



Etymology of Triatomine Species (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Triatominae)

TERESA CRISTINA MONTE GONÇALVES¹, SHÊNIA PATRÍCIA CORRÊA NOVO,
CATARINA MACEDO LOPES & JACENIR REIS DOS SANTOS-MALLET

*Laboratório de Transmissores de Leishmanioses, Setor de Entomologia Médica e Forense, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, FIOCRUZ, Av
Brasil 4365, 21045-900 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil*

¹Corresponding author. E-mail: tcmonte@ioc.fiocruz.br

Abstract

Systematics is the branch of biology in which the groupings and biodiversity of living organisms are studied and identified, and its most notable fields are classification and nomenclature. In the present study, 112 species of triatomines for which the original descriptions could be accessed are listed. Among these descriptions, the etymology of the species name has only been mentioned for 82 species. Of these, 14 species form part of the Entomological Collection of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute, the Herman Lent Entomological Collection of FIOCRUZ, and the Rodolfo Carcavallo Entomological Collection of FIOCRUZ. Sixty-six species were named after people, of whom 13 had worked at the Oswaldo Cruz Institute. In an attempt to gather together all this information, this study reports the origins of some of these species names, with their respective bibliographic references according to the original descriptions.

Key words: Triatominae, etymology, species names, specific names

Introduction

According to Galvão *et al.* (2003), over the last few years, all discussions regarding the classification, phylogeny, and evolution of triatomines have turned into a “Tower of Babel. Triatomines are popularly known as “barbeiros, “chupão”, “chupança”, “fincão”, “furão”, “bicudo”, “percevejão”, “bicho-de-parede”, “bicho-de-parede-preto”, “chupa-pinto”, “percevejo-do-sertão”, “percevejo-francês”, “percevejo-gaudério”, “percevejo-grande”, “procotó”, “porocotó”, “baratão”, “bruxa”, “cafote”, “cascudo”, “piolho de piaçava”, “quiche do sertão”, “rondão” or “vum-vum”, according to the geographic region in which they are found (Barreto 1968).

The five tribes that make up this subfamily include 15 genera, totaling 140 species up to this moment (Schofield & Galvão 2009). The natural habitat of most of these species is the wild environment associated with wild animals. However, a minority of these species shares the human environment in and around homes, and these are the species responsible for the transmission of *T. cruzi*, the etiological agent of Chagas disease. Therefore, these species take on epidemiological importance.

In the present study, 112 species for which the original descriptions could be accessed are listed. Among these descriptions, the etymology of the species name was only mentioned for 82 species. Of these, 14 species form part of the Entomological Collection of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute, the Herman Lent Entomological Collection of FIOCRUZ (Gonçalves *et al.* 1993) and the Rodolfo Carcavallo Entomological Collection of FIOCRUZ. Sixty-six species were named after people, of whom 13 had worked at the Oswaldo Cruz Institute: Adolpho Lutz, Ângelo Moreira da Costa Lima, Antônio Pugas, Arthur Neiva, Carlos Chagas, César Pinto, Herman Lent, Ítalo Sherlock, José Jurberg, Oswaldo Cruz, Leônidas de Melo Deane and Maria José Von Paumgarten Deane, and Vanda Cunha.

In an attempt to gather together all this information, our study reports the origins of some of these species names, with their respective bibliographic references according to the original descriptions.