

Matronymic genera in spiders (Araneae) named for arachnologists

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Abstract

A checklist of all currently described matronymic genera in spiders honouring arachnologists (both valid and invalid nomina) is given, along with discussion on their taxonomic history and about the honourees of each respective genus. We located a total of 30 matrymoms named for arachnologists. Three women have three valid generic nomina named for them. One has one valid generic nomen and two invalid generic nomina by consequence of homonymy. Four have two valid matrymoms each, one has one valid generic nomen and one invalid generic nomen by consequence of homonymy, and the rest of the women honoured each have a single valid generic nomen. A total of eight women in Europe have been honoured, two women have been honoured from each of North America, South America, and Oceania, and only one woman has been honoured from each of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Introduction

At present, more than 50,000 valid extant species exist in the order Araneae Clerck, 1757, housed in over 4200 genera. If fossil taxa are included, the number exceeds 51,000 and includes a significant number of additional genera. No known extinct generic-level taxa are named for women. However, of the extant taxa, a small percentage of the known genera are honorifics for women. We examined all printed spider catalogues (Roewer 1942, 1955; Bonnet 1955–1959; Brignoli 1983; Platnick 1989, 1993, 1998) and the present-day version 22.5 of the World Spider Catalog (2021) to try and locate and catalogue all known matronymic names at the generic level.

In this work, we discuss the 30 matronymic generic nomina we found which were dedicated to arachnologists, in alphabetical order, with brief notes on their type species, distribution and current species included, alongside biographies of their honourees (including all known nomina described by respective honourees, valid and invalid). Taxa which are invalid, homonyms and/or replacement names are discussed in more detail. Combined honorifics such as *Leroya* Lewis & Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2014, *Murphydium* Jocqué, 1996, and *Peckhamia* Simon, 1900 are not included because they are not solely matronymic. Not included are genera simply named after female given names (e.g. *Erica* Peckham & Peckham, 1892, *Freya* C. L. Koch, 1850, *Portia*

Karsch, 1878, *Brigittea* Lehtinen, 1967, *Marilynia* Lehtinen, 1967, *Matilda* Forster, 1988, *Jessica* Brescovit, 1997) nor do we detail here genera dedicated to non-arachnologists (e.g. *Sheranapis* Platnick & Forster, 1989, *Lidia* Saaristo & Marusik, 2004, *Thunberga* Jäger, 2020) although we mention them here briefly for completeness.

Ansiea Lehtinen, 2004 (Thomisidae)

Type species: *Misumena tuckeri* Lessert, 1919.

Species included: *A. buettikeri* (Dippenaar-Schoeman, 1989), *A. tuckeri* (Lessert, 1919), and *A. tuckeri thomensis* (Bacelar, 1958).

Distribution: Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia.

Etymology: Anna Sophia (Ansie) Dippenaar-Schoeman (Fig. 1) is one of the leading arachnologists in Africa, being dubbed Africa's First Lady of Arachnology by Haddad & Foord (2015). Ansie has been contributing to arachnology for more than four decades and has described 100 taxa (96 species, 4 genera). She was honoured with a *Festschrift* in 2015.

Ansienuina Wesolowska, 2015 (Salticidae)

Type species: *Ansienuina mirabilis* Wesolowska, 2015.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Angola, Kenya, Namibia.

Etymology: see *Ansiea*.

Bacelarella Berland & Millot, 1941 (Salticidae)

Type species: *Bacelarella fradei* Berland & Millot, 1941.

Species included: *B. conjugans* Szűts & Jocqué, 2001, *B. dracula* Szűts & Jocqué, 2001, *B. fradei* Berland & Millot, 1941, *B. gibbosa* Wesolowska & Edwards, 2012, *B. iactans* Szűts & Jocqué, 2001, *B. pavidata* Szűts & Jocqué, 2001, *B. tanohi* Szűts & Jocqué, 2001, and *B. tentativa* Szűts & Jocqué, 2001.

Distribution: Congo, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Nigeria.

Etymology: Amélia Vaz Duarte Bacelar (1890–1976) (Fig. 2) was a Portuguese arachnologist, entomologist, and zoologist whose speciality in regards to spiders was those from the Iberian Peninsula, contributing in particular detail to mygalomorph spiders (see World Spider Catalog 2021). Bacelar described 10 spider species.

Bryantella Chickering, 1946 (Salticidae)

Type species: *Bryantella speciosa* Chickering, 1946.

Species included: *B. smaragdus* (Crane, 1945) and *B. speciosa* Chickering, 1946.

Distribution: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela.



