ORIGIN OF STONEFLY NAMES
PROPOSED BY RICKER AND
COLLABORATORS

By
W. E. Ricker
3052 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, B. C. Canada

Reprinted from PERLA #2
Revised July 1992
Scientific names proposed for organisms should preferably be distinctive, euphonious and descriptive, in that order of importance. Latin and Greek roots have most commonly been used, but there is no rule making this compulsory. In coining the immense number of names now in existence the classical languages have been rather thoroughly ransacked, so that it is hard to make a new generic name that is short and euphonious, and still harder to be sure that it is new. The late Dr. Joachim Illies believed that for Plecoptera combinations ending in “perla” are most suitable. I have sometimes followed his advice, but the result always sounds a bit awkward unless there are no more than two preceding syllables, as in Neoperla. With species names it is much easier to avoid synonymy because you need worry about duplication only within the genus under consideration and closely related genera (in case of future “lumping”). However, the multitude of species named longus, brevis, novus, similis, etc. give the impression that systematists tend to be an unimaginative lot. This may be true, but it is surely not an essential qualification for our profession.

To avoid these difficulties there are two rather obvious courses. One is to make words out of previously meaningless combinations of letters, as L. J. Milne did for a number of caddisflies, but this does not appeal to me. The other plan is to take words from contemporary or recently extinct languages and cast them into Latin form; including, of course, names of persons and of geographical features. This is what I have done, but avoiding ordinary English words for no logical reason. Russian is the language used most often, but also Spanish and indigenous American tongues. Sometimes the spelling has been simplified, while Russian’s different alphabet makes the borrowing less obvious.

The pronunciation of scientific names has always been a vexatious question, which I will not attempt to solve here. However, for the names proposed I would recommend that the vowels be as in Italian and consonants as in English, except that personal names should conform to their owners’ usage. As regards accent, Latin requires that the penultimate syllable of a word be accented if its vowel is long, otherwise the antepenultimate is accented. However it is difficult to impose this rule on names from non-classical languages. An alternative is to keep the accent as in the language from which the name is derived, and for those who choose this option I have marked the accent on such words.

Still another possibility is to adopt the French custom of putting no special accent on any syllable.

In the list to follow, names are listed under the genus to which they are currently ascribed, and are followed by the genus in which they were described. Names now considered synonyms are marked with an asterisk.
**Acroneura** Pictet
  *cuesta* Ricker 1935. Syn. *carolinensis* Banks. The types are from the cuesta or escarpment that crosses southwestern Ontario.

**Allocapnia** Claassen
  **aurora** Ricker 1952. It suddenly dawned on me that this must be a new species.
  **cunninghami** Ross and Ricker 1971. Dr. H. B. Cunningham of Auburn University was an active collector of winter stoneflies.
  **frisoni** Ross and Ricker 1964. Dr. T. H. Frison was Chief of the Illinois Natural History Survey during the 1930s and 1940s, and a well known student of stoneflies.
  **indianaec** Ricker 1952. The types are from Indiana.
  **loshada** Ricker 1952. Russian *loshad* = horse. The types are from Horse Creek, West Virginia.
  **mohri** Ross and Ricker 1964. Dr. Carl O. Mohr was an entomologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey.
  **ohioensis** Ross and Ricker 1964. The types are from Ohio.
  **pechumanii** Ross and Ricker 1964. Dr. L. L. Pechuman of Cornell University collected many specimens of winter stoneflies.
  **peltoides** Ross and Ricker, 1964. From Greek, “resembling a shield”. Refers to the shield-like rugose area on the process of the male 8th tergite.
  **perplexa** Ross and Ricker 1964. Herb was perplexed as to where this species should be placed in his phylogeny of *Allocapnia*.
  **polemistis** Ross and Ricker 1971. From Greek polemistés, a fighter. The species occurs in the Black Warrior Uplift region of northwestern Alabama.
  **sandersoni** Ricker 1952. Dr. M. W. Sánderson of the Illinois Natural History Survey collected the types.
  **smithi** Ross and Ricker 1971. Named for Dr. P. W. Smith of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, who collected the type.
  **tenessa** Ross and Ricker 1964. The types are from Tennessee.
  *torontonensis* Ricker 1935. Syn. *pygmaea* Burmeister. The types are from near Toronto, Ontario. I had taken the precaution of having Dr. Frison check some of my specimens, but he unfortunately was at that time applying the name *pygmaea* to the species he later described as *ricieri*.
  **zola** Ricker 1952. Russian *zolá* = ashes (of a fire). The types are from Ash Cave, Ohio; which is a very poor pun that I never expected to divulge to anyone.

