. Herb was perplexed as to where this species should be placed in his phylogeny of Allocapnia.

polemistis Ross and Ricker 1971. From Greek polemístes, a fighter. The species occurs in the Black Warrior Uplift region of northwestern Alabama.

sandersoni Ricker 1952. Dr. M. W. Sánderson of the Illinois Natural History Survey collected the types.

smithi Ross and Ricker 1971. Named for Dr. P. W. Smith of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, who collected the type.

tenessa Ross and Ricker 1964. The types are from Tennessée.

*torontonensis Ricker 1935. Syn. pygmaea Burmeister. The types are from near Toronto, Ontario. I had taken the precaution of having Dr. Frison check some of my specimens, but he unfortunately was at that time applying the name pygmaea to the species he later described as rickeri.

zola Ricker 1952. Russian zolá = ashes (of a fire). The types are from Ash Cave, Ohio; which is a very poor pun that I never expected to divulge to anyone.

Allonarcys Needham and Claassen

scotti (Ricker 1952) — Pteronarcys. Dr. D. C. Scott is an aquatic biologist of the University of Georgia.

Alloperla Banks

concolor Ricker 1935. An all-green species.

idei (Ricker 1935) — Chloroperla. Dr. F. P. Ide, a student of mayflies, was my companion during 3 years of stream and lake study in Ontario, 1928-30.

leonarda Ricker 1952. The late Justin W. Léonard and his wife Fan were students of aquatic insects in Michigan.

medveda Ricker 1952. Russian medvéd = bear; the types are from the Bear Tooth Mountains in Montana.

*milnei (Ricker 1935) — Chloroperla. Syn. chloris Frison. Dr. Lorus J. Milne is co-author of popular works on natural history; formerly a student of caddisflies.

*thalia Ricker 1952. Syn. severa Hagen. Thália is the Muse of comedy, but I have forgotten what was amusing here. Hagen's name is evidently from Russian séver = north, the type being from the "Island of Unga, Russian America".

usa Ricker 1952. Russian us = moustache, referring to the patch of hairs on the epiproct.

voinae Ricker 1948. Russian voiná = war. The type was collected and described during wartime.

vostoki Ricker 1948. Russian vostók = east. A species from northeastern North America.

Amphinemura Ris

delosa (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Amphinemura). Dr. Shelby Delos Gerking, ichthyologist and ecologist, was a professor at Indiana University and later at Arizona State University.

linda (Ricker 1952). — Nemoura (Amphinemura). Linda Skaar was my assistant for a few years in Indiana, and she requested this name.

mockfordi (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Amphinemura). Edward Móckford collected insects and worked with Psocidae while a student at Indiana University; more recently at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

varshava (Ricker 1952) - Nemoura (Amphinemura). The types are from Wársaw, Indiana (Polish Warszawá).

Attaneuria Ricker 1955 (as sg. of Acroneuria). I was under the impression that the type and only species, A. ruralis, had been taken in the Ottawa River, although I cannot now locate such a specimen. In any event I was making a short combination with "neuria", and "Atta" sounded better than "Otta".

Besdolus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian bez = without, dólya = lobe. This European genus lacks the vesicle.

Bolotoperla Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian bolóto = swamp or bog. The types of B. rossi came from a boggy stream, I believe.

Bolshecapnia Ricker 1965 (as sg. of Capnia). Russian bólshii = bigger; most of the species are larger than those of Capnia.

gregsoni (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). The first specimen was collected by Jack Grégson, entomologist and mountaineer of Kamloops, British Columbia.

rogozera (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). Russian rog = horn or antler, ózero = lake. The types are from Moosehorn Lake.

sasquatchi (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). Sásquatch are the yeti of North America, familiar to and feared by the Indians. The type came from the Fraser River not far from Ruby Creek, scene of one of the most circumstantially related sasquatch incidents.

spenceri (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). Dr. G. J. Spéncer was an entomologist and naturalist at the University of British Columbia.

