THE VALIDITY OF THE GENERIC NAME _PARAMELETUS_ BENGTTSSON (EPHEMEROPTERA: SIPHLONUROIDAE)

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Abstract.—The generic name _Parameletus_ Bengtsson is shown to be a valid name, with _Sparrea_ Esben-Petersen, _Potameis_ Bengtsson, _Palmenia_ Aro, and _Siphlonuroides_ McDunnough as junior synonyms.

There has recently been some confusion concerning the valid name of the genus of mayflies which has generally been known as _Parameletus_ Bengtsson. The names _Sparrea_ Esben-Petersen and _Potameis_ Bengtsson have also been used for this genus. It is my intent to show that _Parameletus_ is the valid name for this genus, thereby stabilizing the nomenclature and avoiding future confusion in the literature.

In 1908 (p. 242) Bengtsson described the larvae of _Parameletus chelifera_ from Sweden. Although the description is brief ["larven, som är synnerligen utmärkt genom sina till saxklar omvandlade labialpalper": ‘the larvae of this species which is very remarkable due to its labial palps which are transformed to scissor-like claws’], it is sufficient to meet the requirements of a description of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 12) and the name _Parameletus chelifera_ Bengtsson, 1908 cannot be considered to be a _nomen nudum_. Bengtsson also mentioned this species as _Parameletus affinis_ [nomen nudum] in 1904 (p. 131).

In 1909 Esben-Petersen (p. 554) established the genus _Sparrea_ for the single species _S. norvegica_. Later that same year Bengtsson (p. 13) established _Potameis_ for the two species _P. elegans_ and _P. minor_. Aro (1910, p. 28) established the genus _Palmenia_ for the new species _P. fennica_. Bengtsson (1930, p. 13) showed that _Palmenia_, _Potameis_, and _Sparrea_ were synonymous with _Parameletus_. In 1923 McDunnough (p. 48) had established _Siphlonuroides_ which he later (1932, p. 81) placed as a synonym of _Parameletus_.

Thus, _Parameletus_ Bengtsson, 1908, is the valid name for this genus [type-species: _Parameletus chelifera_ Bengtsson, by monotypy] with _Sparrea, Potameis, Palmenia_, and _Siphlonuroides_ all falling as junior synonyms.

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Literature Cited


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