**Allonarcy** Needham and Claassen
  **scotti** (Ricker 1952) — *Pieronarcy*. Dr. D. C. Scott is an aquatic biologist of the University of Georgia.

**Alloperla** Banks
  **concolor** Ricker 1935. An all-green species.
  idei (Ricker 1935) — *Chloroperla*. Dr. F. P. Ide, a student of mayflies, was my companion during 3 years of stream and lake study in Ontario, 1928-30.
  **leonarda** Ricker 1952. The late Justin W. Léonard and his wife Fan were students of aquatic insects in Michigan.
  **medveda** Ricker 1952. Russian *medved* = bear; the types are from the Bear Tooth Mountains in Montana.
  *milnei* (Ricker 1935) — *Chloroperla*. Syn. *chloris* Frison. Dr. Lorus J. Milne is co-author of popular works on natural history; formerly a student of caddisflies.
  *thalia* Ricker 1952. Syn. *severa* Hagen. Thália is the Muse of comedy, but I have forgotten what was amusing here. Hagen’s name is evidently from Russian *séver* = north, the type being from the “Island of Unga, Russian America”.
  **usa** Ricker 1952. Russian *us* = moustache, referring to the patch of hairs on the epiproct.
  **voinae** Ricker 1948. Russian *voiná* = war. The type was collected and described during wartime.

**Amphinemura** Ris
  **delosa** (Ricker 1952) — *Nemoura* (*Amphinemura*). Dr. Shelby Delos Gerking, ichthyologist and ecologist, was a professor at Indiana University and later at Arizona State University.
  **linda** (Ricker 1952). — *Nemoura* (*Amphinemura*). Linda Skaar was my assistant for a few years in Indiana, and she requested this name.
  **mockfordi** (Ricker 1952) — *Nemoura* (*Amphinemura*). Edward Móckford collected insects and worked with Psocidae while a student at Indiana University; more recently at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.
  **varshava** (Ricker 1952) - *Nemoura* (*Amphinemura*). The types are from Wársaw, Indiana (Polish Warszawa).

**Attaneuria** Ricker 1955 (as sg. of *Acroneuria*). I was under the impression that the type and only species, *A. ruralis*, had been taken in the Ottawa River, although I cannot now locate such a specimen. In any event I was making a short combination with “neuria”, and “Atta” sounded better than “Otta”.

**Besdolus** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Isogenus*). Russian *bez* = without, *dólya* = lobe. This European genus lacks the vesicle.
Bolotoperla Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian bolóio = swamp or bog. The types of B. rossi came from a boggy stream, I believe.

Bolshecapnia Ricker 1965 (as sg. of Capnia). Russian bolshii = bigger; most of the species are larger than those of Capnia. gregsoni (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). The first specimen was collected by Jack Grégon, entomologist and mountaineer of Kamloops, British Columbia.

rogroza (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). Russian rog = horn or antler, ozero = lake. The types are from Moosehorn Lake.

sasguatchi (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). Sasquatch are the yetis of North America, familiar to and feared by the Indians. The type came from the Fraser River not far from Ruby Creek, scene of one of the most circumstantially related sasquatch incidents.

spenceri (Ricker 1965) — Capnia (Bolshecapnia). Dr. G. J. Spéncer was an entomologist and naturalist at the University of British Columbia.