Calineuria Ricker 1955 (as sg. of Acroneuria). The "Cal" part comes from California; "neuria" is from Acroneuria.

Capnia Pictet

cheama Ricker 1965. (che–á–ma). Mt. Cheam is a landmark on the south side of the Fraser River near the type locality.

*hantzschi Ricker 1938. Syn. nearctica Banks. Bernard Hantzsch was a Moravian missionary, explorer and naturalist in the eastern Canadian arctic. He collected the type.

sugluka Ricker 1965. Súgluk is an Inuit village on the south side of Hudson Strait, where most of the type specimens were taken.

Chernokrilus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian chérnyi = black; kryló = wing.

Chloroperla Newman

ovibovis Ricker 1965. The types are from Muskox Lake, North West Territories. Ovibos = muskox.

Cultus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). C. pilatus is common near Cúltus Lake, British Columbia, which was supposed to harbour some kind of monster. In west coast Chinook cultus = no good, useless or tabu.

*fraseri (Ricker 1943) — Diploperla. Syn. aestivalis Needham and Claassen. Named for the Fárser River.

tostonus Ricker 1952 — Isogenus (Cultus). Tóston, Montana, is the type locality.

Despaxia Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Leuctra). Professor R. Despax of Toulouse was a keen student of stoneflies.

*Dolkrila Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Diura). Russian dólgii = long, kryló = wing. Contrasts with brachypterous Diura bicaudata.

Frisonia Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Arcynopteryx). See Allocapnia frisoni.

*walkeri (Ricker 1943) — Arcynopteryx (Frisonia). Syn. picticeps Hanson. Dr. E. M. Wálker was an entomologist and naturalist of the University of Toronto, best known for his work with Orthoptera, Odonata and Grylloblatta, a "living fossil".

*Hastaperla Ricker 1935. Syn. Haploperla Navás. Latin hásta = spear, referring to the pointed aedeagal sclerites.

Haploperla Navás

*calcarea (Ricker 1935) —- Hastaperla. Syn. brevis Banks. The types were from a limestone escarpment stream of southwestern Ontario.

chilnualna (Ricker 1952) — Hastaperla. The type locality is the Chilnuálna River in Yosemite Park, California.

Helopicus Ricker 1952. (as sg. of Isogenus). Chinook hélo or halo = no, none; Latin pícus = lance, pike. This genus lacks lateral stylets on the epiproct.

Hesperoperla Banks

*okanagan (Ricker 1935) — Acroneuria. Syn. pacifica Banks. The types are from Okanágan Lake, British Columbia.

Isocapnia Banks

agassizi Ricker 1943. Ágassiz is a British Columbia town situated a little north of the lower Fraser River. It has an Experimental Farm that has served as a base for a number of entomologists.

fraseri Ricker 1859. The Fráser River is the type locality.

hyalita Ricker 1959. Hýalite Creek is the type locality, southwest of Bozeman, Montana. Hyalite is a transparent mineral found thereabouts.

kudia Ricker 1959. The type is from the Kudia River, a rather small stream that reaches salt water at Amgu in the Maritime Province of Siberia.

missourii Ricker 1959. The type locality is Toston, Montana, on the Missóuri River.

mogila Ricker 1959. Russian mogíla = grave; the allotype is from Grave Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River in Oregon.

spenceri Ricker 1943. Stanley Spéncer of Cultus Lake, British Columbia, collected the type. He was showing an active interest in entomology, but was killed in the second world war.

*thujae Ricker 1943. Syn. of spenceri Ricker. The type was collected on a log of western cedar (Thúja occidentalis).

vedderensis (Ricker 1943) — Eucapnopsis. The Chilliwack River becomes the Vedder River at Vedder Crossing, then runs into the Fraser. Védder is the name of an early settler.

