

# Etymology of the Dragonflies (Insecta: Odonata) named by R.J. Tillyard, F.R.S.

IAN D. ENDERSBY

56 Looker Road, Montmorency, Vic 3094 (endersby@mira.net)

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R.J. Tillyard described 26 genera and 130 specific or subspecific taxa of dragonflies from the Australasian region. The etymology of the scientific name of each of these is given or deduced.

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## INTRODUCTION

Given a few taxonomic and distributional uncertainties, the odonate fauna of Australia comprises 325 species in 113 genera (Theischinger and Endersby 2009). The discovery and naming of these dragonflies falls roughly into three discrete time periods (Table 1). During the first of these, all Australian Odonata were referred to European experts, while the second era was dominated by Robin John Tillyard, an Australian-based entomologist who described 87 species and 21 genera. Tillyard also described Odonata from New Zealand, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea and, if ranks lower than species are included, 26 genera and 130 specific, subspecific or infrasubspecific taxa can be attributed to him.

All but two of his genera (*Anacordulia*, *Notoneura*) are still recognised, as are 52 of his species (40%). Thirty-seven (29%) of his species have been

moved to another genus while 16 (12%) have fallen into junior synonymy. Twelve (9%) of his subspecies have been raised to full species status and two species have been relegated to subspecific status. Of the eleven subspecies, or varieties or races as Tillyard sometimes called them, not accounted for above, five are still recognised, albeit four in different genera, two are no longer considered as distinct subspecies, and four have disappeared from the modern literature. Watson (1969) lists the location of primary type material, and designates lectotypes where necessary, for all Australasian dragonflies described by Tillyard. This paper serves as an excellent checklist to the dragonflies which Tillyard named.

After reading mathematics at Cambridge University, Robin (sometimes Robert) John Tillyard (1881-1937) moved, for health reasons, to Australia where he taught science and mathematics at Sydney Grammar School (Baker 2010). After nine years he moved to Sydney University as a research scholar and then as the Macleay Fellow. For eight years he was head of Biology at the Cawthron Institute in Nelson, New Zealand and then he became the Australian Government's chief entomologist in the Division of Economic Entomology at the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Baker (2010) gives details of his life, career, and influence on the study of Odonata.

**Table 1. Description of the Australian species of Odonata**

		Genera	Species
1770 -1906	European Era	57	116
1907-1958	Tillyard Era	35	114
1959 - present	Recent Era	21	95
		113	325

## ETYMOLOGY OF THE DRAGONFLIES

This paper provides the etymology of each of the generic, and then species-group and lower, names for the Odonata which Tillyard described, excluding fossil species.

### METHODS

In more recent times descriptions of new genera, species or subspecies have usually included an explanation of the etymology, sometimes including grammar and/or gender of new names. This was not the case in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when many Australian species were described.

All original descriptions of the taxa involved have been sighted. The following hierarchy has been used to analyse each entry:

- (1) When the etymology is included it has been directly quoted;
- (2) If the etymology is not quoted but the Greek or Latin roots are obvious (e.g. *flavomaculata* = yellow spots) then a search has been made of the type description for the terms which best match those roots;
- (3) If no obvious characters are apparent, the roots are given with some speculation as to how they might apply

Direct quotations from references are given in single inverted commas and square brackets have been used for translations, clarifications and comments. Page numbers in the citations refer to the location of the actual quotation, not necessarily the original description. In some cases the clue to the etymology can be quite remote from the type description.

Brown (1956) and Williams (2005) were excellent sources for determining the probable construction of each genus and species name, if it had not been defined by the author. Greek roots were taken from Hionides (1977) and Latin roots mainly from Collins (2005) augmented from Simpson (1974). The abbreviations Gr. = Greek and L. = Latin.

Each entry is headed with the scientific name which Tillyard proposed followed, in square brackets, by the current name recognised by Theischinger & Endersby (2009) or Houston & Watson (1988). To conform with taxonomic priority, dates of issue are used in the references which contain original descriptions, rather than the cover date of publication. In the few examples where these differ the cover dates are given in square brackets following the citation.

### ETYMOLOGY OF GENERA

*Aeshna* Fabricius 1775: 424

*Aeshna* Fabricius, 1775 was published originally without citation of its derivation. Hemming (1958) records that Mr. R. A. Muttkowski had submitted a case for amending the “barbaric *Aeshna* to *Aeschna*, a *lapsus calami* being assumed”. He argued *inter alia* that *Aeshna* is not a Greek spelling and “Fabricius being a purist, as is evident from most of his generic names, the elision of “c” in *Aeshna* suggests a typographical error”.

In searching for possible derivations Muttkowski quoted αἰσχρός = ugly and αἰσχύνω = disfigured (after death), with a preference for the latter as the former would lead to *Aeschrus*. Quoting the submission and other references, the Commission recognised that a certain amount of speculation was required in arriving at the derivation of the name. It declared that it was of the “opinion that since the original publication of *Aeshna* Fabricius, 1775, 424-425, does not indicate clearly the origin of the word, it is not evident that there is either an error of transcription, a *lapsus calami*, or a typographical error present. It is, therefore, the opinion of the Commission that the original spelling, namely, *Aeshna*, should be preserved”.

However, *-aeschna* is retained as the stem of *Adversaeschna*, *Austroaeschna*, *Notoaeschna*, *Spinaaeschna*.

*Agrion* Fabricius, 1775: 425

*Agrion* was the name established by Fabricius (1775) to contain all of the Zygoptera. It is derived from Gr. ἀγριος = wild, and Fliedner (2006) suggests this was chosen because the insects live in the fields rather than domestic areas.

*Anacordulia* Tillyard, 1926: 161

[syn *Metaphya* Laidlaw, 1912]

‘Closely allied to *Hemicordulia* and also to *Tetragoneuria*.’ Gr. ἀνά = over, towards + *Cordulia* (q.v.).

*Archipetalia* Tillyard, 1917a: 450

‘*Archipetalia auriculata*, n.g. et sp., is probably the most archaic Aeshnine Dragonfly yet discovered, and appears to represent a type ancestral, in many of its characters, to *Austropetalia* of the Blue Mountains on the one hand, and to the three Chilian genera *Petalia*, *Phyllopetalia*, and *Hypopetalia* on the other. These five genera forming the tribe Petaliini, ...’ Gr. ἀρχαῖος = ancient + Gr. πέταλον = petal, referring to the leaflike anal appendages of the males.

*Austroagrion* Tillyard, 1913a: 467

‘they [*Pseudagrion cyane* and *Pseudagrion coeruleum*] are more of the *Agrion* build, and probably

represent one of the first asthenogenetic offshoots from that type.’

The derivation becomes *L. australis* = southern + *Agrion* (q.v.)

*Austrocnemis* Tillyard, 1913a: 456

‘Characters of *Agriocnemis* Selys, but with closer venation, narrower wings, and remarkably long legs. It is with M. René Martin’s approval, that I propose this new genus for his interesting species [*Agriocnemis splendida*], which is clearly not congeneric with other members of the genus *Agriocnemis*.’

The derivation becomes *L. australis* = southern + *cnemis*. *Cnemis* comes from Gr. κνήμη = shin or leg. Fliedner (2008) points out that it ‘was used first in ‘*Platycnemis*’ [Greek: ‘broad greave [i.e. armour for the leg]’, an allusion to the widened tibiae in that genus]. But in many names it only means ‘Coenagrionid or Platycnemidid dragonfly’.

*Austrocordulia* Tillyard, 1909a: 744

‘Allied to *Oxygastra* Selys (Europe) and *Syncordulia* Selys (Australia)’.

*L. australis* = southern + *cordulia* which is the adjectival form of the Gr. χορδυλε = club or cudgel, alluding to the shape of the abdomen in the males of the genus *Cordulia* (q.v.).

