Zootaxa 5618 (2): 287–288
https://www.mapress.com/zt/

Correspondence

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)
https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5618.2.8
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:387DC321-2B56-4A5A-9794-011A14D8060E

Corrections for agreement in gender in Notonectidae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) under Article 31 of the Code

RICHARD LITTAUER
Te Kura Mātai Pūkaha, Pūrorohiko, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand.
richard.littauer@vuw.ac.nz; https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5428-7535

Notonectidae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) contains two subfamilies, with 11 genera and approximately 400 species (Polhemus and Polhemus 2008). The taxonomy within the family is currently unsettled, and some references include some species that are not present in others. For instance, *Anisops* Spinola, 1837 includes 133 species in the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) (2018), but 139 in GBIF, which combines names found in ITIS and another 104 references (GBIF Secretariat 2023). Further, some references give different names for some species: ITIS (2018) has *Anisops paranigrolineata* Brooks, 1951, whereas the Open Tree of Life (2025) has *A. paranigrolineatus*.

The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) (1999) Article 34.2 states: "The ending of a Latin or latinized adjectival or participial species-group name must agree in gender with the generic name with which it is at any time combined [Art. 31.2]; if the gender ending is incorrect it must be changed accordingly (the author and date of the name remain unchanged [Art. 50.3.2])." The Code does not stipulate or recommend how these corrections should best be done, or whether prevailing usage of one name or another determines the need for correction—only that such errors must be corrected when they occur. Although such corrections can wait for a large taxonomic review or for individual species to be studied and corrected by researchers working on those species directly, short notes correcting taxa may also ensure stability in the taxonomy through clarifying the correct form of species-group names, such as for species like *A. paranigrolineatus*, as noted above.

A single reference, ITIS (2018), was chosen for systematic review of Notonectidae for necessary corrections of gender according to the Code. *Anisops* and *Buenoa* Kirkaldy, 1904, within Anisopinae, and *Enithares* Spinola, 1837 in Notonectinae have species names with feminine and masculine grammatical endings. Seventeen species-group names were identified as not agreeing in grammatical gender with the genus-group names with which they are combined.

Under Article 30, any genus-group name ending in *-ops* must be treated as masculine, so *Anisops* must be masculine. Also under the same Article, *Buenoa* should be considered feminine, as Kirkaldy (1904) did not expressly specify a gender and did not exclusively combine the genus name with a feminine adjectival species-group name when making it available. He used both masculine *B. amnigenus* (White, 1879) and feminine *B. albida* (Champion, 1901) adjectival endings. The genus *Buenoa*, an eponym for J.R. dela Torre Bueno, must be considered feminine as a non-Latin word that ends in *-a*, according to Article 30 of the Code.

Anisops contains four species that are here corrected to *A. arivus* Lansbury, 1966, *A. convexonotatus* Brown, 1951, *A. paranigrolineatus* Brooks, 1951, and *A. robustus* Hutchinson, 1930.

Buenoa contains two species that are here corrected to *B. prostheta* Padilla-Gil, 2010 and *Buenoa albidus* (Champion, 1901). *Albidus* is a mediaeval Latin noun and may be a noun in apposition according to Article 31 of the Code and should not have been corrected when it was moved to *Buenoa*.

Enithares Spinola, 1837 does not appear to be a Greek word, and was not made available with an expressed gender or with only feminine adjectival species-group names and must be considered masculine. *Enithares* contains 11 species that are here corrected to *E. ciliatus* (Fabricius, 1798), *E. compactus* Gerstaecker, 1892, *E. elongatus* Lansbury, 1974, *E. gibberus* Brooks, 1948, *E. glaucus* Bolivar, 1879 (which, by context in the original description (Bolivar 1879), indicated the adjective for 'grey' and not the Mediaeval Latin noun for an owl), *E. intricatus* Breddin, 1905, *E. maculatus* Distant, 1879 (which, by context in the original description (Distant 1879), is an adjective and not the Mediaeval Latin noun for an agricultural measure), *E. pellucidus* Brooks, 1948, *E. quadrispinosus* Lansbury, 1967, *E. sobrius* Stål, 1855, and *E. subparallelus* Lansbury, 1968.

Accepted by R. Sites: 27 Feb. 2025; published: 2 Apr. 2025

All genera within Notonectidae were checked for agreement if the ending appeared to be a Latin or Greek adjective of a different gender than the genus-group name. Many, such as *Anisops praetexta* Hutchinson, 1929, could have been considered as nouns, which are not correctable under the ICZN and were not considered. In total, 405 species were examined, with 4.2% of the species names noted as needing correction, discounting any previously accepted corrections. By publishing these corrections, it is hoped that ITIS and other references, such as GBIF, Wikispecies, and the Open Tree of Life, as well as researchers working with Notonectidae will converge on available species names.

References

Bolivar, I. (1879) Hemípteros nuevos del Museo de Madrid. *Anales de La Sociedad Española de Historia Natural*, 8, 133–146.

Distant, W.L. (1879) Contributions to a knowledge of the Hemipterous fauna of Madagascar. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London*, 27, 209–218.
https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2311.1879.tb01988.x

GBIF Secretariat (2023) GBIF Backbone Taxonomy. Available from: https://doi.org/10.15468/39omei (accessed 27 February 2025)

ICZN (1999) *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. *4th Edition*. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, 306 pp.

ITIS (2018) Integrated Taxonomic Information System - Report: Anisops. Available from: https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=717708 (accessed 27 February 2025)

Kirkaldy, G.W. (1904) Über Notonectiden. *Wiener Entomologische Zeitung,* 23, 111–135. [https://biostor.org/reference/57892]

Open Tree of Life (2025) Open Tree taxonomy: *Anisops*. Available from: https://tree.opentreeoflife.org/taxonomy/browse?id=984017 (accessed 27 February 2025)

Polhemus, J.T. & Polhemus, D.A. (2008) Global diversity of true bugs (Heteroptera; Insecta) in freshwater. *Hydrobiologia*, 595, 379–391.
https://doi.org/10.1007/s10750-007-9033-1