Figs. 1–16: Female arachnologists with matronymic genera named in their honour (except Eliza Fanny Staveley of whom sadly no photographs or portraits could be located). **1** Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman; **2** Amélia Bacelar; **3** Elizabeth Bangs Bryant (reproduced with permission from the Ernst Mayr Library and Archives of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University); **4** Erica Buckup; **5** Barbara York Main; **6** Maria Chatzaki; **7** Valerie Todd Davies; **8** Christa Deeelman-Reinhold; **9** María Elena Galiano (reproduced with permission from the Archivo de la Sección Aracnología, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales); **10** Marie Harm; **11** Anita Hoffmann; **12** Ekaterina Andreeva; **13** Yael Lubin; **14** Chiyoko Okuma; **15** Anna Šestáková; **16** Wanda Wesolowska.

Etymology: Elizabeth Bangs Bryant (1875–1953) (Fig. 3) was an arachnologist based at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. She began volunteering in the museum at the end of the nineteenth century but only started receiving a wage for her work twenty nine years later (Deichmann 1958). A recognised authority on spider taxonomy, Bryant contributed significantly to spiders from various parts of the Americas, including an excellent work on

Cuban spiders (Bryant 1940). In total, she described 329 taxa (293 species, 36 genera).

***Bryantia* Mello-Leitão, 1946 (Pholcidae) [homonym, invalid]**

Type species: Systemita coxana Bryant, 1940.

Species formerly included: *B. coxana* (Bryant, 1940) and *B. incerta* (Bryant, 1940).

Distribution: Brazil.

Remarks: Brignoli (1985) noticed *Bryantia* Mello-Leitão, 1946 was a junior homonym of *Bryantia* Schaus, 1922 (Lepidoptera) and gave the replacement name *Bryantina* Brignoli, 1985 (see below). Unfortunately, *Bryantina* Brignoli, 1985 was also a junior homonym itself, namely of *Bryantina* Malloch, 1926 (Diptera: Muscidae). Özdikmen & Demir (2009) thus proposed the replacement name *Platnicknia* Özdikmen & Demir, 2009. *Platnicknia* was regarded as a junior synonym of the speciose *Modisimus* Simon, 1893 by Huber *et al.* (2018).

Etymology: see *Bryantella*.

***Bryantina* Brignoli, 1985 (Pholcidae) [homonym, superfluous replacement name]**

Type species: *Systemita coxana* Bryant, 1940.

Species formerly included: *B. coxana* (Bryant, 1940) and *B. incerta* (Bryant, 1940) (indirectly, not mentioned explicitly).

Distribution: Brazil.

Remarks: As mentioned above, the pholcid nomen *Bryantina* was a replacement name that was itself later found to be preoccupied. Technically, Brignoli (1985) simply changed the ending of the generic nomen and did not provide an explicit etymology, but it is clear that it still relates to Elizabeth Bangs Bryant and is thus included here. As noted above, *Bryantina* was replaced by the nomen *Platnicknia* but this latter genus is now considered a junior synonym of *Modisimus*.

Etymology: see *Bryantella*.

***Buckupiella* Brescovit, 1997 (Anyphaenidae)**

Type species: *Buckupiella imperatriz* Brescovit, 1997.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Argentina, Brazil.

Etymology: Erica Helena Buckup (Fig. 4) is a Brazilian arachnologist who served as the curator of arachnids and myriapods at the Museu de Ciências Naturais, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul for over 35 years. She has so far described 68 taxa (67 species, 1 genus).

***Bymainiella* Raven, 1978 (Hexathelidae)**

Type species: *Hexathele terraereginae* Raven, 1976.

Species included: *B. terraereginae* (Raven, 1976), *B. lugubris* Raven, 1978, *B. monteithi* Raven, 1978, and *B. polesoni* Raven, 1978.

Distribution: Australia.

Etymology: Barbara Anne York Main (1929–2019) (Fig. 5) was an Australian arachnologist and the leading authority on Australian mygalomorph spiders, particularly trapdoor spiders. In addition to more than 40 years of ecological

research, including the study of the world's oldest spider (see Mason *et al.* 2018) she described 90 taxa (74 species, 16 genera). The genus *Bymainiella* is formed using her initials and her surname combined, i.e. B. Y. Main.

***Chatzackia* Lissner & Bosmans, 2016 (Gnaphosidae)**

Type species: *Chatzackia balearica* Lissner, 2016.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Spain.

Etymology: Maria Chatzaki (Fig. 6) is a Greek arachnologist at the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Democritus University of Thrace, who is a recognised authority on Gnaphosidae. She has presently described 62 taxa (56 species, 3 genera).

