

## STONEFLY NAMES FROM CLASSICAL TIMES

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Recently I amused myself by checking the stonefly names that seem to be based on the names of real or mythological persons or localities of ancient Greece and Rome. I had copies of Bulfinch's "Age of Fable," Graves; "Greek Myths," and an "Atlas of the Ancient World," all of which have excellent indexes; also Brown's "Composition of Scientific Words." And I have had assistance from several colleagues. It turned out that among the stonefly names in Illies' 1966 Katalog there are not very many that appear to be classical, although I may have failed to recognize a few. There were only 25 in all, and to get even that many I had to fudge a bit. Eleven of the names had been proposed by Edward Newman, an English student of neuropteroids who published around 1840.

What follows is a list of these names and associated events or legends, giving them an entomological slant whenever possible. Greek names are given in the latinized form used by Graves, for example Lycus rather than Lykos. I have not listed descriptive words like Phasganophora (sword-bearer) unless they are also proper names. Also omitted are geographical names, no matter how ancient, if they are easily recognizable today -- for example caucasica or helenica.

alexanderi Hanson 1941, Leuctra. The name Alexander dates back to the Mycenaean age of about 1400-1200 B.C., where it occurs in the "Linear B" tablets. In Home it was the usual name of the Trojan prince who is better known as Paris. The fame of Alexander of Macedon has made it a common name throughout much of the world. Dr. Hanson named this Leuctra for Professor C.P.

Alexander of the University of Massachusetts, a crane-fly specialist.  
arcadia Aubert 1956, Nemoura (Amphinemura). (Arcas = bear). In classical times Arcadia was a district in the central part of the Peloponnese, a mountainous and pastoral region where the people spoke a different dialect from that of their neighbours. It was a favorite haunt of the goat-god Pan.

aurora Ricker 1952, Allocaupnia. Aurora was the goddess of dawn, one of whose favorites was Tithonus, a prince of Troy. She carried him up to the heavens and asked Zeus to make him immortal. This was granted, but she forgot to specify that he should remain eternally youthful. So Tithonus eventually became old and querulous, and when Aurora could stand it no longer she turned him into a cicada and sent him back to earth, where his shrill complaints can still be heard all summer long. Memnon, the son of Aurora and Tithonus, became King of the Egyptians, and brought assistance to Troy when it was being besieged. Their

sally had initial success, but the Greeks rallied and Achilles killed Memnon. Aurora mourned for her son, and her tears still wet the grass at dawn.

bellona Banks 1911, Isoperla. Bellona was a Roman goddess of war. In modern times a Bellona Club in London was the scene of the "unpleasantness" described in one of Dorothy Sayers' mysteries, and asteroid No. 28 has been given the name Bellona.

beroe Newman 1839, Leptoperla. Beroe was the nurse of one of Zeus's paramours, named Semele, who gave birth to Bacchus. Jealous Hera assumed the appearance of Beroe and tricked Semele into a fatal situation, but Bacchus survived.

Capnia Pictet 1841. This genus might have been named after Capaneus, an Argive prince who was one of the "Seven against Thebes." He was killed in that enterprise, but was restored to life by Asclepius, who had that unusual technical skill. Pluto complained to Zeus that Asclepius was repatriating too many of his guests, but Zeus pointed out that they would all be back sooner or later.

More prosaic is Brown's suggested derivation of Capnia from Greek kapnos (smoke), presumably because of the dark color of all its species.

cassida Barnard 1934, Aphanicercella. Most probably this is from Latin cassis, -idis, a cap. Nevertheless it would be interesting if Barnard had had in mind Cassandra, who was a daughter of Priam, King of Troy. She had the gift of prophecy, but it had been decreed that her prophecies, although true, would never be believed, as happened when she weepingly predicted the outcome of the great siege. When Troy fell, she became part of Agamemnon's booty, and bore him twin sons on their journey south. When they reached Mycenae, Agamemnon, Cassandra, and the two boys were all killed at the instigation of Agamemnon's embittered wife Clytaemnestra, whom he had forcibly married after killing her previous husband. She in turn was killed by her own son Orestes to avenge his father's murder; and on it went, providing abundant lachrymose material for a succession of Greek tragedians.