*Austrogynacantha* Tillyard, 1908d: 425

‘Though the two species of *Karschia* are of smaller size than the true species of *Gynacantha*, yet *G. heterogena* again is smaller still.’ and ‘I propose to found a new genus *Austrogynacantha* for the reception of the beautiful and remarkable species *Gynacantha heterogena*.’ [see also *Austrogynacantha heterogena*].

*L. australis* = southern + *Gynacantha*, which is derived from the Gr. γυνή = woman + ἀκανθα = thorn, alluding to the spines on the ventral side of the 10th abdominal segment of the females in this genus.

*Austrolestes* Tillyard, 1913a: 410, 421-422

*L. australis* = southern + *lestes* where ‘Greek ληστής = a robber or pirate, masculine (rarely used in the common gender). I have therefore treated *Lestes* and its derivations as masculine, though de Selys used feminine terminations with them’.

Tillyard (1913a) defines *Austrolestes* by ‘Characters of *Lestes* Leach, and Selys, *second section*, with the important addition that the wings are not spread out horizontally in repose, but are completely folded back (as in most other Agrionidae). The genus *Lestes* contains a very large number of species, and has become somewhat unwieldy. De Selys himself

indicated a good point from which a subdivision might be made, when he divided the genus into two sections, distinguished by the form of the quadrilateral. In all the Australian species, together with a very few from outside Australia, the quadrilateral is of a very different shape from that of the more typical *Lestes* of de Selys’ *first section*.’

*Austropetalia* Tillyard, 1916: 15

‘This genus is very closely related to the *Petalia*-group of genera which inhabits Chili, viz.: - *Petalia*, *Phyllopetalia*, and *Hypopetalia*.’

The derivation becomes *L. australis* = southern + Gr. πέταλον = petal, referring to the leaflike anal appendages of the males.

*Austrophlebia* Tillyard, 1916: 22

‘This genus is closely allied both to *Telephlebia* and to *Austroaeschna*.’ Hence the concatenation of parts of the two generic names.

*L. australis* = southern + Gr. φλέβα = vein

*Austrophya* Tillyard, 1909a: 738

‘Allied to *Neophya* Selys, and to *Cordulephya* Selys.’ See *Austrosticta* where the quotation from Tillyard says, in part, that the prefix *Austro*- (derived from the *L. australis* = southern) may conveniently be used to denote purely Australian genera. To this is added Gr. φύή = stature or growth, used in the name of its two allies.

*Austrosticta* Tillyard, 1908c: 765

‘Allied to *Isosticta* Selys, from which it differs in the following important points: - ...’ Tillyard (1916) defines: ‘The prefixes *Noto*- and *Austro*- [*L. australis* = southern] may conveniently be used to denote purely Australian genera.’ and he here applies it to the genus *Isosticta*, in spite of it mixing Latin and Greek roots. [Gr. ίσος = equal to + Gr. στικτός = spotted, tattooed].

*Caliagrion* Tillyard, 1913a: 468

The type of this genus is *Pseudagrion billinghursti* Martin. There is no etymological explanation in the type description; the only comment of relevance being ‘Very distinct from *Pseudagrion* Selys, ...; but connected with this genus by the intermediate species *Ps. ignifer* Tillyard, which is retained in *Pseudagrion* on venational and other characters.’

Gr. καλός = good + *Agrion* (q.v.)

*Choristhemis* Tillyard, 1910b: 334

‘Greek χωρίς without, in allusion to the absence of membranule.’ + Gr. θεμις = laws, decrees, ordinances,

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judgements. Themis was also the Goddess of Divine Law, Order and Justice, a wife of Zeus. Fliedner (2006) points out that Hagen (1861) created eight names ending in *-themis* most probably choosing it to match other names of divine beings established in Odonata with its connotation of reflecting classification. He adds the nice comment that 'Being the goddess of order, Themis is a suitable patroness of taxonomists'. Recognising that at the time of its inception, Odonata taxonomy comprised only the families Libellulidae, Aeschnidae and Agrionidae, *-themis* is effectively a synonym for the Libellulidae of the time. Australian examples occur in the currently recognised families of Synthemistidae, Corduliidae and Libellulidae.

*Cordulia* Leach, 1815: 137

Leach (1815) introduces the genus name *Cordulia*, without explanation. It is the adjectival form of the Gr. χορδύλε = club or cudgel, alluding to the shape of the abdomen in the males of the genus *Cordulia*.

*Dendroaeschna* Tillyard, 1916: 42

From the type description: 'δένδρον, a tree' + *aeschna* (q.v.). The description is not specific in which character showed the dendritic character but a couplet leading to the monotypic *Dendroaeschna* in a key to the genera includes 'Basilar space reticulated'.

*Hesperocordulia* Tillyard, 1911a: 376

'This genus is intermediate between the two main divisions of *Cordulina* (s.str.), of which the typical genera may be taken to be *Somatochlora* and *Syncordulia*.' The derivation appears to be Gr. ἑσπέρα = evening + *Cordulia* (q.v.). Neither the type description, nor more modern texts, give any indication that this monotypic genus is crepuscular; to the contrary, the collector (Tillyard 1911: 378) is quoted 'On the wing, they are very active and mostly high out of reach. ... On some very good days I have taken four, but mostly only one or two.' Evening, therefore, is being equated with the west, as the distribution of the species is restricted to southwest Western Australia.

*Lathrocordulia* Tillyard, 1911a: 378

λαθραῖος = furtive, clandestine + *Cordulia* (q.v.) 'Allied to *Syncordulia*\* ... (\* It must be understood that I refer here to *S. atrifrons* McLach., which I assume is congeneric with the type *S. gracilis* Burm., of which no really reliable or sufficiently full descriptions are available.'

*Lestoidea* Tillyard, 1913a: 428

'Characters intermediate between those of the legions

*Lestes* and *Protoneura*.' [see also *Lestoidea conjuncta* Tillyard, 1913]. The genus is derived from ὄδης = Gr. adjectival suffix indicating resemblance, applied to *Lestes* (see *Austrolestes*).

*Metathemis* Tillyard, 1910b: 335

[junior synonym of *Eusynthemis* Förster, 1903]

'... we can at once pick out a homogenous group of four characterised by the short anal appendages of the males, the absolute loss of the ovipositor in the females, and the generally rather shorter and less constricted abdomen. These are *S[yntthemis] brevistyla*, *S. virgula*, *S. guttata*, and *S. nigra*. ... These four species are also very much more closely allied to one another than any other two species outside them. I therefore propose to place them in a new genus, *Metathemis*, of which the type will be *S. guttata* Selys.'

Gr. μετά = with + Gr. θεμις = laws, decrees, ordinances, judgements. In this case *-themis* is inherited from *Synthemis* but, for its ultimate derivation, see *Choristhemis*, above.

*Neosticta* Tillyard, 1913a: 435

'Allied to both *Isosticta* and *Austrosticta*, but easily distinguished from both by the form of the male appendages, and by the much greater length of the superior sector of the triangle.' Gr. νέος = new + *sticta* being the common root of *Isosticta* and *Austrosticta*. *-sticta* comes from the Gr. στικτός = spotted, tattooed.

*Notoaeschna* Tillyard, 1916: 58

From the type description: 'Greek νότος, the South Wind. The prefixes *Noto-* and *Austro-* may conveniently be used to denote purely Australian genera. Before the 'æ' of *-aeschna* the 'o' may be retained for euphony.'

and

'This remarkable dragonfly stands out as by far the most highly specialized of our entogenic Australian Aeschninae.'