***Daviesa* Koçak & Kemal, 2008 (Amaurobiidae) [replacement name]**

Type species: *Malala lubinae* Davies, 1993.

Species included: *D. gallonae* (Davies, 1993) and *D. lubinae* (Davies, 1993).

Distribution: Australia.

Remarks: Another replacement name established by Koçak & Kemal (2008) was *Daviesa* Koçak & Kemal, 2008 which replaced the preoccupied *Malala* Davies, 1993, a junior homonym of *Malala* Distant, 1910 (Hemiptera). Davies (1993) had described two species in *Malala* in honour of two female colleagues, Yael Lubin (see *Lubinella*) and the Australian arachnologist Julie A. Gallon. The current placement of *Daviesa* spp. as amaurobiids remains tentative (World Spider Catalog 2021).

Etymology: Valerie Ethel Todd Davies (1920–2012) (Fig. 7) was a New Zealand-born arachnologist based in Australia. She initially worked on trapdoor spiders (Todd 1945) but later primarily contributed to the taxonomy and ecology of araneomorph spiders. Her work on Australian spiders led to the description of 192 taxa (159 species, 33 genera).

***Deelemanella* Yoshida, 2003 (Theridiidae)**

Type species: *Deelemanella borneo* Yoshida, 2003.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Borneo.

Etymology: Christa Laetitia Deeleman-Reinhold (Fig. 8) is a Dutch arachnologist who has published widely on South-East Asian araneomorphs and continues working on taxonomy to the present day at the age of 91. In celebration of her 90th birthday a biography was published by van Dorp (2020) in *Nieuwsbrief SPINED* in which readers can find a more detailed account of her life and career so far. Christa has so far described 414 taxa (375 species, 39 genera).

Deelemania Jocqué & Bosmans, 1983 (Linyphiidae)

Type species: *Deelemania manensis* Jocqué & Bosmans, 1983.

Species included: *D. gabonensis* Jocqué, 1983, *D. malawiensis* Jocqué & Russell-Smith, 1984, *D. manensis* Jocqué & Bosmans, 1983, and *D. nasuta* Bosmans, 1988.

Distribution: Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Malawi.

Etymology: see *Deelemanella*.

Deelemanikara Jäger, 2021 (Sparassidae)

Type species: *Deelemanikara christae* Jäger, 2021.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Madagascar.

Etymology: see *Deelemanella*.

Dippenaaria Wunderlich, 1995 (Anapidae)

Type species: *Dippenaaria luxurians* Wunderlich, 1995.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: South Africa.

Etymology: see *Ansiea*.

Ericaella Bonaldo, 1994 (Cheiracanthiidae)

Type species: *Eutichurus longipes* Chickering, 1937.

Species included: *E. florezi* Bonaldo, Brescovit & Rheims, 2005, *E. kaxinawa* Bonaldo, 1997, *E. longipes* (Chickering, 1937), and *E. samiria* Bonaldo, 1994.

Distribution: Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Peru.

Etymology: see *Buckupiella*.

Galianoella Goloboff, 2000 (Gallieniellidae)

Type species: *Azilia leucostigma* Mello-Leitão, 1941.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Brazil.

Etymology: María Elena Galiano (1928–2000) (Fig. 9) was an Argentinian arachnologist and one of the most productive and well-respected spider taxonomists of her time. María specialized in salticids and described 173 taxa (159 species, 14 genera). She also contributed to the knowledge of other groups including theraphosids and was one of the most prolific authors in the *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society* during the late 20th century (Sherwood 2022).

Galianora Maddison, 2006 (Salticidae)

Type species: *Galianora sacha* Maddison, 2006.

Species included: *G. bryicola* Maddison, 2006 and *G. sacha* Maddison, 2006.

Distribution: Ecuador.

Etymology: see *Galianoella*.

Hahniharmia Wunderlich, 2004 (Hahniidae)

Type species: *Hahnia picta* Kulczyński, 1897.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: West Palaearctic.

Etymology: Marie Auguste Elsa Harm (1904–1986) (Fig. 10) was a German arachnologist, whose professional job was initially as a school teacher (Sacher 2004). Her early focus was mainly on the functional morphology of spider copulatory organs, but in later years she also published many taxonomic works, particularly concerning the Salticidae. She also described the Palearctic hahniid *Iberina difficilis* (Harm, 1966).

Harmiella Brignoli, 1979 (Hahniidae)

Type species: *Harmiella schiapelliae* Brignoli, 1979.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Brazil.

Remarks: Interestingly, the generotype *H. schiapelliae* Brignoli, 1979 is also a matronym, in honour of another female arachnologist: Rita Delia Esther Schiapelli (1906–1976).