clio Newman 1839, Isogenus (now Clioperla). Clio was a sea nymph who was also the Muse of History. One story is that she was the mother of Linus, a musician whose fame became so great that he aroused the envy of Apollo, who eventually liquidated this competition.

clymene Newman 1839, Chloroperla (now Neoperla). Clymene was a nymph who became, by Apollo, the mother of Phaeton. This lad tricked his father into letting him drive the steeds that pull the Sun across the firmament. This he did so inexpertly that both heaven and earth were badly scorched, and Zeus finally had to hurl a thunderbolt and strike him dead. The Sun's chariot at once got

back onto its normal course, although it is not clear why this should have happened with no one at all holding the reins.

Another Clymene was a daughter of King Catreus of Crete who, suspecting that she and her sister Aerope were plotting against him, sold them both as slaves to Nauplius. However Nauplius married Clymene and they had two sons, one of them Palamedes, whom the ancient Greeks credited with having invented most of the letters of the alphabet.

Much later, Clymene's ghost was one of those that Odysseus conjured up from Hades using the rites and sacrifices prescribed by Circe the enchantress.

cydippe Newman 1839, Chloroperla (now Alloperla -- not recognizable to species). In Section 165 of Book 7 of his "Histories," Herodotus mentions that Cydippe was a daughter of Terillus, the deposed ruler of Himera on the north coast of Sicily. She was married to Anaxilaus of Phegium, who with her father negotiated an attack on Himera by a force of Carthaginians and others in 480 B.C. This was opposed and defeated by Gelon, ruler of Syracuse, who consequently was too busy that year to send any help to the Greeks, who had asked for assistance in repelling the invasion from Persia under Xerxes. However Greece managed to survive with assistance from Nature only. A northeast gale reduced the Persian fleet so severely that they later lost a great naval battle at Salamis, and in 479 their army was routed at Plate. What Cydippe thought or did during these stirring times is not on record.

cyrene Newman 1845, Chloroperla (now Austroperla). Cyrene was the daughter of a mortal father and a water nymph or Naiad. Like her mother, she was equally at home above water or underneath it. She became a famous huntress on Mount Pelion, pursuing and killing even boars and lions. Her prowess and her beauty attracted Apollo, who took her to Libya, where she bore Aristaeus, but she continued to stalk the fiercer fauna. Aristaeus became an apiarist, but suddenly his bees all died. Puzzled, he went to consult his mother, who happened to be visiting the Naiads' local underwater clubhouse. With some unwilling help from Proteus they learned both the cause and the remedy. Aristaeus had unwittingly caused the death of Eurydice, and to atone for this and to get back into business he must sacrifice four bulls and let their carcasses sit for nine days, exposed to vertebrate and insect scavengers. Returning to the place of sacrifice, Aristaeus was able to capture swarms of bees that emerged from the skeletons (though we may wonder whether they were not really blowflies).

Another tale is that Careen was the mother, by Ares, of the Thracian King Diomedes, he who owned the four carnivorous mares that Heracles had to capture as his eighth Labour.

dacica Klapálek 1907, Perla. Dacia was a Roman province situated north of the lower Danube River, having approximately the boundaries of modern Romania.

hesperiae Consiglio 1958, Nemoura.

Hesperoperla Banks 1938. Hespera was the Greek word for evening, and Hespera was one of the three sweetly-singing Hesperides, who lived near the western ocean. Hesperus was the planet Venus when seen as an evening star; it had not yet been identified with the morning star, Phosphorus.

ione Needham 1909, Perla; unidentifiable according to Illies. The name Ione was not in any of the indexes. Ion was the eponymous ancestor of the Ionians. Knocking off another letter, Io, daughter of Inachus, was a princess who fled or was abducted from Argos by a Phoenician trader. According to Herodotus, this was the beginning of the hostility between Europe and Asia that led to the siege of Troy and the Persian invasions under Darius and Xerxes.

Another story has Io fleeing to Colchis in the form of a heifer chased by Zeus in the guise of a 'gadfly' (Tabanus?).

