

A Note on the Origin and Pronunciation
of the Name *Culex peus* Speiser

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I have noticed, among North American entomologists, considerable variation in the pronunciation of the specific trivial name of *Culex (Culex) peus* Speiser. Common variations are those which rhyme with the English words "voice" and "juice", the latter with either one or two syllables. I have also heard frequently the belief that *peus* is a patronymic name. Dr. Ronald A. Ward kindly obtained for me a copy of the paper in which Speiser substituted the name *pëus* for *affinis* Adams, preoccupied (Speiser 1904). In so doing, Speiser stated: "Ich nenne die amerikanische Art *Culex pëus* nov. nom. ($\Pi\eta\acute{o}\varsigma$ der Verwandte)." [I name the American form *Culex pëus* nov. nom. ($\Pi\eta\acute{o}\varsigma$ the relative)]. $\Pi\eta\acute{o}\varsigma$ is the Greek equivalent of the Latin "affinis" (Liddell and Scott 1874).

If *peus* is considered to be a German word, it would be pronounced to rhyme with English word "voice" (Nunemaker 1941). On the other hand, the Greek word $\Pi\eta\acute{o}\varsigma$ should be pronounced to rhyme loosely with the English word "chaos" (Allen 1974). Specific trivial names, however, must be formed from Latin words or from words which have been Latinized. If Speiser's transliteration of $\Pi\eta\acute{o}\varsigma$ as *pëus* is accepted as correct, then *peus* should be pronounced as a Latin word, similarly to the pronunciation of *Deus* as heard in present day liturgical Latin (Allen 1965, Hines 1975). This would be depicted in International Phonetic Alphabet symbols (International Phonetic Association 1949) as 'pɛ-us or as 'pe-us. The first syllable should be approximately as the "pe" in the English word "pet" or the English word "pay". The second syllable should rhyme with the English word "juice". Those familiar with choir-loft arguments over correct pronunciation of liturgical Latin will realize that closer agreement is unlikely.

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