



Some words used in scale insect names (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Coccoidea)

D.J. WILLIAMS

Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK. E-mail: djwilliamstriloc@aol.com

In the Introduction to the present International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999) (herein referred to as the Code), there is a remark that few zoologists today or in the future can have any knowledge of the Latin language although there is adherence to Latin grammar in the Code. The present Code, nevertheless, retains the requirement that Latin or latinized adjectival species-group names must always agree in gender with the generic name with which they are combined. Furthermore, Article 30 of the Code states that a genus-group name takes the gender given for that word in standard Latin dictionaries. Moreover, Article 39.1.2.a. states that a genus-group name that is, or ends in, a Greek word transliterated into Latin without change takes the gender given for that word in standard Greek dictionaries. However, such dictionaries may not be readily available to some people. The third edition of the Code, published in 1985, contained an appendix with recommendations on the formation of names that proved useful, but this section was omitted from the present edition of the Code.

Some scale insect names need gender changes in the species names if the Articles in the Code are to be strictly adhered to. The following notes may help to explain why. Scale insect names are listed in ScaleNet, a database of scale insects (Ben-Dov *et al.*, 2011). When the present status of a name is mentioned below, it refers to the status given in the present ScaleNet database. Words that are not scale insect names are left here in roman script, whereas all words used as insect names are given in italics.

Some Greek words used in scale insect names

1. According to Article 34.1.4.4. of the present Code, a compound genus name ending in the Greek words *-oides* (-οειδής) or *-odes* (-οδής), denoting resemblance, is to be treated as masculine unless the author, when establishing the name, stated that it had another gender or treated it as such by combining it with an adjectival species-group name in another gender. A number of scale insect generic names have been formed with the endings *-oides* or *-odes* as follows:

Family Diaspididae

The genus *Alioides* Brimblecombe is monotypic with the type species *Aspidiotus tuberculatus* Laing. The author, however, used the combination *Alioides tuberculata* (Laing) and thus treated the genus name as feminine.

The genus *Poliaspoides* MacGillivray presently contains three species with *Odonaspis simplex formosana* Takahashi as type species, which is now known as *Poliaspoides formosana* (Takahashi). Because the genus name was combined with a feminine species name by the original author and accepted as such by subsequent authors, the genus name is treated here as feminine.

Family Eriococcidae

The genus *Carpochloroides* Cockerell has the type species *C. viridis* Cockerell. No indication of gender was given originally and the genus name must be treated as masculine. Two further species, *C. mexicanus* Ferris and *C. oaxacensis* Ferris have been described and so the masculine gender of the genus has been accepted by subsequent authors.

Family Monophlebidae

The genus *Drosichoides* Morrison has the type species *Llaveia haematoptera* Cockerell. Although Morrison did not give the gender of the genus name, he combined it with a feminine adjectival ending (*-ptera* in Greek compound words meaning winged). The genus also contains the species *D. sanguinea* (Cockerell), a name also with a feminine adjectival ending. The genus name must be treated therefore as feminine.

The genus *Monophleboides* Morrison with *Monophlebus gymnocarpi* Hall as type species, contains six additional species. The author did not indicate the gender of the genus but there are two species names with masculine adjectival endings so the gender of the genus is treated as masculine.