Leuctra Stephens 1835, as subgenus of Nemoura. Leuctra is the name of a town on the west coast of the middle of the three southern extremities of Greece, about 40 km southwest of Sparta. A battle between Thebes and Sparta took place there in 371 B.C., in which Sparta was defeated, ending her 50-year dominance in Greece.

ligea Newman 1839, Isogenus (a nomen oblitum according to Illies). Newman's customary practice suggests a classical origin for this name. The match is with Ligys, the leader of the band of Ligurians who tried to steal a herd of cattle from Heracles, without success.

lycorias Newman 1839, Perla (now Acroneuria). Lycus ("wolf") was a member of an early dynasty at Athens, who became ruler of nearby Euboea. Later he was exiled and went to Asia Minor where Lycia was named after him.

myrmidon Mabilie 1891, Perla (now Potamoperla). Graves says that myrmidon means "ant," but it was the name of a region in the central part of the main peninsula of Hellas. Its soldiers, led by Achilles at Troy, became a by-word for savagery in war or peace. Priam's grandson Aeneas, who according to Virgil escaped from Troy after the siege and sailed to Carthage, was asked by Queen Dido to tell the story of his misfortunes. These, he said, were so harrowing that on hearing them even a Myrmidon would break into tears.

naica Provancher 1876, Perla (now Sweltsa). The Naiads were nymphs of springs and fountains, all female apparently, so that for reproduction the cooperation of a god or a mortal was necessary. Careen history was outlined above. Another Naiad was less fortunate in her choice of a mate. She had three sons by Thyestes, a brother of Atreus, King of Mycenae. But there was no brotherly love between the two men, and although he was unable to touch Thyestes, Atreus managed to kill his sons.

oenone Neave 1929, Capnia. Oenone was a daughter of the river Oeneus in Phrygia, who was taught medicine by Apollo and the art of prophecy by the earth-goddess Rhea. She became a shepherdess in the region of Mount Ida near Troy, and pastured her flocks not far from those of Paris, before the latter had become identified as a son of Priam. The two became lovers, and had a son named Corythus. But Paris was stupid enough to become judge of a beauty contest, with many dire consequences for himself and others. Oenone was unable to dissuade Paris from going to Sparta to claim Helen; nevertheless, she offered to heal him if ever he were wounded. But when this actually happened during the siege of Troy, she at first refused her help because of jealousy of Helen, and although she relented almost immediately, it was then too late to save him. Tortured by remorse, she flung herself on Paris's funeral pyre and perished.

opis Newman 1839, Chloroperla (now Paracapnia). Opis, meaning "awe" according to Graves, was an alternative name for the moon goddess Artemis of the silver bow, about whom there are legends galore. One tells how she was tricked into shooting an arrow at her hunting companion Orion, who was swimming too far away to be recognizable, and unfortunately her aim was as accurate as usual. Artemis appealed to Zeus, who refused to restore Orion to life, but at Artemis's insistence he was given a choice spot up in the heavens where she would be with him from time to time.

Opis was also the Greek name for Akshad, a city on the Tigris River where Alexander in 324 B.C. held a great feast of reconciliation between Greeks and Persians. He had himself married a daughter of Darius III, and suggested to his generals that they too should make Persian alliances. But Alexander died the following year, and so too did his plan for one great Graeco-Persian empire.

orpha Frison 1937, Chloroperla (now Haploperla). This name may be related to that of Orpheus, who was a Thracian poet, singer and lyre virtuoso. He was one of the crew of Jason's ship Argo, and did much to keep up the spirits of those voyagers and to soothe incipient quarrels. When the Argo sailed past the Sirens, whose singing had been a fatal attraction for so many sailors, Orpheus played and sang even more harmoniously than they could. Thus the Argonauts were spared, and the Sirens died of frustration. Eventually, however, after many adventures, Orpheus was killed by the Maenads ("mad women").

plutonis Banks 1937, Nemoura (of uncertain position according to Illies). Pluto was King of the Underworld. His real name was Hades, but he was so much feared that it was considered very unlucky even to mention that name, so the placatory euphemism Pluto (the wealthy one) was substituted. There is a parallel here with the name Yahveh or Jehovah, which pious Jews have refused to pronounce since about 500 B.C., using Adonai (Lord) instead. Hades carried off and married his niece Core or Persephone, but her mother Demeter compelled Hades to let her spend nine months of each year above ground.

