



## Resurrection of the name *Pachycheta* Portschinsky for a genus of Tachinidae (Diptera)

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While verifying names in the original literature for a forthcoming catalogue, I discovered a senior objective synonym for the genus currently recognized as *Barychaeta* Bezzi, 1906. As will be explained below, the generic name *Pachycheta* Portschinsky, 1881 has priority over *Barychaeta*. The unjustified emendation *Pachychaeta* is dated from Brauer and Bergenstamm (1891) instead of Bezzi (1906) as cited in Neave (1940). The correct spelling of the type species of *Pachycheta* is discussed.

The genus *Pachycheta* was described by Portschinsky (1881: 278) with a single included species, *Pachycheta jaroschewsky* Portschinsky, 1881 (type species by monotypy). The generic name appeared next in Brauer and Bergenstamm (1891: 99 [also 1892: 403]), where it was cited in a systematic list with the spelling *Pachychaeta*. The *Code* (ICZN 1999, Article 33) is very specific about the difference between an emendation (which is an available name) and an incorrect subsequent spelling (which is not an available name), and according to the criteria therein *Pachychaeta* in Brauer and Bergenstamm (1891) is the former. An emendation is “any demonstrably intentional change in the original spelling of a name other than a mandatory change” (Article 33.2), and can be inferred “when two or more names in the same work are treated in a similar way” (Article 33.2.1). Brauer and Bergenstamm (1891) frequently used emended spellings of taxa in favor of original spellings, for instance changing the original ending of names from *-cheta* to *-chaeta* (e.g., *Gymnocheta* to *Gymnochaeta*, *Pericheta* to *Perichaeta*) and from *-mya* to *-myia* (e.g., *Acemya* to *Acemyia*, *Ceromya* to *Ceromyia*), thereby fulfilling the requirement of Article 33.2.1. Such emendations are now considered unjustified under Article 33.2.3. Therefore, *Pachychaeta* is an unjustified emendation and a junior objective synonym of *Pachycheta* Portschinsky and takes authorship and date from Brauer and Bergenstamm (1891). Neave (1940: 507) credited Bezzi (1906) with the emended name, but Brauer and Bergenstamm (1891) were the first to satisfy the conditions of an unjustified emendation as set forth in the present *Code* (ICZN 1999).

The requirement that unjustified emendations have their own author and date was a recommendation in Hemming (1953) that was adopted in the first edition of the modern *Code* (ICZN 1961). Names in the early literature were routinely emended to better suit their Latin and Greek origins but were still attributed to their original authors (see for example names in Brauer & Bergenstamm 1891). Bezzi (1906) followed this convention, citing *Pachycheta* and *Pachychaeta* as two versions of the same name with Portschinsky as author. He recognized *Pachychaeta* as a junior homonym of *Pachychaeta* Loew (1845: 50; a junior synonym of *Elachiptera* Macquart, 1835 in the Chloropidae) and proposed a replacement name for it, writing “*Barychaeta* nov. nom. für *Pachychaeta* Portschinsky (*Pachycheta*) 1882 nec Loew 1845 (Dipt.)” (Bezzi 1906: 49; date of Portschinsky paper now regarded as 1881 and not 1882 as cited by Bezzi). Bezzi did not regard *Pachychaeta* and *Pachycheta* as different available names as we would today, so the preoccupation of *Pachychaeta* by an earlier homonym compelled him to erect a replacement name for it rather than revert to the original spelling of the genus.

The generic name *Pachychaeta* was first proposed by Loew (1845: 50) in synonymy with *Crassiseta* Roser (1840: 63). As a name proposed in synonymy, *Pachychaeta* Loew was not originally available and therefore not a senior homonym of *Pachychaeta* Brauer & Bergenstamm, 1891 when first published. However, Bezzi's (1906) treatment of *Pachychaeta* Loew as a senior homonym of “*Pachychaeta* Portschinsky” (i.e., *Pachychaeta* Brauer & Bergenstamm) elevated its status to that of an available name (Article 11.6.1), and as a consequence lowered the status of *Pachychaeta* Brauer & Bergenstamm to that of a junior homonym of *Pachychaeta* Loew.

