

## CONSERVATION OF THE NAMES *CULEX STIGMATOSOMA* AND *CULEX THRIAMBUS*

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**ABSTRACT.** As a result of action by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the name *Culex peus* Speiser is suppressed and never to be used as a valid name, and the names *Culex stigmatosoma* Dyar and *Culex thriambus* Dyar are conserved for the western banded foul-water mosquito and the related southwestern U.S. species, respectively.

*Culex stigmatosoma*, a western U.S. species known as the "banded foul-water mosquito" and its close relative, *Cx. thriambus*, have had a complex and unstable nomenclatural history. Dyar (1907) originally described *Cx. stigmatosoma* from specimens collected in Pasadena, California. However, earlier, Adams (1903) had described a *Culex* species from Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona as *Cx. affinis*. A year later, Speiser (1904) replaced this name with *Cx. peus* because the name *Cx. affinis* was preoccupied by *Cx. affinis* Stephens (1825). Speiser selected "peus" as the Greek equivalent of the Latin "affinis." Stone (1958) compared the types of *Cx. stigmatosoma* and *Cx. peus*, concluded that they were conspecific, and placed *Cx. stigmatosoma* in synonymy with *Cx. peus*. The name *Cx. peus* subsequently came into general usage among mosquito workers, although the name was almost universally mispronounced (Eldridge 1979). This usage continued for 30 years until Strickman (1988) reexamined the type of *Cx. peus* and concluded that it was not conspecific with *Cx. stigmatosoma*, but rather with a related species known as *Cx. thriambus*. This latter species had been described by Dyar (1921) from specimens collected in Kerrville, Texas. As a consequence of this discovery, Strickman (1988) synonymized *Cx. thriambus* with *Cx. peus*, and restored *Cx. stigmatosoma* as a valid name. This action was entirely correct from a taxonomic standpoint, but would have had the very unsatisfactory effect of transferring a name (*Cx. peus*) from a species which had born it for 30 years (*Cx. stigmatosoma*) to an entirely different species from the same region of the United States (*Cx. thriambus*). Under these circumstances it would be nearly impossible to know which spe-

cies was being referred to in published literature unless authors carefully explained each individual usage. Taxonomic confusion would still exist for pre-1988 usage.

To avoid this confusion and to stabilize the names of these 2 species, Eldridge and Harbach (1989) petitioned the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *peus* and to conserve the specific names *stigmatosoma* and *thriambus*. Members of the Commission voted in December 1990 to take the requested action (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1991). As a result of this ruling, the specific name *peus* is a totally suppressed name never to be used for a species of *Culex*. It has been placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology. *Culex stigmatosoma* is now the valid name for the banded foul-water mosquito, and the name *Cx. thriambus* continues to be the valid name for its southwestern relative. The latter 2 names have been placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

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