

REPLACEMENT NAMES FOR THREE SPECIES OF *CHIRONOMUS* MEIGEN (DIPTERA, CHIRONOMIDAE)

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Abstract

New replacement names are proposed for three primary homonyms in the genus *Chironomus* (Diptera, Chironomidae). Substitute names are: *Chironomus ashei* nom. nov. for *Chironomus laetus* Belyanina and Filinkova (1996) (preoccupied junior primary homonym of *Chironomus laetus* Meigen, 1818); *Chironomus dylani* nom. nov. for *C. venustus* Staeger (1829 sensu Pinder, 1978) and *Chironomus ellejorsava* nom. nov. for *C. albidus* Konstantinov, 1956 (preoccupied, junior primary homonym of *C. albidus* Meigen, 1818).

Key words: Diptera, Chironomidae, *Chironomus*, replacement names.

Introduction

While assembling records for completion of Part 3 of a *World catalogue of Chironomidae*, that had been initiated by the late Patrick Ashe, it was noted that three taxon names for species in the genus *Chironomus* (subfamily Chironominae, tribe Chironomini), should no longer be considered valid. Replacement names for these taxa are proposed below.

Nomenclature

Subfamily Chironominae - Tribe Chironomini

Chironomus (*Chironomus*) *ashei* Murray & O'Connor

Belyanina and Filinkova (1996) described *Chironomus laetus* based on morphology and cytology of specimens from the Polar Ural region of Russia. Further records of the species are documented from the Yamal Peninsula of northwest Siberia (Bolshakov *et al.*, 2022) and from Canada and Greenland (Martin, 2022). However, the name *C. laetus* Belyanina and Filinkova (1996) is preoccupied as a junior primary homonym of *Chironomus laetus* Meigen, 1818, now a valid species of *Polypedilum* Kieffer, 1912. We propose *Chironomus* (*C.*) *ashei* nom. nov. as a new replacement name for *Chironomus laetus*.

Etymology: named after our friend and late colleague [†]Patrick Ashe in recognition of his major contributions to taxonomy and cataloguing of the Chironomidae.

***Chironomus (Chironomus) dylani* O'Connor**

Wiedemann (1828) assigned the name *Chironomus venustus* for a species described from China. The same binomial was later used by Staeger (1839) for specimens from Denmark and was then adopted generally. Edwards (1929) regarded *venustus* as *C. dorsalis* Meigen var. *venustus* while Pinder (1978) recognised the taxon as *C. venustus* Staeger. Spies and Saether (2004) noted that use of the name *C. venustus* during the latter half of the 20th century largely followed Pinder 1978. Langton and Pinder (2007) included the taxon as “*Chironomus (C.) venustus* sensu Pinder, 1978” in the key to adult male Chironomidae of Britain and Ireland. Recently Martin (2022) commented that *C. venustus* Pinder, 1978 is a misidentification of *C. venustus* Staeger and, noting the comment by Spies and Saether (2004, p. 38), suggests that a new or different name is required. The substitute replacement name *Chironomus (C.) dylani* nom. nov. is proposed here for *Chironomus (C.) venustus* Pinder 1978.

Etymology: named after Dylan O'Connor De Rosa, grandson of the second author.

***Chironomus (Chironomus) ellejorsava* Murray**

Konstantinov (1956) applied the binomial *Chironomus albidus* for the species described from the North Caspian region of Russia. However that name was preoccupied as it was a junior primary homonym of *Chironomus albidus* Wiedemann, in Meigen, 1818. The species was considered of doubtful status by Lindeberg and Wiederholm (1979) and as a nomen dubium in Ashe and Cranston (1990) but was later deemed valid from cytological studies by Belyanina *et al.* (2005) and in Martin (2025) who also noted that a new name was formally required. The substitute replacement name *Chironomus ellejorsava* nom. nov. is proposed here.

Etymology: named after granddaughters of the senior author; Eleanor Lawton and Elle-J., Orlagh and Savannah Murray.

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