

## Some necessary corrections of the spelling of species-group names within the family Dytiscidae (Coleoptera)

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### Abstract

The spelling of 37 species-group names with the beetle family Dytiscidae is corrected relative to the most recent world catalogue. The original spelling of 11 specific and subspecific names based on personal names are considered incorrect as having the wrong suffix relative to the given etymology. For three specific names, the original spelling is considered correct, and the previously used corrections are unjustified. The remaining names dealt with are adjectives, or nouns misinterpreted as adjectives, and their inflection relative to the genus names is revised.

**Key words:** specific names, spelling, Dytiscidae, nomenclature

### Introduction

A critical review of the etymology and spelling of all species-group names given to members of the family Dytiscidae has revealed a number of errors in current usage that have to be corrected. The corrections listed below relate to the latest world catalogue (Nilsson 2001) and the species-group taxa described thereafter.

The observed errors are chiefly of two kinds: (1) names formed from personal names as nouns in the genitive case and provided with the wrong suffixes, and (2) names that are Latin or Latinised adjectives or participles in the nominative singular and that do not agree in gender with the generic names with which they are currently combined.

Generally, the following suffixes are to be used for making personal names nouns in the genitive case: (-i) single male, (-ae) single female, (-orum) more than one person including the male sex, and (-arum) two or more females (ICZN 1999; Article 31.1.2). Usage of the wrong suffix relative to an explicit statement in the original description of which person or persons a species name is formed from has to be corrected (ICZN 1999; Article 32.5).

The most common inflection of Latin or Latinised adjectives is: (-us) masculine, (-a) feminine, and (-um) neuter, like in *flavus*, *flava*, *flavum* (yellow). Quite common is also: (-is, -is, -e) like in *suturalis*, *suturalis*, *suturale*. As among dytiscids most generic names are masculine, -us and -is are the standard adjectival endings. Most problems are then to be expected within the few feminine (e.g. *Desmopachria*) or neutral generic names (e.g. *Necterosoma*), and especially when species more recently have been transferred from some genus with a masculine name. In accordance with Article 34.2 (ICZN 1999), mismatching adjectival endings have to be corrected. One should, however, keep in mind that not all names with the above-mentioned endings are adjectives. A few of them are nouns, and their endings are fixed. Two good sources for checking the inflection of beetle names are Schenkling (1917 & 1922).