



## Genus- and family-group names in the order Embioptera (Insecta)

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### Abstract

All available genus- and family-group names in the Embioptera (Embiidina, Embiodea) are listed along with the original citation, original and current status, and the type taxon and method of designation. The early literature is reviewed, and the following taxonomic acts are established: 1) *Embia brasiliensis* Gray in Griffith and Pidgeon 1832 is fixed as the type species of *Olyntha* Gray in Griffith and Pidgeon 1832 (junior homonym, replaced by *Embolyntha* Davis) using the First Revisor Principle, 2) *Embia savignii* Westwood 1837 is fixed as type species of *Euembia* Verhoeff 1904, and 3) *Saussurembia davisi* Ross 1992 is synonymized with *Saussurembia ruficollis* Davis 1939. Numerous other taxonomic problems are examined and clarified and the various ordinal names briefly summarized.

**Key words:** Webspinner, Embiidina, Embiodea, classification, catalog, taxonomy.

### Introduction

Embioptera (webspinners) are among the most poorly known insects. Less than 400 valid species are currently recognized, but estimates by one prominent embiopteran researcher suggests there may also be as many as 1500 undocumented species already in collections (Ross 1991). The most recent comprehensive treatments of Embioptera family- and genus-group names in single documents were by Enderlein (1912) and Krauss (1911). Since then there have been a large number of names added, and no modern synopsis of supraspecific names exists. Such a resource would be invaluable given the relatively large numbers of taxa remaining to be described in this interesting group. A suitable first step in establishing a framework for future species-level taxonomic work on embiopterans is to catalog the available supraspecific names within the group. Current problematic issues with genus- and family-group names include incorrect, unclear or invalid type designations, incorrect spellings, usages and author attributions, and unsolved problems with synonymy and priority. Uncorrected problems with Embioptera nomenclature will inhibit future work or inevitably will produce problems for future researchers that could be solved now. This catalog of Embioptera family- and genus-group names seeks to review and correct many of these problems and create a taxonomic framework for future work on the group.

### Methods

#### *Taxon name entries.*

All available names at the genus and family rank referring to extant and extinct taxa (marked with †) belonging to the order Embioptera are included. Families are presented alphabetically and genera are presented alphabetically within their currently assigned family. Synonymic lists are ordered by date of name publication and alphabetically within the same date. The literature survey is complete through September, 2008.