

THE LATIN NAMES OF BRITISH CENTIPEDES

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INTRODUCTION

This paper is a follow on from my earlier listing of The Latin Names of British Millipedes (Slawson, 1996) and much of this introduction is a repeat of that article. 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, 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.

For Greek derivations I have included the original Greek spelling, therefore there follows here a quick listing of the approximate transliterations of the Greek letters:

ABBREVIATIONS

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

It has not been possible to determine the derivation of some names. Any suggestions for the following scientific names would be appreciated by the author or Editor: *Chalandea*, *coleoptrata*, *duboscqui*, *osquidatum*, *peyerimhoffi*, *seurati*, *Strigamia* & *Tygarrup*.

- acuminata** (L: *acumen*) a point - acuminate; pointed or tapered; (L: *-atus*) bearing
- agilis** (L) easily moved, mobile
- anomalous** (GK: ανωμαλος) irregular, uneven
- aulacopus** (GK: αυλαχος) a furrow; (GK: πους) a foot
- borealis** (GK: βορειος) northern
- Brachygeophilus** (GK: βραχυς) short; (from *Geophilus*) q.v.
- Brachyschendyla** (GK: βραχυς) short; (from *Schendyla*) q.v.
- brevior** (L: *brevis*) short; (L: *ora*) border, edge
- brevis** (L) short
- calcaratus** (L: *calcar*) a spur; (L: *-atus*) bearing
- carniolensis** (L) Carniola, former Austrian crownland, N. Yugoslavia; (L: *-ensis*) indicates place of origin : from Carniola
- carphogaster** (GK: καρπος) fruit; (GK: φαγη) food
- Chaetechelyne** (GK: χατη) a mane; (GK: χελι) an eel : a hairy eel
- CHILOPODA** [Class] (GK: χιλιας) a thousand; (GK: ποδι) the foot : referring to the number of legs, but not as a hundred!
- Clinopodes** (GK: κλινω) lean; bend; (GK: ποδι) a foot or leg : with bent legs
- crassipes** (L: *crassus*) thick; (L: *pes*) the foot : with thick legs
- Cryptops** (GK: κρυπτω) hide, conceal
- curtipes** (L) shortened or mutilated; (PES: *the foot*) with short legs
- dalmatica** (L) Dalmatia, SW Yugoslavia; (L: *-aticus*) indicates place of origin : from Dalmatia
- dentata -um** (L: *dentatus*) toothed
- Dicellogophilus** (GK: δικελλα) two-pronged fork; (GK: φιλη) friend
- electricus** (GK: ηλεκτρικος) electric
- erythrocephalus** (GK: ερυθρος) red; reddish; (GK: κεφαλη) the head : with a red head
- ferrugineum** (L) rusty; light red brown
- flavus** (L) pale yellow
- forficatus** (L: *forfex*) scissors; (L: *-atus*) bearing : referring to the jaws
- fucorum** (L: *fuco*) to redden : referring to the darker coloured head
- fulvicornis** (L: *fulvus*) yellow or tawny; (L: *cornus*) a horn : referring to the antennae
- Geophilus** (GK: γεως) the Earth; (GK: φιλος) a friend : referring to its subterranean habits
- Haplophilus** (GK: απλους) simple; (GK: φιλος) a friend
- Henia** (GK: ειαιος) single; uniform
- hortensis** (L: *hortus*) a garden; (L: *-ensis*) indicates place of origin : of the garden
- Hydroschendyla** (GK: ψδωρ) water; (GE: *Schendyla*) q.v.
- insculptus** (L: *insculpo*) to cut or carve in : referring to the carphogaster fossae
- javanicus** (L) from Java
- Lamyctes** (GK: λαμια) a thin sheet
- lapidicola** (L: *lapis*) a stone; (L: *colo*) inhabit : inhabiting stony places
- linearis** (L: *linea*) a line
- Lithobius** (GK: λιθος) a stone : found under stones
- longicornis** (L: *longus*) long; (L: *cornus*) a horn : referring to the antennae
- macilentus** (L) thin
- maritima -um -us** (L) of the sea; coastal
- melanops** (GK: μελας) black; (GK: οψις) appearance
- microps** (GK: μικρος) small; (GK: οψις) appearance
- monoeci** (GK: μονος) single; (GK: εικων) image or picture
- montana -um** (L: *montanus*) of mountains
- muticus** (L) without a point; blunt
- MYRIAPODA** (GK: μυριοι) numberless; (GK: ποδι) the foot : many-legged
- Necrophloeophagus** (GK: νεκρος) dead; lifeless; (GK: φλοιος) rind; bark; (GK: φαγη) food : feeding in dead bark
- nemorensis** (L) of a grove or wood, particularly the grove of Diana near Aricia
- Nesoporogaster** (:) ; (GK: πορος) a passage; pore; (GK: γαστηρ) belly
- oblongocribellata** (L: *oblongus*) oblong or elongate
- Pachymerium** (GK: παχυς) thick or stout; (GK: μερις) portion
- parisi** (L: *Parisi*) from Paris, France
- peregrinus** (L) foreign
- piceus** (L) pitch-black
- pilicornis** (L: *pilus*) a hair; (L: *cornus*) a horn : referring to the antennae
- pinguis** (L) fat; greasy
- proxima -um -us** (L: *proximus*) nearest : to another species?
- pusillifater** (L: *pusillus*) very little; (GK: φρατωρ) a brother : referring to its small size
- Schendyla** (GK: σχοινον) a rope
- Scolopendra** (GK: σκολοπενδρα) a millipede

Scutigera (L: *scutulum*) a small shield; (L: *gero*) to bear (carry)
submarina (L: *sub*) below; (L: *marinus*) the sea? : referring to its maritime habits
subspinipes (L: *sub*) below; (L: *spina*) a thorn; (L: *pes*) the foot
subterraneus (L) underground

tenebrosus (L) dark or gloomy
tricuspis (L: *tres*) three; (L: *cuspis*) a point
truncorum (L: *truncus*) a tree trunk : referring to its habitat
variegata -us (L: *varius*) mottled; (L: *-atus*) bearing
vesuviana (L) Vesuvius, Italy : from Vesuvius
zonalis (L: *zona*) a belt; (L: *-alis*) pertaining to

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