*Notoneura* Tillyard 1913a: 431

'It is necessary to propose this new genus for the reception of the two Australian species, *Alloneura solitaria* Tillyard, and *A. caelestina* Tillyard, inasmuch as a careful comparison with de Selys' definition of *Alloneura* (viz., that portion of his 'grand-genre' *Alloneura*, which he designated as 'Sous-genre' *Alloneura*) shows us that the two groups are evidently not congeneric. The two species mentioned are most closely related to *Nososticta*, and might be included in that genus, were it not for important differences in build and venation.' Gr. νότος, the South Wind +

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neura, being the root of *Alloneura*, from which the species were excised.

*Oristicta* Tillyard, 1913a: 438, 439

Gr. ὄρος = mountain + Gr. στικτός = spotted, tattooed. 'It resembles *Isosticta* and *Nososticta* in the shortness of the superior sector of the triangle, and further resembles *Isosticta* in its elongated and slender abdomen.' The type is *Oristicta filicicola*, n.sp. 'This retiring and inconspicuous species was discovered by me not far from the summit of Mount Cook [Cooktown, Queensland]'

*Pseudocordulia* Tillyard, 1909a: 743

'This genus comes closest to *Syncordulia* Selys [= *Micromidia*], of the Australian Corduline genera, but may be easily distinguished from it by the fact that *Syncordulia* has the sectors of the arculus separated at their base, while the appendages of the male are very long.' Gr. ψευδής = false, deceptive + [Syn]Cordulia; false because it is not easily distinguished from the other cordulines.

*Synthemiopsis* Tillyard, 1917a: 463

'Characters intermediate between those of the Australian genus *Synthemis* and the Chilean genus *Gomphomacromia*.'

*Synthemis* [Gr. σύν = together with + themis (see *Choristhemis*)] + Gr. suffix οπιζ = outward appearance, indicating a resemblance of one genus or species to another.

*Xanthocnemis* Tillyard, 1913a: 465

'It is necessary to study this New Zealand species [*Xanthagrion zelandicum* Selys] here in conjunction with its Australian allies. A new genus is required for its reception, as it is clearly not congeneric with *Xanthagrion erythroneurum* Selys, the type of the genus *Xanthagrion*.' Gr. ξανθός = yellow + Gr. κνήμη = shin or leg. See *Austrocnemis* above for a discussion of *-cnemis*.

### ETYMOLOGY OF SPECIES.

*albescens*, *Argiolestes griseus* Tillyard, 1913a: 414

[*Griseargiolestes albescens*]

L. albesco = becoming white. 'Specimens taken from February to May show a growth of very white pruinescence.'

*albicauda*, *Synlestes* Tillyard, 1913d: 239, 240)

[*Episynlestes albicauda*]

L. albus = white + L. cauda = tail of an animal. 'Appendages: superior, 2.7 mm., white, elongate,

forcipate, and also bifid at their basal third;' and 'They are, curiously enough, only betrayed by the distinct white tip of the abdomen, which, I soon convinced myself, is actually necessary to enable the sexes to discover one another.'

*alcestis*, *Rhyothemis* Tillyard, 1906c: 482

[junior synonym of *Rhyothemis braganza* Karsch, 1890]

Tillyard was of a generation that still capitalised a species' name if it were a proper noun. In Greek mythology, Alcestis was the wife of Admetus, who saved the life of her husband by sacrificing her own. Perhaps Tillyard followed the naming of *R. phyllis* which commemorated the daughter of Lycurgus, who committed suicide when Demophon, son of Theseus, did not return on the betrothal date.

*alleni*, *Austrolestes* Tillyard, 1913a: 425

[*Indolestes alleni*]

'I have dedicated this species to its discoverer, Mr. E. Allen, to whom I am indebted for much valuable help in the form of careful collecting of *Odonata* in the Cairns district.'

*allogenes*, *Agrionoptera* Tillyard, 1908f: 641

[*Agrionoptera insignis allogenes*]

'This species was described by me under the name *A. insignis* Rambur ... Since that description was published, I have sent specimens of my type-series to Dr. Ris, and he tells me that they are distinct from the type *A. insignis* Ramb., of Java.' The derivation therefore appears to be Gr. ἄλλος = another + γένεσις = origin (or genus in this context).

*alpinus*, *Argiolestes* Tillyard, 1913a: 418

[*Austroargiolestes alpinus*]

'Hab. – Ebor, N.S.W., altitude 4600-4800 feet; January, 1912.' and 'The males are very conspicuous, and easy to capture, as they sit poised on the long grass and sedge growing on the damp hill-slopes at the top of the watershed.' L. alpinus = pertaining to the Alps.

*anacantha*, *Austroaeschna* Tillyard 1908b: 735

'This species, to which I have given the name *anacantha* because of the absence of the large dorsal spike on segment 10 of the male, is very closely allied to *A. parvistigma* and *A. multipunctata* of the Eastern States.'

Gr. prefix ἀν = without + Gr. ἀκανθα = thorn

*angeli*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard, 1913d: 234

[*Austrogomphus angelorum*]

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The discussion in the type description includes the statements ‘Taken by Messrs. F. and S. Angel, of Adelaide, to whom I am indebted for a series of five males and six females, taken between 1909 and 1912.’ and ‘... which I have much pleasure in naming after its discoverers, ...’

Peterson (1993) argued that the specific epithet should be amended from *angeli* to the group masculine form *angelorum* as Tillyard (1913) ‘had clearly named this species after two people (two brothers)’

*angulicollis*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 323

L. *angulus* = corner, angle + L. *collum* = neck. ‘Prothorax with the pronotum strongly angulated postero-laterally.’

*arbustorum*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1906a: 549

L. *arbustus* = planted with trees. ‘It is also fond of flying in and out about the trees on warm still days.’

*arenarius*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1906a: 551

[junior synonym of *Antipodogomphus proselythus* (Martin, 1901)]

L. *harenarius* = sand. ‘This species is found along the sandy shores of the River Barron.’

*argentea*, *Agriocnemis* Tillyard 1906b: 192, 193

L. *argenteus* = of the colour of silver. ‘Abdomen very thin, cylindrical. Colour: the true ground colour is a dull black, but this is completely covered in mature specimens by a beautiful silvery white bloom, which can be rubbed off with the fingers.’ and ‘When flying its wings are invisible, and it appears as a bright silver streak, darting in and out of the grass.’

*aridus*, *Lestes* Tillyard, 1908c: 764

[*Austrolestes aridus*]

There is no etymological explanation in the type description but the habitat details are ‘Tennant’s Creek, N.T.; common round the waterholes in September – April. Probably widely distributed in Central Australia.’ Hence L. *aridus* = dry, arid

*armiger*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard, 1913b: 578

[*Armogomphus armiger*]

L. *armiger* = bearing arms. ‘The remarkable development of parallel spurs on segment 10 and the superior appendages seems to be a contrivance to enable the male to clasp the occipital ridge of the female, which, in this species, is not furnished with the usual tubercular processes by which this process is accomplished.’

*asthenes*, *Telephlebia* Tillyard, 1916: 42

[*Antipodophlebia asthenes*]

‘This species [*Telephlebia asthenes*] is very different from *T. godeffroyi* by its hyaline wings without trace of bands, its short pterostigma, open venation, absence of membranule, very regular prolongation of subcosta, smaller size, and somewhat different coloration. It appears to be a specialized asthenogenetic offshoot from the main stock, and is one of the smallest *Æschninae* known to me.’ Tillyard (1917b) defines ‘*Asthenogenesis* (Gr. ἀσθενής, weak; γένεσις, begetting), the development of a successful line of descent by the adoption of weakness in structure.’

*aurantiaca*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 331

L. *aurantiacus* = orange. ‘... rest of frons orange; ... anteclypeus and labrum orange; ... Prothorax rich orange, ... Synthorax rich metallic green above, with a triangular orange spot in front of the base of each forewing; ... Abdomen: - Seg. 1 orange; seg. 2, orange with two basal black points ...; 3-6 with a narrow basal orange ring.’