Calineuria Ricker 1955 (as sg. of Acroneuria). The “Cal” part comes from California; “neuria” is from Acroneuria.

Capnia Pictet

cheama Ricker 1965. (che-á-ma). Mt. Cheam is a landmark on the south side of the Fraser River near the type locality.

*hantzschi Ricker 1938. Syn. nearctica Banks. Bernard Hantzsch was a Moravian missionary, explorer and naturalist in the eastern Canadian arctic. He collected the type.

sugluka Ricker 1965. Súgluk is an Inuit village on the south side of Hudson Strait, where most of the type specimens were taken.

Chernokrilus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian chernyi = black; kryló = wing.

Chloroperla Newman

ovibovis Ricker 1965. The types are from Muskox Lake, North West Territories. Ovibos = muskox.

Cultus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). C. pilatus is common near Cultus Lake, British Columbia, which was supposed to harbour some kind of monster. In west coast Chinook cultus = no good, useless or tabu.


stotonus Ricker 1952 — Isogenus (Cultus). Tóston, Montana, is the type locality.

Despaxia Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Leuctra). Professor R. Despax of Toulouse was a keen student of stoneflies.

*Dolkrila Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Diura). Russian dólgi = long, kryló = wing. Contrasts with brachypterous Diura bicaudata.

Frisonia Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Arcynopteryx). See Allocapnia frisonia.

*walkeri (Ricker 1943) — Arcynopteryx (Frisonia). Syn. pícticeps Hanson, Dr. E. M. Walkér was an entomologist and naturalist of the University of Toronto, best known for his work with Orthoptera, Odonata and Grylloblatta, a “living fossil”.


Haploperla Navás

*calcarea (Ricker 1935) — Hastaperla. Syn. brevis Banks. The types were from a limestone escarpment stream of southwestern Ontario.

chilnualna (Ricker 1952) — Hastaperla. The type locality is the Chilnualna River in Yosemite Park, California.

Hesperoperla Banks

*okanagan (Ricker 1935) — Acroneuria. Syn. pacifica Banks. The types are from Okanagan Lake, British Columbia.

Isocapnia Banks

agassizi Ricker 1943. Ágassiz is a British Columbia town situated a little north of the lower Fraser River. It has an Experimental Farm that has served as a base for a number of entomologists.

fraseri Ricker 1859. The Fraser River is the type locality.

hyalita Ricker 1959. Hyalite Creek is the type locality, southwest of Bozeman, Montana. Hyalite is a transparent mineral found thereabouts.

kudia Ricker 1959. The type is from the Kudia River, a rather small stream that reaches salt water at Amgu in the Maritime Province of Siberia.

missourii Ricker 1959. The type locality is Toston, Montana, on the Missouri River.

mogila Ricker 1959. Russian mogila = grave; the allotype is from Grave Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River in Oregon.
**spenceri** Ricker 1943. Stanley Spence of Cultus Lake, British Columbia, collected the type. He was showing an active interest in entomology, but was killed in the second world war.

**thujae** Ricker 1943. Syn. of **spenceri** Ricker. The type was collected on a log of western cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*).  

**vedderensis** (Ricker 1943) — *Eucapnopsis*. The Chilliwack River becomes the Vedder River at Vedder Crossing, then runs into the Fraser. Vedder is the name of an early settler.

**Isogenoides** Klapalek  
**hansoni** (Ricker 1952) — *Isogenus* (*Isogenoides*). Dr. J. F. Hánson of the University of Massachusetts formerly worked with stoneflies.  
**krumholzi** (Ricker 1952) — *Isogenus* (*Isogenoides*). Dr. Louis A. Krumholz was a fishery biologist who worked in Michigan, Indiana, and at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

**Isoperla** Banks  
**cotta** Ricker 1952. The type locality is on the Credit River at Terra Cotta, Ontario.

**Kogotus** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Isogenus*). Russian kógot = claw or nail. Refers to the lobe on the 7th sternite of the male.


