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Etymology of the Scientific Names of Some Endoparasites of Horses

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Parasitology, as the name implies, is the study of parasites. Endoparasites usually spend the major part of their life inside a host from which they obtain sustenance and protection. Parasites can be detrimental and even kill their host. Usually parasites don't benefit the host. If a parasite obtains benefit without harming its host, the situation is called commensalism. If both the host and the parasite benefit, this is mutualism. Symbiosis is used to describe a close relationship of individuals such as a parasite and its host. Adult parasites produce immature stages (eggs or larvae) that usually directly or indirectly leave the host. The purpose is for multiplication of numbers of infective stages for potential infection of suitable hosts. Parasites generally are host specific and site specific within the host.

The use of only common names for parasites can be confusing because of lack of uniformity. Fortunately a huge contribution for science was made by the Swedish botanist **Carolus Linnaeus** who is considered the father of taxonomy. He published extensively on identification of plants and animals. His publication, tenth edition of Systema Naturae in 1758, relayed what is called the **Linnaean classification** of **binomial nomenclature** typically using Latin/Greek names for segments of the genus and species of plants and animals. According to Wikipedia, the system was developed partially by the Bauhinia brothers, Gaspard and Johann, 200 years earlier but Linnaeus was the first to use it consistently in his book. This designation provided, and still does, a "universal" language for names of plants and animals. International Commissions on Nomenclature have been established to ensure the same scientific name is used worldwide for a species. Nothing is more important in scientific research than attributing what we know about a species to the correct scientific name. Genus and species names, especially long ones, can be difficult to pronounce. It may be useful to examine the English meaning and etymology of the names to assist in associating the organism and what we know about it with its name.

English translation of the scientific names here are mainly from "dictionary" sources. A few are from the original descriptions. More than one possible meaning is listed for some of the scientific names. Most of the scientific names, particularly the genera, describe structures of the parasites. Some are named for individual persons. The literal meaning may refer to the site of the parasites in the hosts (e.g. the genus *Gasterophilus* spp. means it "loves" the stomach) and for names of specific structures and shapes (e.g. *Triodontophorus brevicauda*—the name of the genus means it has three teeth in the buccal capsule and species defines the short-tail shape of the female).

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References

Linnaeus, Carolus. *Systema Naturae Per Regna Tria Naturae: Secundum Classes, Ordines, Genera, Species, Cum Characteribus, Differentiis, Synonymis, Locis.* 10th ed. 1758. Stockholm: Laurentius Salvius.

Table 1. Etymology of the scientific names of some endoparasites of horses.