*aureofrons*, *Pseudagrion* Tillyard, 1906b: 190

‘Head - ...front, near the postclypeus, golden-yellow’

L. *aureus* = golden + L. *frons* = forehead, brow

*aureus*, *Argiolestes* Tillyard 1906b: 179

[*Austroargiolestes aureus*]

L. *aureus* = adorned with gold. ‘It is easily distinguished from the other two Australian species of the genus [*Argiolestes*] by its brilliant orange thorax.’

*auriculata*, *Archipetalia* Tillyard 1917a: 457

‘*Auricles* very large, bright yellow above, edged with dark brown outwards and posteriorly; underside brown.’

L. *auricula* = lobe of the ear, used to describe the ear-shaped processes on tergum 2 of some Odonata.

*aurolineata*, *Metathemis guttata* Tillyard, 1913b: 575

[*Eusynthemis aurolineata*]

L. *aureus* = adorned with gold + L. *linea* = a straight line. ‘A pair of distinct antehumeral lines or rays on thorax, gold or yellow, from 1.5 to 2.5 mm. in length. These are not present in the type-form.’

*banksi*, *Isosticta* Tillyard, 1913a: 434

[*Rhadinosticta banksi*]

‘*Hab.* – Banks Island, Torres Strait. Four males and five females, taken by Mr. H. Elgner, in February, 1910.’

*berthoudi*, *Hesperocordulia* Tillyard 1911a: 377

'Taken by my friend Mr G. F. Berthoud, to whom I dedicate this species.' Tillyard (1908b: 721) gives further details of this collector 'I am much indebted to Mr. G[eorge] Berthoud, of the State Farm, Hamel [WA], for sending me a large number of specimens from Waroona (Murray District), thus linking together the northern and southern localities which I myself worked.'

*bifurcatus*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1909b: 245

'Appendages: *superior* very remarkable; 1.6 mm., bases separated, straight, cylindrical, jet black, hairy, *strongly bifurcated*; the outer fork being the longer, fairly pointed, the inner somewhat shorter, very pointed. *Inferior* bifurcated, the two parts widely separated ...' L. *bis* = twice + L. *furcatus* = forked, branched.

*brachycerca*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 333

Gr. βραχύνω = shorten + Gr. κέρκος = tail of a beast 'Appendages excessively short; superiors only 0.2 mm. long, dark, sub-cylindrical, bluntly rounded at tips;'

*brevicauda*, *Telephlebia godeffroyi* Tillyard, 1916: 35, 36

[*Telephlebia brevicauda*]

'.. the shorter superior appendages of the male [*Telephlebia godeffroyi brevicauda*]' compared with *Telephlebia godeffroyi godeffroyi*

There is no specific etymological explanation in the type description but the discussion includes the statement 'It seems therefore extremely probable that the longer [superior] appendage is the more archaic form, and that the shorter [cf. *Telephlebia godeffroyi*] one of *T. brevicauda* has either evolved gradually from it as a more useful form, or has arisen as a sudden mutation, or, possibly, as the direct inheritance of an acquired character, in the Lamarckian sense.'

*brisbanense*, *Agrion* Tillyard 1917a: 478

[junior synonym of *Coenagrion lyelli* (Tillyard, 1913)]

'Type, ♂, in Coll. Tillyard. (Brisbane, a unique specimen, taken by myself on Kedron Brook, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1913).'

*campioni*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 306

'I also wish to thank Mr. Herbert Campion, Odonatologist in the British Museum of Natural History, for his valuable help in collecting together a complete record of the Odonata of these Islands [Fiji].'

*canescens*, *Neosticta* Tillyard 1913a: 436

L. *canesco* = to become white or hoary. 'More mature specimens show signs of becoming pruinulent-grey.'

*chiltoni*, *Uropetala* Tillyard 1921: 343

'I wish to dedicate this new species, whose description follows, to Dr [Charles] Chilton as a memorial of the excellent work which he has done, and is doing, in connection with the Cass Biological Station [University of Canterbury, New Zealand].'

*chrysoides*, *Argiolestes* Tillyard, 1913d: 237

[*Austroargiolestes chrysoides*]

'*Meso-* and *metathorax* bright golden-yellow above, except for a narrow black border near prothorax, and a broad black patch above and surrounding interalar ridge;' Gr. χρυσός = gold + ὄδης = Gr. adjectival suffix indicating resemblance.

*circularis*, *Pseudocordulia* Tillyard, 1909a: 743

'Named from the exceedingly forcipate appendages, forming almost a complete circle.'

*cladophila*, *Tetrathemis* Tillyard 1908f: 648

[*Tetrathemis irregularis cladophila*]

'I have named it *T. cladophila* because of its great fondness for returning again and again to the same twig, even after being frightened away with the net.' Gr. κλάδο = branch, twig + φίλος = friend, loved.

*claviculata*, *Synthemis* Tillyard 1909a: 749, 750

[*Tonyosynthemis claviculata*]

'Named from the peculiar form of the appendages.' and 'Appendages: *superior* long, 3 mm. hairy, black, wide apart and slightly swollen at bases, then undulating and swelling out into a rather rounded and somewhat clubbed tip.' L. diminutive of *clavis* = cudgel.

*coelestina*, *Alloneura* Tillyard 1906b: 186, 185

[*Nososticta coelestina*]

L. *caelestis* = belonging to heaven. 'Superior appendages of ♂ pale sky-blue.' and 'I have named it *coelistina* [sic] because of the remarkable colour of the appendages.'

*coerulescens*, *euphloeoides* *Diphlebia* Tillyard, 1913d: 235

[*Diphlebia coerulescens*]

L. *coerulescens* = becoming blue [L. *caeruleus* = blue, and the suffix *-escens* (becoming)]. 'Abdomen coloured as follows: ... 4-7 black with a pair of conspicuous basal blue spots (these segments are

## ETYMOLOGY OF THE DRAGONFLIES

wholly black in type form [*Diphlebia euphæoides*]). The context would seem to be that it becomes blue with respect to the type species, rather than indicating some temporal change.

*coeruleum*, *Pseudagrion* Tillyard, 1908b: 741  
[junior synonym of *Austroagrion cyane* (Selys, 1876)]

‘This species is very closely related to *P. cyane* Selys, of the eastern States. The males can be at once distinguished by the greater amount of blue on the abdomen of *P. caeruleum*; in particular, segments 3 and 7-9.’ L. caeruleus = blue, dark blue (esp. of the sea or sky).

*comitatus*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1909b: 247  
[*Hemigomphus comitatus*]

L. comitatus = retinue, a body of companions. The only reference in the type description that might allude to the specific epithet is ‘It flies in small clearings in company with *Synthemis Olivei* Tillyard.’

*comosa*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 321

L. comosus = hairy. ‘The frons carries a series of long, slender, light brown hairs, which project forwards in a regular row, their tips reaching well beyond the level of the anterior end of the labrum.’

*conjuncta*, *Lestoidea* Tillyard, 1913a: 429

L. coniungo = to join together. ‘This unique and wonderful insect, ... is of the greatest phylogenetic importance, as it supplies the missing link between two very distinct groups or legions of the *Agrionidae*, both of which have been claimed to be archaic. *Lestöidea* may be regarded as a form *asthenogenetically intermediate* between the less-reduced *Lestes* and the more reduced *Protoneura*.’

*conspersa*, *Caliaeschna* Tillyard, 1907a: 728  
[*Dendroaeschna conspersa*]

L. conspersus = sprinkled, which probably refers to ‘Meso- and metathorax rich dark chocolate-brown spotted with pea green. ... Colour of abdomen deep rich-chocolate-brown spotted with pea green.’