**Lednia** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Nemoura*). Russian led = ice. The types were collected by a cold stream in Glacier National Park, Montana, although I don’t remember that there was actually any ice nearby at the time.  
**tumana** (Ricker 1952) — *Leuctra* (*Lednia*). Russian tumán = mist. It was a foggy day.

**Leuctra** Stephens  
**baddecka** Ricker 1965. Baddéck is a town on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, best known because Alexander Graham Bell made the first hydrofoil boat there, as well as numerous other gadgets.  
**moha** Ricker 1952. Russian mokh = moss. They types are from Mossy Creek, Georgia.

**Malirekus** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Isogenus*). Russian málýi = small, reká = river. *M. hastatus* is abundant in small brooks.

**Megaleuctra** Neave  
**neavei** Ricker 1935. Dr. Ferris Neave collected and described stoneflies during the 1930s. *M. neavei* is from Baltic amber.

**Megarcys** Klapalek  
**watertoni** (Ricker 1952) — *Arcynopteryx* (*Megarcys*). The type locality is in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta.

**Mesocapnia** Raußer  
**bergi** Ricker 1965. The types were collected by Dr. Clifford O. Berg of Cornell University.

**Mesyatsia** Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian méysyats = month, also poetically = moon. The type species is *lunata* Kimmins, from the Himalayan region.

**Moselia** Ricker 1943 (as sg. of *Leuctra*). The late Martin E. Mósey, a volunteer worker at the British Museum (Natural History), worked with caddisflies and stoneflies.

**Neaviperla** Ricker 1943 (as sg. of *Alloperla*). The late Ferris Neave worked with stoneflies and mayflies while at the University of Manitoba.

**Nemoura** Pictet  
**normani** Ricker 1952. The type is from Fort Nórman on the Mackenzie River.

**Neoperla** Needham  
**hubbsi** Ricker 1952. The label on the type specimen indicates that it was collected in Kansas by the late Carl L. Hubbs, well-known ichthyologist and conservationist. However, students of the genus have concluded that there must have been a mix-up of labels at the Ann Arbor museum, because the species belongs to an African group, and searches have failed to turn up additional American specimens.

**Oemopteryx** Klapalek  
**fosketti** (Ricker 1965) — *Brachyptera* (*Oemopteryx*). Biologist Dudley Fóssett collected many specimens of this species at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
**zelona** (Ricker 1965) — *Brachyptera* (Oemopteryx). Syn. of *fosketti*. Russian zelenyi = green. The types were erroneously listed from the Green River, Utah.

**Okamotoperla** Ricker and Ross 1975. Dr. H. Okamoto was the pioneer Japanese plecopterist.

**Osobenus** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Isogenus*). Russian osobennyi = distinctive. Refers to the unusual structure of the epiproct.

**Ostrocera** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Nemoura*). Russian ostryi = sharp, referring to the sharp tip of the elongate cerci.

**foersteri** (Ricker 1943) — *Nemoura*. Dr. R. E. Foerster established a salmon research station at Cultus Lake, British Columbia, into which I smuggled a certain amount of work on insects during the 1930s.

**Ostrovus** Ricker 1952. (as sg. of *Isogenus*). Russian ostrov = island. The genus occurs on the island of Honshu.

**Paragneta** Klapálek.

*fatigi* Ricker 1949. (Syn. of *kansensis* Banks). Dr. P. W. Fattig of Emory University, Georgia, collected the types.

*fumosa* (Ricker 1935) — *Acroneuria*. (Syn. of *immarginata* Say). The name refers to the smoky wings.

*salvelini* (Ricker 1935) — *Acroneuria*. (Syn. of *media* Walker). The types were from streams that harboured numerous native trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*).