Isogenoides Klapálek

hansoni (Ricker 1952) — Isogenus (Isogenoides). Dr. J. F. Hánson of the University of Massachusetts formerly worked with stoneflies.

krumholzi (Ricker 1952) — Isogenus (Isogenoides). Dr. Louis A. Krúmholz was a fishery biologist who worked in Michigan, Indiana, and at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Isoperla Banks

cotta Ricker 1952. The type locality is on the Credit River at Terra Cótta, Ontario.

Kogotus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian kógot = claw or nail. Refers to the lobe on the 7th sternite of the male.

Kohnoperla Ricker and Ross 1975. Named for Dr. Mitsuko Kóhno, well-known student of Japanese stoneflies.

Lednia Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian led = ice. The types were collected by a cold stream in Glacier National Park, Montana, although I don't remember that there was actually any ice nearby at the time.

tumana (Ricker 1952) — Leuctra (Lednia). Russian tumán = mist. It was a foggy day.

Leuctra Stephens

baddecka Ricker 1965. Baddéck is a town on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, best known because Alexander Graham Bell made the first hydrofoil boat there, as well as numerous other gadgets.

moha Ricker 1952. Russian mokh = moss. They types are from Mossy Creek, Georgia.

Malenka Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian málenkii = little.

tina (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Malenka). Probably from English tíny. Russian tína = mud or ooze, and has no obvious connection.

wenatchee (Ricker 1965) — Nemoura (Malenka). The types were taken close to Lake Wenátchee, Washington.

Malirekus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian mályi = small, reká = river. M. hastatus is abundant in small brooks.

Megaleuctra Neave

neavei Ricker 1935. Dr. Ferris Neave collected and described stoneflies during the 1930s. M. neavei is from Baltic amber.

Megarcys Klapálek

watertoni (Ricker 1952) — Arcynopteryx (Megarcys). The type locality is in Wáterton Lakes National Park, Alberta.

Mesocapnia Raušer

bergi Ricker 1965. The types were collected by Dr. Clifford 0. Berg of Cornell University.

*beringi (Ricker 1965) — Capnia. Syn. of variabilis Klapálek. Named for Vitus Béring, or for the sea near which the types were taken.

Mesyatsia Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian mésyats = month, also poetically = moon. The type species is lunata Kimmins, from the Himalayan region.

Moselia Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Leuctra). The late Martin E. Mósely, a volunteer worker at the British Museum (Natural History), worked with caddisflies and stoneflies.

Neaviperla Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Alloperla). The late Ferris Neave worked with stoneflies and mayflies while at the University of Manitoba.

Nemoura Pictet

normani Ricker 1952. The type is from Fort Nórman on the Mackenzie River.

Neoperla Needham

hubbsi Ricker 1952. The label on the type specimen indicates that it was collected in Kansas by the late Carl L. Hubbs, well-known ichthyologist and conservationist. However, students of the genus have concluded that there must have been a mix-up of labels at the Ann Arbor museum, because the species belongs to an African group, and searches have failed to turn up additional American specimens.

Oemopteryx Klapálek

fosketti (Ricker 1965) — Brachyptera (Oemopteryx). Biologist Dudley Fóskett collected many specimens of this species at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

*zelona (Ricker 1965) — Brachyptera (Oemopteryx). Syn. of fosketti. Russian zelényi = green. The types were erroneously listed from the Green River, Utah.

Okamotoperla Ricker and Ross 1975. Dr. H. Okamoto was the pioneer Japanese plecopterist.

Osobenus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian osóbennyi = distinctive. Refers to the unusual structure of the epiproct.

Ostrocerca Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian óstryi = sharp, referring to the sharp tip of the elongate cerci.

foersteri (Ricker 1943) — Nemoura. Dr. R. E. Foerster established a salmon research station at Cultus Lake, British Columbia, into which I smuggled a certain amount of work on insects during the 1930s.

Ostrovus Ricker 1952. (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian óstrov = island. The genus occurs on the island of Honshu.

Paragnetina Klapálek.