Genus	Species	Genus-Translated	Species-Translated
Anoplocephala	*magna*	Greek: anopl-unarmed; cephal-the head	Latin: magna-great, large
Anoplocephala	*perfoliata*	Greek: anopl-unarmed; cephal-the head	Latin: per-through, folium-leaf
Babesia	*caballi*	Named for Victor Babes	Latin: a pack horse
Babesia	*equi*	Named for Victor Babes	Latin: horse
Calliphora		Greek: kalos-beautiful; phora-bearer (bearer of beauty)	
Cochliomyia	*hominovorax*	Latin: cochl-snail, spiral Greek: myi-a fly	Latin: homo-man; vorax-greedy eater, glutton
Coronocyclus	*coronatus*	Latin: corona-crown; cyclus-a circle wheel	Latin: corona-crown; Crowned
Coronocyclus	*labiatus*	Latin: corona-crown; cyclus-a circle wheel	Latin: labia-a lip
Coronocyclus	*labratus*	Latin: corona-crown; cyclus-a circle wheel	Latin: labra-a lip
Craterostomum	*acuticaudatum*	Greek: cratero-strength, power; stom(a)-mouth	Latin: acutus-sharp; cauda-tail
Cyathostomum	*alveatum*	Greek: cyath-a cup; stom(a)-mouth	Latin: alvatum-a cavity, pit, socket, trough-shaped
Cyathostomum	*catinatum*	Greek: cyath-a cup; stom(a)-mouth	Latin: catin-a bowl, dish
Cyathostomum	*pateratum*	Greek: cyath-a cup; stom(a)-mouth	Latin: patera-a flat dish, a bowl
Cyathostomum	*tetracanthum*	Greek: cyath-a cup; stom(a)-mouth	Greek: tetra-four; canth-the corner of the eye
Cylicocyclus	*ashworthi*	Greek: kylix-a cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Named for J. H. Ashworth
Cylicocyclus	*auriculatus*	Greek: kylix-a cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Latin: auricla-earlobe
Cylicocyclus	*brevicapsulatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Latin: brevi-short; capsula-capsule, small box
Cylicocyclus	*elongatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Latin: elongates-long, oblongated, elongate
Cylicocyclus	*insigne*	Greek: kylix-cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Latin: insignis-conspicuous, noted, remarkable
Cylicocyclus	*leptostomum*	Greek: kylix-cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Greek: lepto-fine, slender; stoma-mouth
Cylicocyclus	*nassatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Latin: nassa-wicker basket
Cylicocyclus	*radiatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Latin: radiates-shining, radiant
Cylicocyclus	*ultrajectinus*	Greek: kylix-cup; cyclus-a circle, wheel	Latin: ultra-beyond; ject-throw
Cyclicodontophorus	*bicoronatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; donti-tooth; phorus-carrying (who has-carry teeth)	Latin: bi-two, double, twice; corona-crown (who has two crowns)
Cylicostephanus	*asymetricus*	Greek: kylix-cup; stephanus-crown	Greek: a-without; symmetric-suitable, symmetrical
Cylicostephanus	*bidentatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; stephanus-crown	Latin: bi -two, double, twice; dentus-tooth
Cylicostephanus	*goldi*	Greek: kylix-cup; stephanus-crown	Named for J. Gold
Cylicostephanus	*hybridus*	Greek: kylic-cup; stephanus-crown	Latin: hybrid-a mongrel, hybrid
Cylicostephanus	*longibursatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; stephanus-crown	Latin: longi-long; bursa-a hide, purse
Cylicostephanus	*minutus*	Greek: kylix-cup; stephanus-crown	Latin: minut-small
Cylicostephanus	*calicatus*	Greek: kylix-cup; stephanus-crown	Latin: calic-a cup
Dictyocaulus	*arnfieldi*	Greek: diktyon-net; kaulos-stab, stick	Named for Prof. Arnfield
Draschia	*megastoma*	Probably named for Richard v. Drasche.	Greek: mega-large, giant; stoma-mouth
Echinococcus	*granulosis*	Greek: echinus-spine; coccus-berry, grain	Latin: granula-little grain; osus-full of, full of grains
Eimeria	*leuckarti*	Named for T. Eimer	Named for R. Lueckart
Elaeophora	*boehmi*	Greek: elaion-oil seed; phoros-bearing	Named for R. Boehm
Fasciola	*hepatica*	Latin: fascio-little bandage; fasciat-banded; fillet	Latin: hepatia-liver
Gasterophilus	*nasalis*	Greek: gaster-stomach; philus-loving it, friend, companion	Latin: nasalis-nasal
Gasterophilus	*hemaemorrhoidalis*	Greek: gaster-stomach; philus-loving it, friend, companion	Greek: haemo-blood, rhoos-stream overflowing; Latin: alis- pertaining to
Gasterophilus	*intestinalis*	Greek: gaster-stomach; philus-loving it, friend, companion	Latin: intestine-intestine; alis-pertaining to
Giardia	*equi*	Named for A. Giard	Latin: horse

Table 1. Etymology of the scientific names of some endoparasites of horses. *(continued)*

