BIRONELLA GRACILIS THEOBALD, 1905 (INSECTA, DIPTERA): PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to validate the specific name gracilis Theobald, 1905, as published in the combination Bironella gracilis, in order to prevent confusion resulting from the rejection of this widely-used name. The facts of the case are set out below, and in support of this application, a list containing all the references that could be traced is given in Annexes 1–3.

(2) The genus Bironella was described by F. V. Theobald in 1905 in Ann. Mus. nat. Hung. 3 : 69. The type-species, by monotypy, is Bironella gracilis Theobald, 1905.

(3) The genus Bironella Theobald, 1905, was recognised as a valid genus by all authors publishing on it up to 1924, by half the authors between 1924 and 1938 and by all authors since 1939.

(4) Christophers (1924) treated Bironella Theobald, 1905, as a subgenus of Anopheles Meigen, 1818. This usage was followed by half the authors publishing on it between 1924 and 1938.

(5) When Bironella Theobald, 1905, was treated as a subgenus of Anopheles Meigen, 1818, the name Bironella gracilis Theobald, 1905, became a secondary homonym of Anopheles gracilis Donitz, 1902. Christophers (1924) therefore proposed the new name Anopheles bironelli for Bironella gracilis Theobald, 1905.

(6) Anopheles gracilis Donitz, 1902, is a subjective synonym of Anopheles gambiae Giles, 1902 (cf. De Meillon, 1947, Publ. S. Afr. Inst. Med. Res. No. 49 : 190). Location of the type of A. gracilis is unknown; Dr. F. Peus has advised us that it is not in the Zoological Museum of the University of Berlin, where the type specimens of other mosquito species described by Donitz are deposited.

(7) The name Anopheles bironelli Christophers, 1924, was used by those authors who followed Christophers in treating Bironella as a subgenus of Anopheles, i.e. half the authors publishing on it between 1924 and 1938.

(8) The name Bironella gracilis Theobald, 1905, was used by all authors prior to Christophers (1924), by half the authors publishing on it between 1924 and 1938, and by all authors between 1939 and 1957.

(9) Stohe (1957) pointed out that Bironella gracilis Theobald, 1905, a rejected secondary homonym, falls as a synonym of Bironella bironelli (Christophers, 1924). The name Bironella bironelli (Christophers, 1924) has in addition been used twice for this species (between 1924 and 1938).

(10) The grounds of this application are:

(a) The union of the nominal genera *Bironella* and *Anopheles* by Christophers (1924) was at that time, and has since continued to be, widely regarded by specialists in the Culicidae as being unjustified on taxonomic grounds. Christophers himself (1924, p. 4) stated that his personal bias was towards recognition of *Bironella* as a genus.

(b) *Bironella gracilis* Theobald, 1905, is a well-established name in current use, and has been in continuous use for the species since it was first described. Of the authors who between 1924 and 1938 used the name *Anopheles bironelli* Christophers, 1924, those who continued to publish reverted to the use of the name *Bironella gracilis* Theobald, 1905.

(c) The name *Bironella bironelli* (Christophers, 1924) had only been used twice, and then inconsistently (see Annexe 3), for this species prior to 1957. Reintroduction of this name will upset the present stable nomenclature and lead to confusion in the literature.

(11) For the reasons set forth above, we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

(1) to Rule under the plenary powers that *Bironella gracilis* Theobald, 1905, be not invalidated by its senior secondary homonym *Anopheles gracilis* Donitz, 1902;

(2) to place the generic name *Bironella* Theobald, 1905 (gender: feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Bironella gracilis* Theobald, 1905, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(3) to place the specific name *gracilis* Theobald, 1905, as published in the binomen *Bironella gracilis* (type-species of *Bironella* Theobald, 1905) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

(4) to place the specific name *bironelli* Christophers, 1924, as published in the binomen *Anopheles bironelli* (a junior objective synonym of *gracilis*, *Bironella*, Theobald, 1905) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

ANNEXE 1

Particulars of the usage of the name *Bironella gracilis* Theobald, 1905.


Theobald, 1907, *Monogr. Culicidae* 4 : 121


(used 3 times—see also Annexe 3)
Strickland & Chowdhury, 1931, Anopheline larvae of countries from India and Orient to Antipodes, Calcutta: 3
Edwards, 1932, *Genera Insect.* 194: 33
Christophers, 1933, Diptera, Vol. IV. Fauna of British India: 96
Russell, Rozeboom & Stone, 1943, Keys to the Anopheline Mosquitoes of the World: 139
Smart, 1943, Insects of Medical Importance: 147
Belkin, Knight & Rozeboom, 1945, *J. Parasit.* 31: 246
Smart, 1948, Insects of Medical Importance (2nd edn.): 152
King, 1949, in Boyd, Malariology 1: 509
Stoker & Koesoemawinangoen, 1949, Illustrated map of the Anopheline Imagines of Indonesia (English translation), Djakarta: XIV
Bonne-Wepster & Swellengrebel, 1953, Anopheline Mosquitoes of Indo-Aust. region, Amsterdam: 52
Horsfall, 1955, Mosquitoes. Their Bionomics and Relation to Disease: 43

**ANNEXE 2**

(a) Particulars of the usage of the name *Anopheles bironelli* Christophers, 1924.
Swellengrebel & Rodenwaldt, 1932, Die Anophelen von Niederlandisch-Ostindien, Jena: 55
De Rook, 1938, in Klein, Nieuw Guinea 3: 856
(b) Particulars of additional usage of the name *Bironella* Theobald, 1905, as a subgeneric name in the genus *Anopheles* Meigen, 1818, with reference to species other than *Bironella gracilis* Theobald, 1905.
Soesilo, 1932, *Geneesk. Tijdschr. Ned.-Ind.* 72: 1035. (See also Annexe 3.)

ANNEXE 3

Particulars of the usage of the name *Bironella bironelli* (Christophers, 1924).
(Used once—see also Annexe 1.)
Soesilo, 1932, *Geneesk. Tijdschr. Ned.-Ind.* 72: 1035. (See also Annexe 2(b).)