*fattigi Ricker 1949. (Syn. of kansensis Banks). Dr. P. W. Fáttig of Emory University, Georgia, collected the types.

*fumosa (Ricker 1935) — Acroneuria. (Syn. of immarginata Say). The name refers to the smoky wings.

*salvelini (Ricker 1935) — Acroneuria. (Syn. of media Walker). The types were from streams that harboured numerous native trout (Salvelínus fontinalis).

Paraleuctra Hanson

*dusha Ricker 1965. Russian dushá = soul, spirit. "Refers obliquely to the type locality, which ... became a ghost town; and perhaps also to this species, which may prove to be insubstantial." It is actually a gynandromorph, probably of occidentalis or vershina.

vershina Gaufin and Ricker 1975. Russian vershína = summit, referring to the mountainous country where the species occurs.

Paraperla Banks

wilsoni Ricker 1965. Named for the late Carl Wílson of Vedder Crossing, British Columbia: school teacher, fisherman and outdoorsman.

Podmosta Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian pod = under, most = bridge. A good place to find adult stoneflies is under bridges that have smooth concrete walls.

*rossi (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Podmosta). (Syn. of decepta Frison). The late Dr. H. H. (Herb) Ross, a native of Vancouver, British Columbia, published extensively on sawflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, leafhoppers and other groups while at the Illinois Natural History Survey and University of Georgia. His last major project was to organize a "winter stonefly club", whose more than 150 members are listed in Ross and Ricker (1971), and whose collections made Allocapnia the best studied large genus in Plecoptera.

macdunnoughi (Ricker 1948) — Nemoura. Dr. J. McDúnnough was for many years in charge of the Entomological Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; he worked with mayflies and Lepidoptera, but made extensive general collections, including the type of this species.

weberi (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Podmosta). Dr. N. A. Wéber collected the types.

Prostoia Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian prostói = simple, referring to the uncomplicated epiproct.

besametsa (Ricker 1952) — as Nemoura (Prostoia). Russian bez = without, saméts = male. For several years I had many female specimens but no males.

Razvena Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Chloroperla). Russian véna = vein, raz or ras is a prefix that suggests that something is new, different, or a bit crazy.

Remenus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian remén = strap or thong. Refers to the long lash at the tip of the epiproct.

Setvena Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Arcynopteryx). Russian set = net, véna = vein. Refers to the apical network of veins in the forewing.

Shipsa Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian shchíptsy = pincers, referring to the hooks on the 10th tergite.

Skwla Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Arcynopteryx). The name of a clan of Salish Indians living near Sardis, British Columbia.

Soliperla Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Peltoperla). This may be from Latin sol = sun, Russian sol = salt, English sole = only, or Italian solo = alone. I can't remember a connection with any of these, but suspect a reference to the fact that there was only one species in the genus when it was described. Several have been described since.

Sopkalia Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Arcynopteryx). Russian sopka = volcano. The type species is from Japan, home of one of the most beautiful volcanoes.

Soyedina Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian soyedinít = to unite. Refers to the fusion of the anal veins in the forewing.

Stavsolus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Arcynopteryx). Russian vstavát = to rise, sólntse = sun. A genus from the Land of the Rising Sun.

Strophopteryx Frison

appalachia Ricker and Ross 1975. A species of the Appaláchian region.

arkansae Ricker and Ross 1975. Most specimens were from Árkansas.

inaya Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian inói (feminine ináya) = different.

ostra Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian óstryi = sharp, referring to the spine of the supracercal lobe.

Suwallia Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Alloperla). The Suwállies or Scowillies are a clan of Salish Indians living near Chilliwack, British Columbia.