Etymology: see *Hahniharmia*.

Hoffmannilena Maya-Morales & Jiménez, 2016 (Agelenidae)

Type species: *Hoffmannilena tizayuca* Maya-Morales & Jiménez, 2016.

Species included: *H. apoala* Maya-Morales & Jiménez, 2016, *H. cumbre* Maya-Morales & Jiménez, 2016, *H. hua-juapan* Maya-Morales & Jiménez, 2016, *H. lobata* (F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1902), *H. marginata* (F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1902), *H. mitla* Maya-Morales & Jiménez, 2016, *H. nova* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1896), *H. tizayuca* Maya-Morales & Jiménez, 2016, and *H. variabilis* (F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1902).

Distribution: Guatemala, Mexico.

Etymology: Ana Esther (Anita) Hoffmann Mendizábal (1919–2007) (Fig. 11) was a Mexican arachnologist and acarologist from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) who made important contributions to the mite fauna of Mexico whilst also establishing a large collection of arachnids at the UNAM. She also published a work on Mexican spiders which had a very accurate viewpoint of the higher classification of spiders, especially for the time period (Hoffmann 1976).

Katya Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2010 (Salticidae)

Type species: *Katya floescens* Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2010.

Species included: *K. floescens* Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2010, *K. ijensis* Prószyński & Deeleman-Rein-

hold, 2010, and *K. inornata* Prószyński & Deeleman-Reinhold, 2010.

Distribution: Indonesia.

Etymology: Ekaterina Mikhailovna Andreeva (Katarzyna Andrejewa-Prószyńska) (1941–2008) (Fig. 12) was an arachnologist from the Soviet Union who contributed significantly to the taxonomy of spiders from Tajikistan. Indeed, she published the first monograph dealing with entire spider fauna of this Soviet republic. Her life was celebrated in an obituary by her husband (Prószyński 2008). She described 36 taxa (35 species, 1 genus).

Lubinella Opell, 1984 (Uloboridae)

Type species: *Lubinella morobensis* Opell, 1984.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: New Guinea.

Etymology: Yael Lubin (Fig. 13) is an American-born arachnologist based in Israel. She has contributed broadly to the reproductive biology and ecology of spiders and has also described three species. Yael is currently Professor Emeritus at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Mainosa Framenau, 2006 (Lycosidae)

Type species: *Anoteropsis longipes* L. Koch, 1878.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Australia.

Etymology: see *Bymainiella*.

Malenella Ramírez, 1995 (Amaurobiidae)

Type species: *Malenella nana* Ramírez, 1995.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Chile.

Etymology: see *Galianoella*.

Okumaella Yoshida, 2009 (Theridiidae)

Type species: *Dipoena okumae* Yoshida, 1988.

Species included: monotypic.

Distribution: Japan.

Etymology: Chiyoko Okuma (1931–1996) (Fig. 14) was a Japanese arachnologist with particular expertise in the Tetragnathidae. Chiyoko was Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University and was well respected in the Japanese arachnological community. She described 28 species during her career.

Sestakovaia Zamani & Marusik, 2021 (Liocranidae)

Type species: *Sestakovaia hyrcania* Zamani & Marusik, 2021.

Species included: *S. annulipes* (Kulczyński, 1897) and *S. hyrcania* Zamani & Marusik, 2021.

Distribution: Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Iran, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Etymology: Anna Šestáková (Fig. 15) is a Slovakian arachnologist who specializes in Araneidae and has so far described three species. She is a skilled illustrator and is currently a curator and zoologist at the Western Slovakian Museum.

Staveleya Sherwood, 2021 (Linyphiidae) [replacement name]

Type species: *Cnephalocotes dahli* Lessert, 1909.

Species included: *S. huberti* (Millidge, 1975), *S. nesiotis* (Simon, 1915), *S. paulae* (Simon, 1918), and *S. pusilla* (Menge, 1869).

Distribution: West Palaearctic.

Remarks: Eliza Fanny Staveley (1831–1903) was the first woman in Great Britain to publish arachnological research, authoring an article on the serrula (as teeth on the maxillæ), and a book: *British Spiders: an Introduction to the Study of the Araneidae of Great Britain and Ireland* (Staveley 1865, 1866a,b; also see Sherwood 2021) both of which were important works. Her life was chronicled in more detail by Farr-Cox (2019) and the impact of her work was discussed in Sherwood (2022). Sadly, we have been unable to locate any portraits or photographs of Staveley.

This replacement name was described to replace the pre-occupied nomen *Hypsocephalus* Millidge, 1978 which was a junior homonym of the fish genus *Hypsocephalus* Swift & Ellwood, 1972 (Pisces: Lutjanidae). For more details on the background of this case, especially discussion regarding the history of the type species, see Sherwood (2021).