*corniculata*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 319-320  
[*Melanesobasis corniculata*]

L. cornu = a horn + L. suffix -atus = provided with. ‘The form of the appendages is generally similar to those of *N. flavilabris*, but the superiors are longer, 0.5 mm., only about one-sixth or less shorter than the inferiors, and they carry on the inner margin, just before the apex, a very distinct cornicle or tooth projecting inwards transversely;’

*costalis*, *Planaeschna* Tillyard, 1907a: 724  
[*Austrophlebia costalis*]

L. costa = rib has given rise to the name of the costal vein in Odonata and other insect orders. ‘Wings with a deep russet-brown colouration covering the lower half of the costal space up to nodus and all of it beyond, also all the subcostal and median spaces, except the basilar area.’

*cyanitincta*, *Synthemis* Tillyard 1908b: 725, 726  
[*Austrosynthemis cyanitincta*]

‘Rest of abdomen dark brown shading to black, each of the segments 3-7 carrying a pair of central dorsal spots, oval or suboval, of a beautiful very pale greyish-blue colour; those of 3-5 touching along the dorsal ridge, each spot crossed by a transverse black line in the supplementary carina; 8, a pair of large oval spots similar to those on 3-7, but more than half the length of the segment; 9, a pair of small round basal spots of the same colour.’ and ‘The pale blue colouring of the spots is remarkable, and I do not know of another species of the *Corduliinae* which possesses it.’ Gr. κραιβοῦς = blue, azure + L. tingere = to dye. Mixing a Greek and a Latin root is an unusual practice which casts some doubt on this interpretation.

*cyclops*, *Telephlebia goddefroyi* Tillyard 1916: 36  
[*Telephlebia cyclops*]

Although Tillyard (1916) does not disclose why he chose *cyclops* as a subspecies of *Telephlebia goddefroyi*, one of its prime distinguishing features is ‘Front ... with a large black rounded blotch’ perhaps reminiscent of the one-eyed giant.

*dalei*, *Nannodythemis* Tillyard, 1908e: 446  
[*Nannophya dalei*]

Within the introduction to the type description, Tillyard (1908) states: ‘I propose to name the Western Australian form *N[annodythemis] occidentalis*, and to give to the third species (that from the Wentworth Falls) the name of *N. Dalei* in memory of de Selys’ great friend, the well-known British entomologist Mr. Dale; this name having already been applied by de Selys to this species on the label in his cabinet.’

*divergens*, *Cordulephya* Tillyard 1917a: 469

‘superior appendages of ♂ distinctly divergent’ L. dis = apart + L. vergere to bend, turn.

*doddi*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1909b: 251

‘A single male taken by Mr F.P. Dodd.’ Frederick Parkhurst Dodd, an amateur collector of butterflies and beetles originally employed in a bank, moved from Victoria to Brisbane, Townsville and then

Kuranda, where he became known as the 'Butterfly man of Kuranda.

*dorrigoensis*, *Neosticta canescens* Tillyard 1913a: 437

'Race *dorrigoensis*. – On the Little Murray River, near Dorrigo, N.S.W., I met with this insect again, in November, 1911, and secured two males, for comparison.' + -ensis = L. adjectival suffix indicating place of origin.

*eboracus*, *Argiolestes griseus* Tillyard, 1913a: 413

[*Griseargiolestes eboracus*

'Race *eboracus* – A short series taken by me at Ebor and Dorrigo, N.S.W.' -ακός is a Gr adjectival suffix indicating 'belonging to'.

*elliptica*, *Pseudocordulia* Tillyard, 1913d: 229

'Appendages: *superior* 1.5 mm., black, slightly forcipate; viewed from above, they form a slightly pointed oval;' Gr. ἔλλειψις = ellipse.

*eludens*, *Nannophlebia* Tillyard 1908f: 647

'I have named it *N. eludens* because of its peculiar elusive zigzag flight up into the air when disturbed from its usual rest on a favourite twig.' L. eludere = to evade.

*euphoeoides*, *Diphlebia* Tillyard, 1907b: 398

'The specific name is adopted on the suggestion of M. Martin so as to maintain the uniformity of the specific nomenclature in use for this genus.' This suggests that the root might be Gr. εὐφωμία = a pleasing sound + ὄδης = Gr. adjectival suffix indicating resemblance.

*fieldi*, *Austrosticta* Tillyard 1908c: 766

'I wish to tender my heartiest thanks to Mr J.F. Field [of Tennant's Creek, N.T.] for the interest and keenness with which he undertook to supply me with specimens, and to his aboriginal servant, Billy, who wielded the net with the greatest sagacity and discrimination, and evidently handled the specimens with much care.'

*filicicola*, *Oristicta* Tillyard, 1913a: 440

L. filix = fern + L. incola = inhabitant. 'The whole of the rock is densely covered in ferns. Resting on these ferns, deep in shade, and drenched with the spray of the fall, I found this little dragonfly.'

*flavomaculata*, *Austroaeschna parvistigma* Tillyard, 1916: 49

[*Austroaeschna flavomaculata*]

There is no etymological explanation in the type

description but the discussion includes the statement: 'This very striking and beautiful subspecies is very different from the type-form [*A. parvistigma*] in appearance, owing to the yellow colouring and greater size of its markings.' In a table on p. 48 the characteristics of yellow spots and streaks on the thorax, and yellow abdominal spots, are given. Hence L. flavus = yellow, golden + L. macula = spot, stain.

*fontanus*, *Argiolestes* Tillyard, 1913a: 420

[*Griseargiolestes fontanus*]

L. fontanus = of a spring or fountain. 'The Dorrigo series were all found either settled upon or flying round the ferns which clustered on the steep, rocky sides of a small waterfall, about twenty feet high, in dense scrub. ... Two other males were also seen flying about dense vegetation near a waterfall.'

*forcipata*, *Planaeschna* Tillyard 1907a: 727

[*Dromaeschna forcipata*]

'Appendages: *Superior* 3 mm., depressed, forcipate, black; wide apart at bases.' L. forcipis = a pair of tongs, pincers.

*fragilis*, *Ischnura* Tillyard 1906b: 187

[*Aciagrion fragile*]

L. fragilis = fragile, easily broken. In discussing the genus *Ischnura* (in which he had provisionally placed this species) Tillyard gives the only clue to the specific epithet. '... the present species differs from other members of the genus *Ischnura* ...' and 'The typical characters of the genus as exhibited by *I. delicata* or *I. heterosticta* are (1) rather broad head and thorax, rather robust form, wings not remarkably slender, and well-rounded at tips.'

*geminata*, *Notoaeschna saggitata* Tillyard 1916: 59

[*Notoaeschna geminata* Theischinger, 1982]

'a very fine and long series taken by me at Guy Fawkes, N.S.W., is distinct enough to warrant a varietal name. I therefore propose for it the name var. *geminata* defined by the following characters:- ... Sagittate dorsal spots of abdomen much reduced, each being split into two geminate [paired] subtriangular halves separated by the black line of the dorsal ridge.' L. geminatus = doubled, twinned.

*gomphomacromioides*, *Synthemiopsis* Tillyard 1917a: 463

'General facies of the insect resembles that of *Gomphomacromia paradoxa* Br.' + ὄδης = Gr. adjectival suffix indicating resemblance applied to *Gomphomacromia*.

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*hardyi*, *Austroaeschna* Tillyard 1917a: 461

No information is given in the type description but the species is endemic to Tasmania and George Hurlstone Hudlestone Hardy was Acting Curator of the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart (1913-1917). In the type description of *Synthemiopsis gomphomacromioides* (Tillyard 1917a: 466) the author relates 'Mr G.H. Hardy, of the Tasmanian Museum, also captured a single male at Flowerdale Creek ...'

*heterogena*, *Austrogynacantha* Tillyard, 1908d: 423, 424

'In his unpublished MSS. De Selys has described a new species *Gynacantha heterogena* from a unique female in his collection.' and 'Doubtless de Selys felt, when describing the female, that its smaller size and very different markings and colouration might warrant the formation of a new genus to contain it; at least the name *heterogena* irresistibly suggests the impression it made on his mind. But it was not de Selys' way to propose a new genus for a unique female, which possessed all the more essential characters of the genus *Gynacantha* as defined by Rambur.' Gr. . ἕτερος = other, different + γένεσις = origin (or genus in this context).