Sweltsa Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Alloperla). Swéltsa was the local Indians' name for Cultus Lake, British Columbia; its outlet is still called Sweltzer Creek.

onkos (Ricker 1935) — Alloperla. Greek ónkos = a hook; refers to the curved epiproct.

tamalpa (Ricker 1952) — Alloperla (Sweltsa). The type locality, Mt. Tamalpáis, is just north of the Golden Gate near San Francisco, California.

townesi (Ricker 1952) — Alloperla (Sweltsa). Dr. Henry K. Townes collected the types.

urticae (Ricker 1952) — Alloperla (Sweltsa). Úrtica = nettle. I ran into some while collecting this species.

Tadamus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). I cannot remember the word or idea that suggested this name for this Japanese genus.

kohnonis (Ricker 1952) — Isogenus (Tadamus). Dr. Mitsuko Kóhno is a well-known plecopterist and saki manufacturer.

Taenionema Banks

atlánticum Ricker and Ross 1975. This species was long confused with the western pacificum.

Taeniopteryx Pictet

burksi Ricker and Ross 1968. Dr. R. R. (Barney) Burks was an entomologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey and the United States National Museum.

lonicera Ricker and Ross 1968. Honeysuckle (Lonicéra) grows abundantly throughout most of the range of this species.

metequi Ricker and Ross 1968. Metéqui is an Algonquin word referring to the great eastern broad-leaved forest (Herb Ross).

ugola Ricker and Ross 1968. Russian úgol = coal. The species is known from the coal region of West Virginia and eastern Tennessee.

Tallaperla Stark and Stewart

láurie (Ricker 1952) — Peltoperla. This continues the Needham and Smith tradition of girls' names for Peltoperla.

Triznaka Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Alloperla). Russian tri = three, znak = mark. Refers to the three black lines on the metathorax.

pintada (Ricker 1952) — Alloperla (Triznaka). Spanish pintádo = colored, painted. Live male specimens often have the abdomen partly suffused with red, similarly to Isoperla quinquepunctata.

Utacapnia Nebeker and Gaufin

labradora (Ricker 1955) — Capnia. The types are from Lábrador.

Utaperla Ricker 1952. The type species is from Útah.

sopladora Ricker 1952. Spanish sopladór = puffer. The type locality is Puffer's Lake, Utah.

Viehoperla Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Peltoperla). Spanish viéjo = old. Refers to the large epiproct, which is more primitive than the small types found in most Peltoperlidae.

Visoka Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian vysókii = high. Refers to the high elevations favored by this genus.

Yoraperla Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Peltoperla). Spanish llorár = to weep, referring to the dripping skies that characterize the home of the type species.

mariana (Ricker 1943) — Peltoperla. Named for Márion Ricker.

Yugus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian yug = south. Occurs in the southern part of the Appalachian region.

Zapada Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian západ = west. Occurs mainly in western North America.

chila (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Zapada). Spanish chíle = red pepper. I thought this species was a red hot discovery, the first eastern species of the genus.

haysi (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Zapada). Mr. R. A. Hays collected extensively and identified stoneflies in the vicinity of Bozeman, Montana.

Zealeuctra Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Leuctra). Zéa is the generic name of maize. The range of the type species, Z. claasseni, coincides with a good deal of the "corn belt".

arnoldi Ricker and Ross 1969. Connie Árnold of San Marcos, Texas, helped collect the types. The name should really have been arnoldae, but at the time I had not heard her given name.

fraxina Ricker and Ross 1969. The type is from Ash Cave, Ohio; the ash tree = Fráxinus.

hitei Ricker and Ross 1969. Otis and Maxine Hite of Arkansas State University have collected stoneflies assiduously in their home State; however hitei is from Texas.

narfi Ricker and Ross 1969. The types were collected by R. P. Narf of the University of Wisconsin.

wachita Ricker and Ross 1969. The type is from the Ouáchita River in Polk County, Arkansas.

warreni Ricker and Ross 1969. Dr. L. O. Wárren of the University of Arkansas collected specimens of this and many other species for the "Winter Stonefly Club".

Zhiltzovia Ricker and Ross 1975. Named for Dr. L. A. Zhíltzova of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, for her extensive studies of Plecoptera. The genus occurs in Armenia.