**Paraleuctra** Hanson

*dusha* Ricker 1965. Russian dusha = soul, spirit. “Refers obliquely to the type locality, which... became a ghost town; and perhaps also to this species, which may prove to be insubstantial.” It is actually a gynandromorph, probably of *occidentalis* or *vershina*.

**vershina** Gaufin and Ricker 1975. Russian vershina = summit, referring to the mountainous country where the species occurs.

**Paraperla** Banks


**Podmosta** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Nemoura*). Russian pod = under, most = bridge. A good place to find adult stoneflies is under bridges that have smooth concrete walls.

**rossi** (Ricker 1952) — *Nemoura* (Podmosta). (Syn. of *decepta* Frison). The late Dr. H. H. (Herb) Ross, a native of Vancouver, British Columbia, published extensively on sawflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, leafhoppers and other groups while at the Illinois Natural History Survey and University of Georgia. His last major project was to organize a “winter stonefly club”, whose more than 150 members are listed in Ross and Ricker (1971), and whose collections made *Allocapnia* the best studied large genus in Plecoptera.

**macdunnoughi** (Ricker 1948) — *Nemoura*. Dr. J. McDunnough was for many years in charge of the Entomological Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; he worked with mayflies and Lepidoptera, but made extensive general collections, including the type of this species.

**weberi** (Ricker 1952) — *Nemoura* (Podmosta). Dr. N. A. Weber collected the types.

**Prostoia** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Nemoura*). Russian prostoi = simple, referring to the uncomplicated epiproct.

**besametsa** (Ricker 1952) — as *Nemoura* (Prostoia). Russian bez = without, samets = male. For several years I had many female specimens but no males.

**Razvena** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Chloroperla*). Russian vena = vein, raz or ras is a prefix that suggests that something is new, different, or a bit crazy.

**Remenus** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Isogenus*). Russian remen = strap or thong. Refers to the long lash at the tip of the epiproct.

**Setvena** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Arcynopteryx*). Russian set = net, vena = vein. Refers to the apical network of veins in the forewing.

**Shipsa** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Nemoura*). Russian shchipsty = pincers, referring to the hooks on the 10th tergite.

**Skwla** Ricker 1943 (as sg. of *Arcynopteryx*). The name of a clan of Salish Indians living near Sardis, British Columbia.

**Soliperla** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Peloperla*). This may be from Latin sol = sun, Russian sol = salt, English sole = only, or Italian solo = alone. I can’t remember a connection with any of these, but suspect a reference to the fact that there was only one species in the genus when it was described. Several have been described since.

**Sopbakia** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Arcynopteryx*). Russian sopka = volcano. The type species is from Japan, home of one of the most beautiful volcanoes.
Soyedina Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian soyedínít = to unite. Refers to the fusion of the anal veins in the forewing.

Stavsolus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Arcynopteryx). Russian vstaváít = to rise, sólntse = sun. A genus from the Land of the Rising Sun.

Strophopteryx Frison
arkansae Ricker and Ross 1975. Most specimens were from Arkansas.
inaya Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian inóí (feminine ináya) = different.
ostra Ricker and Ross 1975. Russian óstryí = sharp, referring to the spine of the supracercal lobe.

Suwallia Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Alloperla). The Suwallies or Scowillies are a clan of Salish Indians living near Chilliwack, British Columbia.

Sweltsa Ricker 1943 (as sg. of Alloperla). Sweltsa was the local Indians' name for Cultus Lake, British Columbia; its outlet is still called Sweitzer Creek.
onkos (Ricker 1935) - Alloperla. Greek ónkos = a hook; refers to the curved epiproct.
tamalpa (Ricker 1952) - Alloperla (Sweltsa). The type locality, Mt. Tamalpais, is just north of the Golden Gate near San Francisco, California.
townesi (Ricker 1952) - Alloperla (Sweltsa). Dr. Henry K. Townes collected the types.
urticae (Ricker 1952) - Alloperla (Sweltsa). Úrtica = nettle. I ran into some while collecting this species.

