



Kurzmitteilung – Short note

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Systematik – Systematics

**Systematic Database of *Musca* Names (Diptera):
Publication date and proper name for the Carrot Rust fly
(Diptera: Psilidae)**

[Das Publikationsdatum und der richtige Name für die Möhrenfliege (Diptera: Psilidae)]

by

F. Christian THOMPSON and Adrian C. PONT

Washington (U.S.A.)

Oxford (United Kingdom)

The work **Systematic Database of *Musca* Names** (THOMPSON & PONT 1994) has a confused publication history and appears to be little appreciated. While developing treatments of our groups (Syrphidae and Muscidae) for the various regional Diptera catalogs, we became aware of the serious problem of prima-

ry homonymy in the genus *Musca*. LINNAEUS placed all flies in only 8 genera and most in the genus *Musca* (104 species out of 194). FABRICIUS, too, had a similarly broad concept of *Musca* in his early books. So, we decided to resolve the problem by building a comprehensive database of all species-group names associated with the genus-group name *Musca*. From this database, the BioSystematic Database of World Diptera would grow (see <http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov/Diptera/biosys.htm>).

Our efforts were published in early 1994, but due to some unfortunate circumstances, the work itself is erroneously labeled as published on 15 December 1993 and in the United States of America (see inside of the title page), whereas it was actually published in Germany and was not available until 11 March 1994, which is the proper publication date under the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*.

The proper name for carrot rust fly, a common agricultural pest, represents a typical example of the problem of primary homonymy in Diptera. Most authors continue to call this pest by its invalid scientific name of *Psila* or *Chamaepsila rosae* (FABRICIUS). FABRICIUS (1794: 356) described the species first and named it *Musca rosae*. Unfortunately, FABRICIUS overlooked the fact that DE GEER (1776: 108) had used the same name for a flower fly, which is now a junior synonym of *Scaeva pyrastris* (LINNAEUS). Under the rules of nomenclature, the fabrician name is not available for use, and so we (THOMPSON & PONT 1994) proposed that the species be called *hennigi* after the late Willi HENNIG, the last worker to revise the species (HENNIG 1941: 22). The valid and correct name for the carrot rust fly is *Chamaepsila hennigi* THOMPSON & PONT, 1994.

Literature

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Authors' addresses

F. Christian THOMPSON
Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA
Washington, D. C., USA.

Adrian C. PONT
Oxford University Museum of Natural History
Oxford OX1 3PW
United Kingdom

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