Toddiana Forster, 1988 (Cyatholipidae) [homonym, invalid]

Type species: *Toddiana daviesae* Forster, 1988.

Species formerly included: monotypic.

Distribution: Australia.

Remarks: Forster (1988) described *Toddiana* Forster, 1988 but this nomen was found to be a homonym of *Toddiana* Kiriakoff, 1973 (Lepidoptera) which has seniority. Consequently, it was renamed *Forstera* Koçak & Kemal, 2008. The World Spider Catalog (2021) noted that *Forstera* itself is a senior synonym of the superfluous replacement name *Queenslandiana* Özdikmen, 2009.

Etymology: see *Daviesia*.

Wandawe Azarkina & Haddad, 2020 (Salticidae)

Type species: *Colaxes benjamini* Wesolowska & Haddad, 2013.

Species included: *W. australis* Azarkina & Haddad, 2020, *W. benjamini* (Wesolowska & Haddad, 2013), and *W. tigrina* Azarkina & Haddad, 2020.

Distribution: Kenya, South Africa, Uganda.

Etymology: Wanda Wesółowska (Fig. 16) is an eminent arachnologist from Poland, specializing in the taxonomy of salticids. Recently, she was honoured with a *Festschrift* in *Zootaxa* to celebrate her 70th birthday, in which one article by Wiśniewski (2020) gave a comprehensive overview of her life and career thus far, to which we refer the reader. Wanda has so far described 565 taxa (532 species, 33 genera).

***Wesolowskana* Koçak & Kemal, 2008 (Salticidae)
[replacement name]**

Type species: *Luxuria lymphatica* Wesółowska, 1989.

Species included: *W. lepida* (Blackwall, 1865) and *W. lymphatica* (Wesółowska, 1989).

Distribution: Cape Verde Islands.

Remarks: Both species currently recognised were at some point housed in the genus *Luxuria* Wesółowska, 1989 (see Wesółowska 1989, 1998) with *Luxuria lymphatica* Wesółowska, 1989 being the generotype. *Luxuria* Wesółowska, 1989 was found to be a junior homonym of *Luxuria* Modeer, 1792 (Mollusca) by Koçak & Kemal (2008) and was given the replacement name *Wesolowskana* Koçak & Kemal, 2008.

Etymology: see *Wandawe*.

Discussion

We located a total of 30 matronyms named for arachnologists, encompassing both valid and invalid nomina, within the known extant spider genera. Three women, Ansie Dippenaar-Schoeman, Maria Elena Galiano, and Christa Deeleman-Reinhold, have three valid generic nomina named for them. Elizabeth Bangs Bryant has one valid generic nomen and two invalid generic nomina by consequence of homonymy. Erica Buckup, Barbara York Main, Marie Harm, and Wanda Wesółowska have two valid matronyms each. Val Davies has one valid generic nomen and one invalid generic nomen by consequence of homonymy, and the rest of the women honoured each have a single valid generic nomen. A total of eight women in Europe have been honoured, two women have been honoured from each of North America, South America, and Oceania, and only one woman has been honoured from each of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia respectively. Of those authors who have described matronymic genera, 15 were European, five were Asian (our definition here also encompassing the Middle East), five were North American, five were South American, one was Australian, one was African, and one was from New Zealand. Only Yoshida (2003, 2009) and Koçak & Kemal (2008) have described more than one matronymic genus, both respectively describing two nomina.

Bonnet (1945), in his biographical account of arachnologists, only gave biographies for three women, the aforementioned Amélia Bacelar and, additionally, Harriet Idola Exline Frizzell (1909–1968), who contributed numerous papers on American spiders, and Maria Johanna Dahl

(1872–1972), who worked on European spiders. A very brief textual entry was provided for Elizabeth Bangs Bryant, but Bonnet (1945) noted that he had little information about her, and merely guessed (incorrectly) on details such as her year of birth. Bonnet (1945) also did not provide a photograph of Bryant. A photograph of a fifth woman, the eminent salticid taxonomist Elizabeth Maria Gifford Peckham (1854–1940), was also featured, but Bonnet (1945) did not provide a separate biography for her and, instead, mentioned her only in passing in his textual biography of her husband (with whom she co-authored most of her work): George Williams Peckham (1845–1914) (see also Richman 1977 and Holmquist & Gillespie 2022).

We sincerely hope more matronymic genera are named in the future, because in the current century there are many fine women working in spider taxonomy. It is our hope to continue this list in the future, perhaps in online format, and we welcome additions and/or omissions to our current list.

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