

The etymology of Fabrician generic names in Hemiptera

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The etymology is clarified or assumed for the majority of Fabrician generic names in Hemiptera.

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J.Ch. Fabricius established 33 generic names in Hemiptera (Heteroptera and Homoptera Auchenorrhyncha). Amyot & Serville (1843) clarified that six of these (*Aelia*, *Aradus*, *Berytus*, *Issus*, *Lystra*, and *Tingis*) are Latin geographic names. Actually, the number of such names is higher; at least for 16 generic names, the spelling is identical to that of Latin geographic names in Near East and North Africa, and some other are possibly formed from such names with change of a few letters. Some generic names are of another origin, and the etymology of some names remains unclear. In the list below, Greek words are given in their latinized spelling.

Acanthia: from *acantha* (Gr.), spine; for picking rostrum resembling a spine.

Aelia: from *Aelia Capitolina*, name of Jerusalem during Emperor Hadrian.

Alydus: ? from *Abydus*, now Çanakkale (Turkey).

Aradus: *Aradus* (also *Arvad*), now Ruad, island and town near Tartus, Syria.

Berytus: *Berytus*, now Beirut (Lebanon).

Canopus: *Canopus*, city of ancient Egypt 20 km E of Alexandria.

Capsus: *capsus* (Lat.), closed carriage, travel bag (? or from *Capsa*, now Gafsa, Tunisia).

Centrotus: *centrotus* (Gr.), bearing spines; for lateral projections of pronotum.

Cercopis: ? from *cercepe* (Gr.), long-tailed cicada (grasshopper?) in Aristophanes.

Coreus: from *coris* (Gr.), bug.

Cydnus: *Cydnus*, historic river in Cilicia (Turkey).

Darnis: *Darnis*, now Derna (Libya).

Delphax: *delphax* (Gr.), piglet; for external similarity.

Derbe: *Derbe*, town in ancient Lycaonia (Turkey), visited twice by St. Paul.

Edessa: *Edessa*, now Urfa (Turkey).

Emesa: *Emesa*, now Homs (Syria).

Flata: etymology unclear.

Gerris: ? from *Gerra*, ancient towns in Syria (near Damascus), Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Halys: *Halys*, now Kizil Irmak river (Turkey).

Iassus: *Iassus*, ancient town in western Caria (Turkey).

Issus: *Issus*, ancient town in Turkey (ca 30 km N of Iskenderun).

Ledra: ? *Ledra*, beach in Paphos (town in Cyprus, 40 km W of Limassol; visited by St. Paul).

Lygaeus: *lygaeus* (Gr.), dark, sombre.

Lystra: *Lystra*, town in ancient Lycaonia (Turkey, ca 30 km SSW of Konya), visited by St. Paul.

Membracis: from *membrana* (Lat.), membrane; for leaf-like, sometimes membranous pronotal projection in some species.

Miris: ? from *Myris* (also *Myra*), city in ancient Lycia (Turkey), visited by St. Paul. Its bishop St. Nicolaus is the prototype of Santa Claus.

Reduvius: from *reduvia* (Lat.), agnail; for curved rostrum resembling agnail in lateral view.

Salda: *Salda*, now Bejaï a (Libya).

Sigara: *sigara* (latinization of the French “cigare”; also Turkish), cigar; for cigar-shaped body.

Syrtis: *Syrtis Major* (now Gulf of Sidra, Libya) and *Syrtis Minor* (now Gulf of Gabes, Tunisia).

Tetyra: ? from *Tentyra*, ancient city in Egypt (now village Dendera).

Tingis: *Tingis*, now Tangier (Morocco).

Zelus: *Zelus*, Greek god of rivalry (? or from *Zela*, now Zile, ancient town in N Turkey).

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References

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