Genus	Species	Genus-Translated	Species-Translated
Gyalocephalus	*capitatus*	Greek: Gyal-brushed, polished, sanded; cephalus-head	Latin: capita - the head
Habronema	*majus*	Greek: habros-fine; nema-filament	Latin: majus-bigger
Habronema	*muscae*	Greek: habros-fine; nema-filament	Latin: musca-fly, moss, musk
Halicephalobus	*deletrix*	Greek: hyalinos-transparent; kephalon-head; lobos-lobe	Latin: delet-destroy; trix-agent, doer. Greek: dele-visible; trix-hair, three-fold
Hypoderma		Greek: hypo-below; derma-skin	
Klossiella	*equi*	Named for G.R. Kloss	Latin: horse
Neospora	*caninum*	Greek: neo-new, recent; spora-seed	Greek: canis-dog
Neospora	*hughesi*	Greek: neo-new, recent; spora-seed	Named for J P. Hughes
Oesophagodontus	*robustus*	Greek: oesophagus-gullet, esophagus; odonto-tooth	Latin: rob-strong, an oak
Onchocerca	*cervicalis*	Greek: onkos-hook; kerkos-tail	Latin: cervic-the neck; alis-pertaining to
Onchocerca	*reticulata*	Greek: onkos-hook; kerkos-tail	Latin: reticulum-network
Oxyuris	*equi*	Greek: oxys-pointed, sharp; ura-tail	Latin: horse
Parafilaria	*multipapillosa*	Greek: par-equal; filum-filament	Latin: multi-many; papill-nipple; osa-full of
Paranoplocephala	*mamillana*	Greek: par-equal; anaplon-unarmed; cephalus-head	Latin: mamilla-teat; ana-belonging to
Parapoteriostomum	*euproctus*	Latin: par-equal; postero-behind; stoma-mouth	Greek: eu-good, well; proctus-anus, rectum
Parapoteriostomum	*mettami*	Latin: par-equal; postero-behind; stoma-mouth	Named for Prof. Mettam
Parascaris	*equorum*	Greek: par-equal; ascaris-worm	Latin: horse
Pelodera	*strongyloides*	Greek: pelo-clay, mud, brown, dusky; der-leather, skin	Latin: iodes-similar, similar to Strongylus
Petrovinema	*poculatum*	Named for A.M. Petrov; nema-thread	Latin: poculum-a cup, a draught
Poteriostomum	*imparidentatum*	Greek: poterio-a drinking cup; stoma-mouth	Latin: impair-unequal; denta-tooth
Poteriostomum	*ratzii*	Greek: poterio-a drinking cup; stoma -mouth	Named for I. Ratz
Probstmayria	*vivipara*	Named for W. Probstmayr	Latin: viv-alive, living; para-gave birth to; vivipara-for living
Rhabditis	*gingivalis*	Greek: rhabdo-rod	Latin: gingiv-the gums; alis-pertaining to
Sarcocystis	*neurona*	Greek: sarx-meat; kystis-bladder, cyst	Greek: neuro-nerve, sinew, cord
Sarcophaga		Greek: sarx-meat; phagein-feeding	
Setaria	*equina*	Latin: seta-bristle	Latin: horse
Strongyloides	*westeri*	Greek: strongylos-round;eides-resemblance	Named for J.J. Wester
Strongylus	*equinus*	Greek: strongylos-round	Latin: horse
Strongylus	*vulgaris*	Greek: strongylos-round	Latin: vulga-common, commonplace
Strongylus	*edentatus*	Greek: stronglyos-round	Latin: e-without; dente-tooth
Thelazia	*lacrymalis*	Greek: thelasi-suck, suckling	Latin: lacryma-tear, weeping; alis-pertaining to
Trichostrongylus	*axei*	Greek: tricho-hair, strongylus-round, rounded	Named for J.W. Axe
Tridontophorus	*brevicauda*	Greek: trio-three/triple; donto-tooth; phorus -carrying (who has-carry three teeth)	Latin: brevi-short; cauda-tail
Tridontophorus	*nipponicus*	Greek: trio-three/triple; donto-tooth; phorus-carrying (who has-carry three teeth)	Nippon-Japan, Japanese
Tridontophorus	*serratus*	Greek: trio-three/triple; donto-tooth; phorus-carrying (who has-carry three teeth)	Latin: serrat-a saw
Tridontophorus	*tenuicollis*	Greek: trio-three/triple; donto-tooth; phorus-carrying (who has-carry three teeth)	Latin: tenui-thin, slender; collis-a hill, cliff
Tritrichomonas	equi	Greek: tri-three; tricho-hair/hair-like; monas-single unit	Latin: horse

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