The name *Barychaeta* appeared in the *Katalog der paläarktischen Dipteren* (Bezzi & Stein 1907: 371) the year after it was proposed, with Portschinsky's original (*Pachycheta*) and emended (*Pachychaeta*) names in synonymy. Since then,

*Barychaeta* has been treated as the valid name for this tachinid genus. At least some subsequent authors have been aware that the original spelling proposed by Portschinsky was *Pachycheta* and not *Pachychaeta*, but all have continued to use *Barychaeta* as the valid genus name. Mesnil (1973: 1218), for example, clearly knew the original spelling of the genus name because he wrote “*Barychaeta* Bezzi ... Syn. *Pachycheta* Portsch. (präokk.)”. In the more recent catalogues of Herting (1984) and Herting and Dely-Draskovits (1993), only “*Pachychaeta* Portschinsky” is mentioned and it is treated as preoccupied by *Pachychaeta* Loew in the synonymic list under *Barychaeta*. Such usage is not correct because *Pachycheta* Portschinsky, 1881 is not a preoccupied name and has separate status from that of its emended name *Pachychaeta* Brauer & Bergenstamm, 1891.

The Code (ICZN 1999, Article 23.9) allows for “reversal of precedence” in situations where the Principle of Priority might not serve the best interests of nomenclatural stability. There are two conditions, and if met then *Barychaeta* would be retained as the valid name for the genus and would become a *nomen protectum* and *Pachycheta* would become a *nomen oblitum*. The first condition is that “the senior synonym or homonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899”. The first appearance of *Pachycheta* in the literature after 1899 was in Bezzi (1906) where it was replaced by the name *Barychaeta*. *Barychaeta* has been used for this taxon ever since, so the first condition of Article 23.9 has been met. The second condition requires that “the junior synonym or homonym has been used for a particular taxon, as its presumed valid name, in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years and encompassing a span of not less than 10 years”. This condition has not been met. *Barychaeta* is recognized in Herting (1984) and Herting and Dely-Draskovits (1993) as a genus with two Palaearctic species, one known only from the Caucasus and the other ranging from Ukraine to the Russian Far East and China. Perhaps because this genus has no known hosts and is absent from most of Europe, it has appeared in fewer than 20 publications during the past 50 years. It has been cited mostly in works on Russian Tachinidae (10 publications by V.A. Richter and others; e.g., Richter 2004) and miscellaneous other works (fewer than 10 publications; e.g., the aforementioned catalogues, Mesnil 1973, Tschorsnig & Richter 1998, and O’Hara 2002). The Principle of Priority takes precedence and *Pachycheta* Portschinsky, 1881 is hereby reinstated as the valid name for this taxon.

Although it is not the purpose of this paper to delve into usages of the name *Pachychaeta* in other dipteran families, it bears mentioning that this name has also been used for the asilid genus *Pachychoeta* Bigot, 1857 (junior synonym of *Lecania* Macquart, 1838).

The genus *Pachycheta* Portschinsky contains two species, listed under *Barychaeta* in Herting and Dely-Draskovits (1993). One of these, the type species, was described as *Pachycheta jaroschewsky* Portschinsky (1881: 278). The specific epithet was soon emended to *jaroschewskyi* and that spelling, with authorship attributed to Portschinsky, now has prevailing usage. Normally an original spelling has precedence over a later change, be it an unjustified emendation or an incorrect subsequent spelling, but this is not the case if prevailing usage is jeopardized and the changed name is attributed to the original author (for an unjustified emendation) or original publication (for an incorrect subsequent spelling). Since “*jaroschewskyi*” has been attributed to Portschinsky (1881) in recent literature, the combination *Pachycheta jaroschewskyi* Portschinsky, 1881 is correct.

In summary, the generic names discussed above can be listed in the following synonymic order:

***Pachycheta*** Portschinsky, 1881: 278. Type species: *Pachycheta jaroschewskyi* Portschinsky, 1881, by monotypy.

*Pachychaeta* Brauer & Bergenstamm, 1891: 99 (also 1892: 403), unjustified emendation of *Pachycheta* Portschinsky, 1881 (junior homonym of *Pachychaeta* Loew, 1845).

*Barychaeta* Bezzi, 1906: 49, unnecessary *nomen novum* for *Pachycheta* (as *Pachychaeta*) Portschinsky, 1881.

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