

THE LATIN NAMES OF BRITISH MILLIPEDES.

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INTRODUCTION

Firstly I must say that I cannot take all the credit for this article. It is based on a series of articles in the British Arachnological Society Newsletter (1980-1981) by John Parker under the title 'What's in a name?' on the derivations of the scientific names of spiders. This has recently been updated and extended in the B.A.S. Members Handbook (1993). I do not intend to delve into the complexities of scientific nomenclature - if you are interested, there are a number of publications on the subject, not least John Parker's original articles.

This is by no means comprehensive, and much has been gleaned from Latin and Greek dictionaries, I do not have the time or availability to access the original descriptions of the species - where the derivation of the name is often also explained. Many scientific names are open to personal interpretation, and I am indebted to Helen Read and her colleagues in the B.M.G. for their critical corrections and additional derivations included in this list. However, there are still a few missing - any suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

KEY

Many of the names come from the Latin from which numerous common English words are derived. In some cases, the species name is the exact spelling of the Latin word, thus to avoid repetition the Latin word is omitted. Some specific names are used for more than one species, often with different endings (dependent on the gender of the generic name e.g. *armatum* or *armatus*) - rather than including two entries, these different versions are denoted as follows - *armat/um* - *us*. Some names have more than one possible derivation, in these cases two entries are included.

OMISSIONS

Unfortunately it has proved impossible to derive all the millipedes' names fully. There was one name with no derivation whatsoever, which has been omitted, this is *Stosatea*.

ABBREVIATIONS

GK	- Greek	L	- Latin	N.L.	- New Latin	M.E.	- Middle English
Met.	- Metonym	Myth.	- Mythological	Pat.	- Patronym	Obs.	- Obscure meaning

For Greek derivations I have included the original Greek spelling, therefore there follows a quick listing of the approximate transliterations of the Greek letters: α-a, β-b, γ-g, δ-d, ε-e, ζ-z, η-e, θ-th, ι-i, κ-k (or hard c), λ-l, μ-m, ν-n, ξ-x, ο-o, π-p, ρ-r, σ or ζ-s, τ-t, υ-u or y, φ-f or ph, χ-ch, ψ-ps, ω-o

- Adenomeris* (GK: αδενος) a gland; (GK: μερις) part or portion
- albipes* (L: *albus*) white; (L: *pes*) a foot
- albonanus* (L: *albus*) white; (GK: νανος) a dwarf
- angustus* (L) narrow
- Archiboreoiulus* (GK: αρχη) beginning or first; (from *Boreoiulus*) q.v.
- armatum -us* (L) equipped or armed
- bagnalli* after R.S. Bagnall (Pat.)
- belgicus* (L: *Belgia*) from Belgium
- Blaniulus* (GK: βλανος) blind; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- boncii* after Bonc (Pat.)
- Boreoiulus* (GK: βορειος) the north, northern; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- Brachychaeteuma* (GK: βραχυς) short; (GK: χαιτη) a mane; (GK: υμην) skin
- Brachydesmus* (GK: βραχυς) short; (GK: δεσμος) a band or halter
- Brachyiulus* (GK: βραχυς) short; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- bradeae* after H.K. Brade-Birks (Pat.)
- britannicus* (L: *Britannia*) from Britain
- caeruleocinctus* (L: *caeruleus*) blue; (L: *cinctus*) a girding or covering
- Choneiulus* (GK: χονη) a crucible or funnel; (from *Iulus*) q.v. : referring to the shape of the gonopods
- Chordeuma* (GK: χορδη) cord or string; (GK: υμην) skin
- Chordeumella* (from *Chordeuma*) q.v.; (L: *-ella*) diminutive : a small *Chordeuma*
- complanatus* (L) flattened out
- coriaceus* (L) leathery
- Craspedosoma* (GK: κρασπεδον) edge or border; (GK: σωμα) the body
- crinata* (L: *crinis*) hair; (L: *-atus*) bearing
- Cylindroiulus* (GK: κυλινδρος) a cylinder; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- denticulata -um -us* (L: *dentatus*) toothed; (L: *-atus*) bearing : with small teeth
- digitata -us* (L: *digitus*) a finger; (L: *-atus*) bearing
- Diploiulus* (GK: διπλος) double; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- DIPLOPODA** [Class] (GK: διπλος) double; (GK: ποδι) the foot : referring to two legs per segment
- Enantiulus* (GK: εναντιος) opposite; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- Entothalassinum* (GK: εντος) within; (GK: θαλασσα) the sea
- Eumastigonodesmus* (GK: ευ-) well-developed; (GK: μαστιγιον) a whip; (GK: δεσμος) a band or halter
- fallax* (L) deceptive
- foetidus* (L) stinking
- Fontaria* (L: *fons*) a spring (of water); (L: *-arium*) from
- frisius* (L) from Norderney, one of the Frisian Islands
- fuscus* (L) dark (brown)
- gallicum -us -a* (L) from Gaul (now France)
- Geoglomeris* (GK: γεως) the Earth; (from *Glomeris*) q.v.
- germanicum* (L: *Germania*) from Germany
- Gervaisia* after Gervais (Pat.)
- gibbosa -us* (L: *gibbus*) a hump : referring to the male carapace
- Glomeris* (L: *glomerio*) to form into a ball
- gracilis* (L) thin or slender
- guttulatus* (L: *guttula*) a small drop; (L: *-atus*) bearing : referring to the prominent ozadenes
- HELMINTHOMORPHA** [Sub-class] (GK: ελμινς) a worm; (GK: μορφη) form or shape
- Iacksonneuma* after A.R. Jackson (1877-1944)
- ignoratus* (L: *ignoro*) not to know, ignorant
- inconstans* (L) changeable
- Isobates* (GK: ισος) equal to; (GK: βατης) one who walks
- italica -um* (L: *Italicus*) from Italy
- Iulus* (L) the son of Ascanius
- Julus* (L: *Iulus*) the son of Aacanius
- jurassica -um* (L: *Jura*) from Jura, France/Switzerland
- kervillei* after Kerville (Pat.)
- kochli -ii* after C.L. Koch (1778-1851); or L.C.C. Koch (1825-1908) (Pat.)
- lagur'a -us* (GK: λαγος) a hare : furry like a hare (Met.)
- latestriatus* (L: *latus*) broad; (L: *striatus*) scalloped, striped
- Leptoiulus* (GK: λεπτος) thin; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- Leptophyllum* (GK: λεπτος) thin; (GK: φυλλον) a leaf
- littoralis* (L) of the sea-shore
- lobata* (L: *lobatus*) lobed
- londinensis* (L: *Londinum*) from London
- Macrosternodesmus* (GK: μαχρος) large; (GK: στερνο) the sternum; (GK: δεσμος) a band or halter : referring to the unusually long sterna
- melanops* (GK: μελας) black; (GK: οψις) appearance
- Melogona* (GK: μελας) black; (GK: γονος) sperm : referring to the black spermatophore