Tadamus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). I cannot remember the word or idea that suggested this name for this Japanese genus.
kohnonis (Ricker 1952) - Isogenus (Tadamus). Dr. Mitsuko Kóhno is a well-known plecopterist and saki manufacturer.

Taenionema Banks
atlánticum Ricker and Ross 1975. This species was long confused with the western pacificum.

Taeniopteryx Pictet
burksi Ricker and Ross 1968. Dr. R. R. (Barney) Burks was an entomologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey and the United States National Museum.
lonicera Ricker and Ross 1968. Honeysuckle (Lonicéra) grows abundantly throughout most of the range of this species.
metequí Ricker and Ross 1968. Metéquí is an Algonquin word referring to the great eastern broad-leaved forest (Herb Ross).

ugola Ricker and Ross 1968. Russian úgol = coal. The species is known from the coal region of West Virginia and eastern Tennessee.

Tallaperla Stark and Stewart
laurie (Ricker 1952) - Peltoperla. This continues the Needham and Smith tradition of girls' names for Peltoperla.

Triznaka Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Alloperla). Russian tri = three, znak = mark. Refers to the three black lines on the metathorax.
pintada (Ricker 1952) - Alloperla (Triznaka). Spanish pintádo = colored, painted. Live male specimens often have the abdomen partly suffused with red, similarly to Isoperla quinquemaculata.

Utacapnia Nebeker and Gaufin
labradora (Ricker 1955) — Capnia. The types are from Lábrador.

Utaperla Ricker 1952. The type species is from Útah.
sopladora Ricker 1952. Spanish sopladór = puffer. The type locality is Puffer's Lake, Utah.

Viehoperla Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Peltoperla). Spanish viejo = old. Refers to the large epiproct, which is more primitive than the small types found in most Peltoperlidae.

Visoka Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian vysókii = high. Refers to the high elevations favored by this genus.

Yoraperla Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Peltoperla). Spanish llorár = to weep, referring to the dripping skies that characterize the home of the type species.
mariana (Ricker 1943) — Peltoperla. Named for Márion Ricker.

Yugus Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Isogenus). Russian yug = south. Occurs in the southern part of the Appalachian region.

Zapada Ricker 1952 (as sg. of Nemoura). Russian západ = west. Occurs mainly in western North America.
chila (Ricker 1952) - Nemoura (Zapada). Spanish chile = red pepper. I thought this species was a red hot discovery, the first eastern species of the genus.
haysi (Ricker 1952) — Nemoura (Zapada). Mr. R. A. Hays collected extensively and identified stoneflies in the vicinity of Bozeman, Montana.
**Zealeuctra** Ricker 1952 (as sg. of *Leuctra*). *Zéa* is the generic name of maize. The range of the type species, *Z. claasseni*, coincides with a good deal of the “corn belt”.

**arnoldi** Ricker and Ross 1969. Connie Árnold of San Marcos, Texas, helped collect the types. The name should really have been *arnoldae*, but at the time I had not heard her given name.

**fraxina** Ricker and Ross 1969. The type is from Ash Cave, Ohio; the ash tree = *Fraxinus*.

**hitei** Ricker and Ross 1969. Otis and Maxine Hite of Arkansas State University have collected stoneflies assiduously in their home State; however *hitei* is from Texas.

**narfi** Ricker and Ross 1969. The types were collected by R. P. Narf of the University of Wisconsin.

**wachita** Ricker and Ross 1969. The type is from the Ouáchita River in Polk County, Arkansas.

**warreni** Ricker and Ross 1969. Dr. L. O. Wärren of the University of Arkansas collected specimens of this and many other species for the “Winter Stonefly Club”.

**Zhiltzovia** Ricker and Ross 1975. Named for Dr. L. A. Zhiltzova of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, for her extensive studies of Plecoptera. The genus occurs in Armenia.