

Robert Traub (1916-1996): additional publications and patronyms

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ABSTRACT: Full citations are provided for four posthumously published papers coauthored or inspired by the late Robert Traub, the greatest authority on fleas and flea-borne diseases who ever lived. Seven additional patronyms, five posthumous and two newly discovered, bring to 41 the total number of taxa named for this preeminent medical entomologist. *Journal of Vector Ecology* 32 (2): 159-160. 2007.

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Over a decade has passed since the death of Robert Traub (1916-1996), the world's foremost authority on fleas and flea-borne diseases and, arguably, one of the two or three greatest medical entomologists of the twentieth century. Yet, despite the passing years, papers and patronyms bearing his name continue to be published. Since our collaboration on Traub's formal obituary and bibliography (Durden and Robbins 1998, Durden et al. 1998), we have been recording these posthumous accolades with the intention of eventually updating our earlier compilations. The recent death of Traub's beloved wife Renée (1919-2006), a productive scientist in her own right, spurred us to reexamine our reprint collections and search available bibliographic databases, which together yielded seven new patronyms, bringing the known total to 41, plus additional data for four previously cited papers.

Born on the teeming island of Manhattan, Robert Traub was imbued from childhood with a passion for natural history and earned degrees from three of this country's premier academic institutions: City College of New York (B.S., cum laude, 1938), Cornell University (M.S., 1939), and the University of Illinois (Ph.D., 1947). In 1942, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army and served with distinction in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. Subsequent assignments included the United States of America Typhus Commission in Burma (now Myanmar) and Washington, DC (1944-1946), the Commission on Hemorrhagic Fever in Korea (1952-1953), and the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board on Hemorrhagic Fever (1952-1955). From 1946 to 1955, he was Chief, Department of Entomology/Parasitology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. He then became Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army Medical Research Unit at the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In 1959, he was appointed Chief, Entomological Research Branch, and Interim Chief, Preventive Medicine Branch, Army Medical Research and Development Command. He retired from the Army as a Colonel in 1962 to assume the rank of

Professor in the Department of Microbiology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. Late in life, he maintained an office and laboratory at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

In the years following World War II, Traub gained international renown for his central role in clarifying the intricate ecology of chigger-borne rickettsiosis (scrub typhus, tsutsugamushi disease) and in developing an effective antibiotic therapy, advances that earned his team a nomination for the Nobel Prize in 1948 (Robbins and Eckerlin 1997). Academicians came to know him as a consummate evolutionary theoretician, focusing on host-parasite specificity and zoogeography. But though these achievements and abilities earned him numerous medals, honors and awards from the U.S. military, academe, and foreign governments, he remained to the end of his life a self-effacing gentleman of legendary generosity and charm. His profound impact on vector biology should remind us that, even in this crowded world, individual lives have meaning. Indeed, to us and to legions of friends and colleagues worldwide, he is simply irreplaceable.

Publications

Note: The publications listed below were included in Durden and Robbins (1998) but listed as "in press" and/or without full citations. Also, "Hastriter, M. W. and R. Traub. *Jordanopsylla becki* (Siphonaptera: Ctenophthalmidae), a new species of flea from Nevada. Ann. Carnegie Mus. 67: (in press)," as listed by Durden and Robbins (1998), was ultimately published as "Hastriter, M. W. 2000. *Jordanopsylla becki* (Siphonaptera: Ctenophthalmidae), a new species of flea from the Nevada Test Site. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 102: 135-141."

Durden, L.A. and R. Traub. 2002. Fleas (Siphonaptera), pp. 103-125, In: G. Mullen & L. Durden (eds.), *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*. Academic Press, San Diego.
Hastriter, M.W., H.J. Egoscue, and R. Traub. 1998. A

description of the male of *Jordanopsylla allredi* Traub and Tipton, 1951, and characterization of the tribes within Anomiopsyllinae (Siphonaptera: Ctenophthalmidae). Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 100: 141-146.

Li, K.-C. and R. Traub. 1998. Description of *Songshupsylla*, a new subgenus of *Macrostylophora* (Siphonaptera: Ceratophyllidae), with a discussion of its species groups. J. Med. Entomol. 35: 396-398.

Patronyms

Eltonella (*Traubiella*) Vercammen-Grandjean, 1965

Note: This subgenus was also listed by Durden et al. (1998) but parentheses were inadvertently not included around the subgenus name.

Macrostylophora traubi Beaucournu and Wells, 2005 (Siphonaptera: Ceratophyllidae).

Medwayella traubiana Beaucournu and Wells, 2004 (Siphonaptera: Pygiopsyllidae).

Prosocheyla traubi (Baker, 1949) (Acari: Cheyletidae)

Note: This species was originally assigned to the genus *Cheletogenes* Oudemans.

Stilobezzia traubi Das Gupta and Wirth, 1968 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae).

Traudia traubobi Wen, 1999 (Acari: Trombiculidae)

Note: This species is the type species for the subgenus *Traudia* Wen.

Walchia (*Traudia*) Wen, 1999 (Acari: Trombiculidae)

Note: This subgenus was named in honor of both Robert Traub and J. Ralph Audy, who were lifelong friends and collaborative researchers in Malaysia during the 1940s and 1950s (Traub, 1975).

Walchia (*Traudia*) *traubaudyi* (Nadchatram, 1970)

Note: Originally assigned to the genus *Gahrlepiea* Oudemans, this species was also named to honor both Robert Traub and J. Ralph Audy.

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