proteus Newman 1838, Pteronarcys. The name Proteus ("first man") appears in several legends. In one, he is Proteus the sea god, a son of Neptune, who could change his shape instantly into any form whatever, animal, vegetable or mineral. As a seer, he was famous for the accuracy of his forecasts, but he would prophesy only when captured and bound with chains. His favorite haunt was Pharos on the coast of Egypt, where he had a "herd" of hundreds of seals. Menelaus, King of sparta and husband of Helen, was blown off course when returning from Troy, and spent several years in southern waters, unable to get a favorable wind. Finally he went to seek advice from Proteus at Pharos. He and three companions donned sealskins and lay in wait from Proteus, captured and managed to hold him in spite of his successive transformations into a lion, a snake, a tree, a fire, a waterfall, and so on. When finally restrained, Proteus told Menelaus that his brother Agamemnon had been killed, and that he would obtain a southerly wind only after he had raised a cenotaph in his memory. This was done, and soon Menelaus and Helen were back in Sparta.

selene Consiglio 1959, as subspecies of Nemoura cinerea. Selene (moon) and Helius (sun) were children of Titans. Selene became infatuated with Endymion, a son of Zeus, by whom she had produced no less than 50 daughters! (For once, nothing is said about sons.) Selene is sometimes confused with Artemis, another moon goddess.

spio Newman 1839, Chloroperla (now Neoperla). Spio was a nereid or sea nymph, one of the many daughters of Oceanus and Doris.

thalia Newman 1839, Eusthenia (now Tasmanoperla).

thalia Ricker 1952, Alloperla (now A. severa Hagen 1861). Thalia ("festive") was the name of the Muse of Comedy, and also that of one of the three Charities or Graces. Thalia the Muse was mother of the Corybantes, the "crested dancers" of the festival of the winter solstice, now called Christmas.

vercingetorix Aubert 1963, Protonemura. Vercingetorix was a Celtic chieftain who resisted Roman expansion in Gaul about 50 B.C., but was eventually defeated and captured by Julius Caesar.

Addendum. Michael Ventris's reading of the "Linear B" tablets at Pylos shows that in Mycenaean times the ruler of a city-state had the title of Wanax, not Basileus as in Homer and classical Greek. If I had known this 50 years ago, I would certainly have described a species wanaxi, or perhaps even a subgenus Wanaxus. If anyone else likes the sound of the name, I would be pleased to see it used.

## RECENT PLECOPTERA LITERATURE (CALENDAR YEAR 1995 AND EARLIER)

- AAGAAD, P. (1994):** The stoneflies (Insecta, Plecoptera) of the Stora with tributaries. - Flora og Fauna 100: 47-55.
- ANDERSON, T. M. & N. H. ANDERSON (1995):** The insect fauna of spring habitats in semiarid rangelands in central Oregon. - J. Kansas Entomol. Soc. 68(2 Suppl.): 65-76.
- ARENS, W. (1994):** Striking convergence in the mouthpart evolution of stream-living algae grazers. - J. Zool. Syst. Evol. Res. 32: 319-34.
- ARMITAGE, P. D., PARDO, I. & A. BROWN (1995):** Temporal constancy of faunal assemblages in 'mesohabitats' - Application to management? - Arch. Hydrobiol. 133: 367-387.
- AUDISIO, P. A. & A. F. NEWTON (1995):** On the proposal to remove the homonymy between Brachypterinae Erichson, (184) (Insecta, Coleoptera) and Brachypterinae Zwick, 1973 (Insecta, Plecoptera), and proposed precedence of Kateretidae Ganglbauer, 1899 over Brachypterinae Erichson, (1845). - Bull. Zool. Nomen. 52(2): 179.
- AUDISIO, P., FOCHETTI, R., BELFIORE, C. & A. DE BIASE (1994):** Un approccio multimetoda alla biogeografia dei sistemi reici italiani (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae; Plecoptera; Ephemeroptera). - Atti XVII Congr. naz. ital. Entomol., Udine 1994: 179-182 (in Italian).

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