*heteroneura*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 333

Gr. ἕτερος = other, different + Gr. νεύρον = nerve. 'This species differs from all others of the genus in having the origins of  $M_3$  and  $M_5$  placed further apart than usual, the distance between the two being equal to, or a little more than, the descending basal piece of  $M_5$ .'

*hurleyi*, *Rhyothemis* Tillyard 1926: 166

'This magnificent species, which I dedicate to Captain Frank Hurley, leader of the expedition to Lake Murray, resembles *Rh. severini* Ris., most closely in its scheme of colouration;' James Francis 'Frank' Hurley, OBE (1885 – 1962) was an Australian photographer and adventurer who participated in a number of expeditions to Antarctica and served as an official photographer with Australian forces during both world wars.

*hyacinthus*, *Agriocnemis* Tillyard 1913a: 457-458

[junior synonym of *Agriocnemis pygmaea* (Rambur, 1842)]

The flower *Hyacinthus* L. is an ancient Gk. name used by Homer, the flowers being said to spring from the blood of the dead Hyakinthos, a youth beloved by Apollo and accidentally slain by him. There is some resemblance in colour to the flower: 'Abdomen ... Colour, 1-7 bronzy-black above, greenish or

yellowish underneath; 3-6 with a pair of pale yellow basal marks, very small; 8, basal two-thirds black, apical third and sides red; 9-10 bright red.'

*hyalina*, *Telephlebia g. goddefroyi* Tillyard, 1916: 34 [infrasubspecific variety no longer recognized in any form]

'The density of the brown bands on the wings is subject to much variation. ... At Ebor ... I found ... a form in which the band was extremely light and in places scarcely discernible. ... I propose to call this form variety *hyalina*.' Gr. ὑαλος = glass.

*hybridoides*, *Diphlebia* Tillyard 1912: 588

'In colouration, it resembles *D. lestoïdes*, but the shape of the abdomen is closer to that of *D. euphæoïdes*. The banding of the wings may also be considered as intermediate between the narrow milky band of *D. lestoïdes* and the deep, almost black, shading of *D. euphæoïdes*, which nearly covers the wing. For these reasons, I have proposed the name *D. hybridoides* for this species.' L. hybrida (hybrida) = a mongrel, cross.

*ignifer*, *Pseudagrion* Tillyard 1906b: 188

L. ignifer = fire-bearing. 'Head. – *Epicranium* black behind, front brilliant rust colour, crossed by a short black transverse line in the middle, and bordered below, next the clypeus, by a second black line. ... *Clypeus* and *labrum* brilliant rust-colour.'

*ingentissima*, *Petalura* Tillyard, 1908a: 717

Superlative of the L. ingens = enormous. *P. ingentissima* is larger than *P. gigantea* as seen in a table in Tillyard 1908a 'The expanse of wing in *P. gigantea* is ♂ about 110 mm.; ♀ about 120 mm. ditto *P. ingentissima* ♂ 151 mm.; ♀ 163 mm.'

*insularis*, *Austrolestes* Tillyard 1913a: 426

'Hab. – Banks Island, Torres Straits, taken by Mr. H. Elgner, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1910.' L. insularis = pertaining to an island.

*intermedius*, *Argiolestes griseus* Tillyard, 1913a: 412 [*Griseargiolestes intermedius*]

'Race *intermedius* – A small series of three males and one female taken by me at Alexandra, Vic, December, 1906, are of intermediate form between typical specimens [*Argiolestes griseus* Blue Mountain Series] and the very distinct form *eboracus*.'

*lineata*, *Aeschna brevistyla* Tillyard, 1916: 62

[infrasubspecific variety no longer recognized in any form]

'Var. *lineata*, with the dorsal bands reduced to lines.' L. linea = a linen thread, string.

*lyelli*, *Agrion* Tillyard, 1913a: 450)

[*Coenagrion lyelli*]

'This very beautiful and conspicuous species was first discovered by me during a visit to my friend, Mr. Lyell, at Gisborne, Vic., in December, 1908.' George Lyell (1866-1951), naturalist, built up an enormous collection of butterflies and moths, at first from country areas near Melbourne and then from the Gisborne area and other States, donating it to the National Museum of Victoria in 1932.

*maccullochi*, *Agriocnemis* (Tillyard 1926: 161

[*Austrocnemis maccullochi*]

'This unique specimen is a fine discovery, and the species is dedicated to its captor, the late Allan R. McCulloch.' Allan Riverstone McCulloch (1885-1925) was a noted systematic ichthyologist, working at the Australian Museum, Sydney.

*maccullochi*, *Anacordulia* Tillyard 1926: 163

[junior synonym of *Metaphya tillyardi* Ris, 1913]

'... the species is dedicated to its captor, the late Allan R. McCulloch.'

In the introduction to the paper Tillyard also writes 'The collection of Dragonflies dealt with in this paper was made by the late Allan R. McCulloch of the Australian Museum, Sydney, during the period from November, 1922, to January, 1923, while exploring unknown regions of the central western part of Papua by boat and aeroplane, in company with Captain Frank Hurley.'

*manifestus*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1909b: 241, 249

[junior synonym of *Antipodogomphus acolythus* (Martin, 1901)]

L. *manifestus* = clear, visible, evident. 'My friend, Mr. Allen, of Cairns, took [the female of] a very remarkable new species at Atherton, N.Q., in April, 1907,' Perhaps the meaning lies within the comparison with '*A. bifurcatus*, of which the female is not known. It [clearly = manifestly?] cannot be the female of that species, however, as the markings of head, thorax, and abdomen are entirely different.'

*martini*, *Synthemis* Tillyard 1908b

[junior synonym of *Synthemis leachii* Selys, 1871]

No acknowledgement of René Martin, the French odonatologist, but it is extremely likely that the species was named for him.

*melaleuca*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1909b: 244

[*Austroepigomphus melaleuca*]

'All the other specimens I have, were taken, one or two at a time, in the teatree [*Melaleuca* sp.] bush

fringing the creek. The insect is very fond of sitting perched high up on a sprig of teatree, sometimes beyond reach of the net. If disturbed, it flies off with bewildering swiftness and settles on another bush. I have named it *A. melaleuca* because of this habit.' (*Melaleuca* L. is named from Gr. μέλας = black + Gr. λευκόν – white, as the trees often have a black trunk and white branches due to the papery bark.)

*melanosoma*, *Metathemis guttata* Tillyard 1913d: 231

[*Eusynthemis guttata melanosoma*]

'Colouration of abdomen: ♂, almost completely black.' Gr. μέλας = black + Gr. σώμα = body.

*metallica*, *Lathrocordulia* Tillyard 1911a: 379

'Thorax dark brown, with grey downy hairs. On each side of dorsal ridge is a band of metallic green; sides also reflecting metallic green or rich steel-colour nearly all over.' Gr. μεταλλικός = metallic.

*mimetes*, *Stenobasis* Tillyard 1913a: 473

[*Archibasis mimetes*]

'Evidently rare, but probably often overlooked owing to the remarkable similarity between it and the commoner *Pseudagrion australasiae*. I have named it *mimetes* because of this resemblance.' Gr. μιμητικός = imitative.

*minimus*, *Argiolestes* Tillyard 1908b: 735,736

[*Miniargiolestes minimus*]

L. *minimus* = superlative of *parvus* = small, i.e. smallest. While dimensions of the most common form are given, there is no comparison to show how it might be considered smallest. The sizes given for race *pusillus* are smaller than the type.