- Mesoiulus* (GK: μεσος) in the middle; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- Metaiulus* (GK: μετα) changed; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- Microchordeuma* (GK: μικρος) small; (from *Chordeuma*) q.v.
- Monacobates* (L) from Monaco; (GK: βατης) one who walks: location of the type-species
- MYRIAPODA** (GK: μυριοι) numberless; (GK: ποδι) the foot: many-legged
- Nanogona* (GK: νανο) dwarf; (GK: γονος) sperm
- Nemasoma* (GK: νημα) a thread; (GK: σωμα) the body
- niger* (L) black or dark
- nitidus* (L) shining
- Nopoiulus* (GK: νωψ) "one who looks stupid"; (from *Iulus*) q.v.: according to the description by Menge
- Ommatoiulus* (GK: ομμα) an eye; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- Oniscus* (GK: ονισκος) a woodlouse
- Ophiodesmus* (GK: οφης) a snake; (GK: δεσμος) a band or halter
- Ophiulus* (GK: οφης) a snake; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- Orthomorpha* (GK: ορθος) straight; (GK: μορφη) form or shape
- owenii* after Owen (Pat.)
- Oxidus* (GK: οξυς) sharp: referring to the sharp keels
- palicola* (L: pala) a spade; (L: colo) inhabit: i.e. living in the soil
- pallidum -us* (L) pale
- palmatus* (L) hand-shaped
- panporus* (GK: παν) everything; (GK: πορος) an opening, pore: with pores all over
- Paradesmus* (GK: παρα) near; (GK: δεσμος) a band or halter
- parisiorum* (L: Parisii) from Paris, France
- PENICILLATA** [Sub-class] (L: penicillus) a painter's brush; (L: -atus) bearing
- PENTAZONIA** [Sub-class] (GK: πεντη) five; (GK: ζωνη) a belt or girdle
- pilosus* (L) hairy
- polydesmoides* (from *Polydesmus*) q.v.; (GK: -οιδες) like: similar to *Polydesmus*
- Polydesmus* (GK: πολυ) many; (GK: δεσμος) a band or halter
- Polymicrodon* (GK: πολυ) many; (GK: μικρος) small; (GK: δοντι) a tooth
- Polyxenus* (GK: πολυ) many or very; (GK: ξενος) a stranger: a very strange animal!
- Polyzonium* (GK: πολυ) many; (GK: ζωνη) a belt or girdle
- Poratia* (L) after Porat (Pat.)
- pratense -is* (L) growing in meadows: from meadows
- Prosopodesmus* (GK: προσοψις) front view; (GK: δεσμος) a band or halter
- Proteroiulus* (GK: προτερος) earlier; (from *Iulus*) q.v.
- proxima -um* (L: proximus) nearest: to another species?
- punctatum -us* (L: punctum) a spot; (L: -atus) bearing: referring to the ozadenes
- pusilla -us* (L: pusillus) very little
- rawlini* after Rawlins (Pat.)
- sabulosum -us* (L) sandy
- scandinavius* (L: Scandinavia) from Scandinavia
- Schizophyllum* (GK: σχιζω) to split; (GK: φυλλον) a leaf
- Scolopendra* (GK: σκολοπενδρα) a millipede
- scutellare* (L: scutulum) a small shield
- silvarum* (L: silva) a wood: of woods
- Strongylosoma* (GK: στρογγυλος) round; (GK: σωμα) the body
- Stygioglomeris* (GK: Στυγια) the Stygian witches, three blind wise women; (from *Glomeris*) q.v.: referring to its lack of eyes (Myth.)
- superus* (L) higher
- sylvestre* (L: silvestris) living in woods
- Tachypodoiulus* (GK: ταχυς) quick; (GK: ποδι) a foot: a fast runner (relatively speaking)
- tenuis* (L) thin; fine or slender
- testaceus* (L) brick-red
- teutonicus* (GK: τευτων) the Teutons, a Germanic people
- Thalassisobates* (GK: θαλασσα) the sea; (from *Isobates*) q.v.: a coastal *Isobates*
- Titanosoma* (L: Titan) a giant; (GK: σωμα) the body (Myth.)
- Trachysphaera* (GK: τραχυς) rough or shaggy; (GK: σφαιρα) a ball or globe
- truncorum* (L: truncus) a tree trunk: probably referring to its habitat
- Unciger* (L: uncus) a hook; (L: -ger) to bear
- varicornle -is* (L: varius) mottled; (L: cornus) a horn
- vulnerarius* (L: vulnero) wound; (L: -arius) possessing: possibly referring to its lack of eyes

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