

A Note on the Spelling of the Name *Orthopodomyia pulcripalpis*

(Rondani 1872)

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Rondani (1872) named *Culex pulcripalpis* and described his species briefly in Latin as "Abdomen fusco-lutescens, singuli segmenti dorso nigricante bimaculato." Although he named the species on account of the "beautiful palps" he makes no reference to this in his description. Edwards (1921) reports that Professor M. Bezzi re-examined Rondani's types in the Florence Museum and reported that, though the thorax in both specimens was damaged by the pin, it is black with white lines with two white spots in the middle of the scutellum. It, therefore, conforms with our present-day concept of *Orthopodomyia pulchripalpis* (Rondani).

Ficalbi (1889) in his paper on Italian mosquitoes and later in his revision of the European culicids (Ficalbi 1892-96) uses the specific name *pulcripalpis* as did Theobald (1901) in his monograph on the Culicidae. The first use of the spelling *pulchripalpis* appears to be by Verrall (1901), presumably to emend the name to classical Latin. Since that date the revised spelling has been followed, notably by Marshall (1938), and is adopted by Knight and Stone (1977).

However, the use of the Latin pulcri- is an acceptable alternative to pulchri-, meaning beautiful, derived from pulcer, -cra, -crum (Glare 1977). Rondani (1872) also described as a new species *Culex pulcritarsis* demonstrating his intention to use this variant spelling.

Under Article 32b of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1985), the correct spelling of a name is the 'correct original spelling,' as first published, to be preserved unaltered unless it is demonstrably incorrect. Rondani made no error in using *pulcripalpis* and so it is proposed that this spelling of the name should be revived.

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