*montana*, *Cordulephya* Tillyard 1911b: 397

'The only known locality for *C. montana* at present is Medlow, Blue Mountains, N.S.W., where I took the type-male and female on January 19<sup>th</sup> 1910.' L. *mons*, *montis* = a mountain.

*mystica*, *Austrophya* Tillyard, 1909a: 740

L. *mysticus* = secret. Only a female specimen was available. '[The specimen is an aged one, somewhat damaged, and if there are other markings they have been obliterated.]' Perhaps the 'secret' is hidden in the obliterated markings.

*nigra*, *Synthemis* Tillyard, 1906c: 489, 491

[*Eusynthemis nigra*]

L. *niger* = black, dark-coloured. 'Abdomen Colour deep black ...' and in a key to the closely related

## ETYMOLOGY OF THE DRAGONFLIES

species of *Synthemis*: ‘Abdomen almost entirely black’

*nigrescens*, *Synlestes weyersi* Tillyard 1917a: 473  
‘This subspecies is at once strikingly distinguished from the type-form by its dull colouration; but it does not differ from it morphologically sufficiently to warrant its elevation to full specific rank.’ ‘eyes black; epicranium, frons, clypeus, and labrum nearly black, ... antennae black ... thorax dull blackish ... abdomen blackish’ L. nigresco, nigrescere = to become black.

*nobilis*, *Argiolestes icteromelas* Tillyard, 1913a: 410  
‘This fine race occurs on the Dorrigo Plateau, N.S.W., and especially at Ebor. ... It differs from the type-form not only in size, but in its very robust build, and in a much greater tendency towards pruinescence, giving the insect a much greyer appearance.’  
L. nobilis = known, of noble birth.

*nymphoides*, *Diphlebia* Tillyard, 1912: 590  
From the type description ‘It is one of the most beautiful and brilliant insects known to me, the blue of its body far out-rivalling the colour of *D. lestoides*, itself a brilliant insect. I have therefore chosen the name nymphoïdes (Greek νύμφη, a bride) in allusion to its beauty.’ + ὠδης = Gr. adjectival suffix indicating resemblance.

*oblita*, *Aeschna brevistyla* Tillyard, 1916: 62  
[infrasubspecific variety no longer recognized in any form]  
‘Var. *oblita*, with no markings at all on the dorsal part of the thorax.’ L. oblittero = to cancel, blot out.

*occidentalis*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1908b: 731  
[junior synonym of *Austrogomphus lateralis* (Selys, 1873)]  
‘Hab. – Margaret River district [Western Australia]; very rare.’ Thus L. occiduus = setting, sinking, hence western.

*occidentalis*, *Nannodythemis* Tillyard, 1908e: 452  
[*Nannophya occidentalis*]  
‘Hab. – South-Western Australia’ Thus L. occiduus = setting, sinking, hence western.

*occidentalis*, *Synthemis macrostigma* Tillyard 1910b: 354  
[*Archaeosynthemis occidentalis*]  
‘I consider that the eastern and western Australian races [of *Synthemis macrostigma* Selys] are sufficiently distinct from one another, and from the

oceanic types, to warrant subspecific names.’ Thus L. occiduus = setting, sinking, hence western.

*olivei*, *Synthemis* Tillyard 1909a: 747  
[*Choristhemis olivei*]  
‘Dedicated to my friend, Mr. E.A.C. Olive, of Cooktown.’  
Edmund Abraham Cumberbatch Olive established a business as an auctioneer, and horse and cattle salesman during the early days of the Palmer River gold rush and remained in Cooktown until his death in 1921. In his later natural history collecting he relied heavily on the knowledge and assistance of Aboriginal people (McKay 2000).

*orientalis*, *Synthemis macrostigma* Tillyard, 1910b: 354  
[*Archaeosynthemis orientalis*]  
‘I consider that the eastern and western Australian races are sufficiently distinct from one another, and from the oceanic types [of *Synthemis macrostigma*], to warrant subspecific names’. Hence L. oriens = rising of the sun, eastern.

*othello*, *Camacinia* Tillyard 1908f: 640  
Tillyard (1908) stated ‘It is quite feasible that *C. othello* arose as a differentiation from the parent stock *C. gigantea*, which does not occur in Australia.’ The primary character he cites is ‘contraction and intensification of dark pigmentation on the wings.’ Perhaps this led him to name the species for Shakespeare’s Moor.

*pacificum*, *Pseudagrion* Tillyard 1924: 312  
[*Nesobasis pacificum*]  
‘Habitat: - Waido Plantation’ The type locality is on the island of Viti Levu, Fiji, which is in the Pacific Ocean.

*pallida*, *Metathemis guttata* Tillyard 1910b: 363  
[infrasubspecific variety no longer recognized in any form]  
‘Specimens from the Illawarra District of New South Wales are of small size, and the male has a pale creamy or straw-coloured labium. I propose to name this var. *pallida*; it does not deserve subspecific rank.’ From L. pallidus = pale, wan.

*paludosus*, *Lestes* Tillyard 1906b: 182  
[junior synonym of *Lestes concinnus* Hagen, 1862]  
L. paludosus = marshy, boggy. ‘A single pair of this species was taken by me on the lagoons by the town [Townsville, Queensland].’

## I.D. ENDERSBY

*papuense*, *Pseudagrion* Tillyard 1926: 157

[junior synonym of *Pseudagrion cingillum* (Brauer, 1869)]

'The collection of Dragonflies dealt with in this paper was made by the late Allan R. McCulloch of the Australian Museum, Sydney, during the period from November, 1922, to January, 1923, while exploring unknown regions of the central western part of Papua by boat and aeroplane, in company with Captain Frank Hurley.

*patricia*, *Phyllopetalia* Tillyard 1910a: 699

[*Austropetalia patricia*]

'I propose to name it *Phyllopetalia patricia* in honour of my wife.'

*prasinus*, *Austrogomphus* Tillyard 1906a: 554

L. *prasinus* = leek-green or Gr. πράσινος = green. The head and thorax each contain green markings which give the specific epithet. '*A. prasinus* seems to be the least closely allied to the others [*A. arbustorum*, *A. arenarius*], and it is the only one whose colours are not pure yellow and black;'

*pruinescens*, *Agriocnemis* Tillyard 1906b: 191, 192

[*Ischnura pruinescens*]

L. *pruinus* = frosty. 'Thorax - ... *Meso- metathorax* deep black, slightly metallic, a little bluish-grey bloom low down on the sides. *Underside* covered with bluish-grey bloom. ... Abdomen ... Colour: 1-2 dull black, bluish-grey bloom on sides of 1 and at base of 2,'

*pulcherrima*, *Petalura* Tillyard, 1913b: 583

'This very beautiful insect is intermediate in size between *P. ingentissima* Tillyard and *P. gigantea* Leach,' L. superlative of *pulchra* = beautiful, hence, most beautiful.

*pulchra*, *Austroaeschna unicornis* Tillyard, 1909c: 91

[*Austroaeschna pulchra*]

Martin (1909) described what he regarded as the male of *Austroaeschna unicornis*, but it was not. In the same work Tillyard (1909c) described *pulchra* as a new race of *A. unicornis*. The variability in *pulchra* is such that Tillyard's (1909) specimen does not warrant subspecific rank. Theischinger (1982) corrected the erroneous use of *A. unicornis*, recognising these specimens as *Austroaeschna pulchra*.

The specific epithet comes from L. *pulcher* -chra = beautiful. There is no etymological explanation in Tillyard's (1909) type description, the only relevant comment, perhaps, being: 'le 9<sup>e</sup> avec une belle tache

dorsale centrale ...' [the 9<sup>th</sup> with a beautiful central dorsal spot].

*pusillus*, *Argiolestes minimus* Tillyard 1908b: 736

[*Archiargiolestes pusillus*]

'An extremely small race found in the southern districts, and differing considerably from the type.' L. *pusillus* = tiny.

