

The Original Spelling of the Specific Name of *Cybaeus monticolus* (Araneae: Cybaeidae) Should be Reinstated

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The spelling of the specific name *monticolus* in the scientific name of a spider, *Cybaeus monticolus* Kobayashi, 2006, does not violate any relevant provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. This spelling is, therefore, the “correct original spelling” of the specific name under Article 32.2 of the Code. Regardless of whether this name is deemed an adjective or a noun in apposition, it should be maintained unaltered when it is combined with the generic name *Cybaeus* L. Koch, 1868, the gender of which is masculine. The later spelling *monticola*, as presented in the combination *Cybaeus monticola* in a recent arachnological treatise and then in an important online taxonomic resource from which its use appears to be spreading, is an “incorrect subsequent spelling” under Article 33.3 of the Code.

Key Words: Arachnida, correct original spelling, ICZN, incorrect subsequent spelling, zoological nomenclature.

Introduction

Cybaeus monticolus Kobayashi, 2006 (Araneae: Cybaeidae) is a species of epigean spider endemic to montane habitats of central Honshu Island, Japan (Kobayashi 2006; Ihara 2009). Kobayashi (2006) originally described this species along with nine other new nominal species of *Cybaeus* L. Koch, 1868 inhabiting Honshu, spelling its specific name as *monticolus* consistently in his work. Kobayashi (2006: 44) provided an etymology for this name (“from the Latin meaning ‘living in mountains’ derived from their habitats”) but did not explicitly state whether it was intended to be treated as a noun in apposition to the generic name or as an adjective. However, because ‘living in mountains’ is an adjectival participial phrase, it might be taken as “evidence of usage” under Article 31.2.2 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (hereinafter, Code; International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) that Kobayashi regarded *monticolus* as an adjective. The ending “-us” is consistent with this interpretation since this is the nominative singular masculine ending of 1st and 2nd declension Latin adjectives (Baranov 1971), and the generic name *Cybaeus* is masculine (see Cameron 2017 for its etymology). [N.B.: Under Articles 31.2 and 34.2 (quoting from the former), a specific name that “is or ends in a Latin or latinized adjective or participle ... must agree in gender with the generic name with which it is at any time combined.”] However, “-us” is also a common ending of Latin nouns and its presence is thus not definitive. The matter is additionally complicated by the fact that Kobayashi’s (2006) etymology is actually erroneous; there is no classical or medieval Latin adjective *monticolus*, -a, -um, only the simi-

lar but invariable Latin common-gender noun *monticola*, meaning a dweller in the mountains or mountaineer (Lewis and Short 1879). If the above-mentioned evidence of usage is deemed ambiguous, Article 31.2.2 of the Code additionally specifies that *monticolus* Kobayashi “is to be treated as a noun in apposition”. It might be regarded as a “misspelling” of *monticola* owing to an unnecessary (under Article 31.2.1) gender-related change in ending, or as a new idiosyncratically latinized coinage.

Whether the specific name *monticolus* Kobayashi, 2006 is regarded as an adjective or as a noun in apposition to the generic name, it is the “correct original spelling” and thus the spelling to be maintained under Article 32.3 of the Code, at least while it is combined with the generic name *Cybaeus* or any other genus-group name of masculine gender. Only if this nominal species is reassigned to a genus with a name of feminine or neuter gender will the question arise as to whether its ending must be changed accordingly. For now, we can let that question rest. There seems to be no evidence, of the sort required by the various provisions of Article 32.5, that the name qualifies as an “incorrect original spelling” or that some sort of “inadvertent error” (see Article 32.5.1) exists or that a “mandatory change” (see Article 34.2) is required. In particular, Article 31.2.1 does not forbid giving a gender-appropriate ending to a newly coined simple or compound noun; it only states that it “need not agree in gender with the [genus]” and that its spelling will be invariable afterwards.

Ihara (2009: 167) referred to this nominal species as “*Cybaeus monticola* Kobayashi, 2006” without either mentioning the original spelling of the specific name or explicitly stating an intention to change its spelling, and also without simultaneously altering the endings of any other “-colus”

or “-*colum*” names to “-*cola*” in the same work. The altered spelling “*monticola*” thus fails to meet any of the criteria of Article 33.2.1 to be recognized as an emendation, and is, therefore, an incorrect subsequent spelling with no separate availability (Article 33.3). This altered spelling was, however, adopted by the primary online database of spider taxonomy (World Spider Catalog 2021; hereinafter WSC), and subsequently also by Ono and Ogata (2018) and Sugawara et al. (2021). Under all applicable provisions of the Code, the original spelling of the specific name in *C. monticolus* is deemed correct and should be reinstated in use by arachnologists; the entry in the WSC should be amended accordingly.

Cybaeus monticolus Kobayashi, 2006

Cybaeus monticolus Kobayashi, 2006: 42–44, figs 58–64.

Cybaeus monticola: Ihara 2009: 167, figs 2-2-30-221–2-2-30-223 (an incorrect subsequent spelling); Ono and Ogata 2018: 615 (mentioned in a list; an incorrect subsequent spelling following WSC); Sugawara et al. 2021: 224, 231 (an incorrect subsequent spelling following WSC).

Types. Holotype and one paratype designated by Kobayashi (2006); both deposited in the arachnological collection at the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba (NSMT-Ar).

Type locality. Hodono (ca. 35.46°N, 138.00°E), Kamimura, Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, Honshu, Japan (Kobayashi 2006).

Etymology. Part of speech (noun or adjective) not explicitly stated by Kobayashi (2006). Name derived from Latin words meaning ‘living in mountains’ (an adjectival participial phrase), therefore possibly intended to be adjectival with a Latin ending to match the genus; but also possibly a noun, based on the Latin common-gender noun *monticola* with an (unnecessarily) gender-adjusted ending.

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