*refracta*, *Austrocordulia* Tillyard 1909a: 744

'Named from the peculiarly bent or broken appearance of the appendages.' L. *refractus* = (perfect participle passive) of *refringo* = to break open, to break off

*regalis*, *Agrionoptera* Tillyard, 1908f: 645

[junior synonym of *Agrionoptera longitudinalis biserialis* Selys, 1879]

L. *regalis* = royal, regal. When comparing it with its close ally, *A. longitudinalis* from New Guinea, Tillyard states 'The species is peculiar in being an exception to the general rule that the Australian form is generally smaller than the closely allied form from Papua or the Malay Archipelago.' There is no other indication why it might be considered regal.

*risi*, *Nannophlebia* Tillyard, 1913c: 713

'Comparing them with types of my *N. eludens*, it was at once evident that they were a new and very distinct species, which I now propose to describe under the name of *Nannophlebia risi* n.sp., in honour of my friend, Dr. F. Ris' Friedrich Ris (1867 - 1931) was a Swiss physician and entomologist who specialised in Odonata. He was Director of a psychiatric clinic in Rheinau, Switzerland.

*rubricauda*, *Agriocnemis* Tillyard, 1913a: 460

L. *rubrica* = red earth + L. *cauda* = tail of an animal. 'Abdomen ... 7, brilliant red, with a touch of black at base; 8 - 10 brilliant red; ... Appendages: *superior* 0.2 mm., bright red,'

*selysi*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 327

No mention of etymology but obviously named for Michel Edmond de Selys-Longchamps. Baron Michel Edmond de Selys Longchamps (1813 - 1900) was a Belgian liberal politician and scientist, regarded as the world's greatest authority on dragonflies and damselflies. His wealth and influence enabled him to amass one of the finest collections of neuropteroid insects and to describe many species from around the world.

*selysi*, *Synlestes* Tillyard 1917a: 473

No mention of etymology but obviously named for

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Michel Edmond de Selys-Longchamps.

*simmondsi*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 321, 305

[*Melanesobasis simmondsi*]

‘taken by Mr. Simmonds ...’ ‘Mr. H.W. Simmonds, F.E.S., Acting Government Entomologist in Fiji’. Hubert W. Simmonds (1877-1966), a prominent Pacific entomologist, lived in Fiji for 47 years and contributed greatly to the economy of the country through his extensive travels in search of beneficial insects for the control of a number of serious pests in Fiji.

*solitaris*, *Alloneura* Tillyard 1906b: 184

[*Nososticta solitaria*]

‘On nearly every day on which I went collecting I secured one specimen, but only twice did I get a pair, and once a male and two females in one day. This fact suggested the name *solitaris*.’ L. solitarius = alone.

*spiniger*, *Synthemis* Tillyard, 1913b: 573

[*Archaeosynthemis spiniger*]

L. spiniger = thorn-bearing. ‘Appendages: ... The superior carry a large inferior spine at bases.’

*subhumeralis*, *Nesobasis* Tillyard, 1924: 326

[*Nesobasis angulicollis*]

‘*Synthorax* ... with a long and well-developed black band running just below the humeral suture, so as to isolate a narrow blue band on the upper portion of the mesepimeron;’

L. sub = under + L. humerus = shoulder (from which is derived humeral suture which runs from just in front of the forewing to the edge of the mid-coxa.)

*subjuncta*, *Metathemis brevistyla* Tillyard 1913b: 574

[*Eusynthemis brevistyla subjuncta*]

L. subiunctus (subiungo) = to subordinate. ‘It differs from the type as follows: - (1) Smaller, more compact build. (2) Much shorter *pterostigma* ... (3) Smaller spots on abdomen.’

*superba*, *Hemicordulia* Tillyard 1911a: 371

L. superbus = exalted, brilliant, splendid. ‘This fine insect is easily the most distinct and beautiful member of the genus. ... greater size, more brilliant colouration’

*tasmanica*, *Austroaeschna* Tillyard, 1916: 50

‘Type: ♂ unique, Hobart Museum (Hobart, February 1892). This peculiar species, which Mr. Robert Hall, Curator of the Hobart Museum, kindly sent me for study, is without doubt very distinct from all

other known species of the genus in possessing its remarkable bifid inferior appendage, and the huge tubercle or spine on segment 10.’

*tasmanica*, *Ischnura heterosticta* Tillyard 1913a: 451

‘In Tasmania, this species is common, and appears to reach its highest development in a form that seems to me to deserve a racial name.’

*tasmanica*, *Synthemis* Tillyard 1910b: 346

‘This species is the Tasmanian representative of *S[synthemis] eustalacta*, the latter not being found on the island.’

*tenuis*, *Argiolestes griseus* Tillyard 1913a: 413-414

L. tenuis = thin, slender. ‘A single male ... is of the very slender build found in *A. fontanus* n.sp.’

*tenuissimus*, *Lestes* Tillyard 1906b: 180, 181

[*Indolestes tenuissimus*]

L. superlative of tenuis = thin, slender, i.e. thinnest. ‘Abdomen extremely long and thin’ and ‘It is easily distinguished from all other species of *Lestes* by its extremely long abdomen.’

*tindale*, *Austrolestes albicauda* Tillyard 1925: 42

[junior synonym of *Indolestes alleni* (Tillyard, 1913)]

‘As this form is probably a distinct race, I name it race *tindalei*, after its discoverer.’ Norman Barton Tindale (1900 – 1993) was an Australian anthropologist, archaeologist and entomologist who collected prolifically in Australia and was associated with the South Australian Museum.

*torresiana*, *Ischnura* Tillyard 1913a: 453

[junior synonym of *Ischnura heterosticta* (Burmeister, 1839)]

‘*Hab.* - ... Banks’ Island, Torres Straits (H. Elgner); February 1910.’

*tropicus*, *Synlestes* Tillyard 1917a: 475

‘*Hab.* - Kuranda and Herberton, North Queensland. Only two males known ...’ Gr. τροπικός = tropical alluding to the locations which are north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

*tryoni*, *Telephlebia* Tillyard 1917a: 460

‘I dedicate this very rare species to Mr Henry Tryon., F.E.S., Government Entomologist of Queensland to whom I am indebted for the opportunity of studying it.’ Henry Tryon (1856-1943) became Queensland government entomologist in August 1894 and vegetable pathologist in 1901. His efforts to rear cactoblastis to control Prickly Pear failed.

*viridescens*, *Macromia* Tillyard 1911a: 380, 381  
L. *viridis* = green, with the suffix –escens = becoming.  
‘Thorax deep brilliant metallic-green all over, ...  
Abdomen ... 1-4 brilliant metallic green’. There is no  
obvious reason for the modifier ‘becoming’.

*vitiensis*, *Agriocnemis* Tillyard, 1924: 338  
[junior synonym of *Agriocnemis exsudans* (Selys,  
1877)]  
‘taken by Mr. Simmonds on Waidoi Plantation [not  
far from Navua on the Island of Viti Levu, Fiji] The  
specific name, *vitiensis*, is a Latin adjective derived  
from the Latin word for Fiji: *Viti* + -ensis = L.  
adjectival suffix indicating place of origin.

*vitiensis*, *Austrolestes* Tillyard, 1924:310  
[*Indolestes vitiensis*]  
‘Habitat: - Suva, Fiji Is., taken by Mr. H.W. Simmonds  
on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 1919.’ As for the previous taxon this  
species was named for the Latin word for Fiji: *Viti* + -  
ensis = L. adjectival suffix indicating place of origin.

*xanthosticta*, *Metathemis nigra* Tillyard 1913d: 230  
[*Eusynthemis nigra xanthosticta*]  
‘Abdomen of male with segments 1-8 spotted with  
yellow’ Gr. ξανθός = yellow, golden + Gr. στυκτός =  
spotted.

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