

THE VALIDITY OF THE GENERIC NAME *PARAMELETUS*
BENGTSSON (EPHEMEROPTERA: SIPHLONURIDAE)

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Abstract.—The generic name *Parameletus* Bengtsson is shown to be a valid name, with *Sparrea* Esben-Petersen, *Potameis* Bengtsson, *Palmenia* Aro, and *Siphonuroides* McDunnough as junior synonyms.

There has recently been some confusion concerning the valid name of the genus of mayflies which has generally been known as *Parameletus* Bengtsson. The names *Sparrea* Esben-Petersen and *Potameis* Bengtsson have also been used for this genus. It is my intent to show that *Parameletus* is the valid name for this genus, thereby stabilizing the nomenclature and avoiding future confusion in the literature.

In 1908 (p. 242) Bengtsson described the larvae of *Parameletus chelifer* from Sweden. Although the description is brief ["larven, som är synnerligen utmärkt genom sina till saxklor omvandlade labialpalper": 'the larvae of this species which is very remarkable due to its labial palps which are transformed to scissor-like claws'], it is sufficient to meet the requirements of a description of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 12) and the name *Parameletus chelifer* Bengtsson, 1908 cannot be considered to be a *nomen nudum*. Bengtsson also mentioned this species as *Parameletus affinis* [*nomen nudum*] in 1904 (p. 131).

In 1909 Esben-Petersen (p. 554) established the genus *Sparrea* for the single species *S. norvegica*. Later that same year Bengtsson (p. 13) established *Potameis* for the two species *P. elegans* and *P. minor*. Aro (1910, p. 28) established the genus *Palmenia* for the new species *P. fennica*. Bengtsson (1930, p. 13) showed that *Palmenia*, *Potameis*, and *Sparrea* were synonymous with *Parameletus*. In 1923 McDunnough (p. 48) had established *Siphonuroides* which he later (1932, p. 81) placed as a synonym of *Parameletus*.

Thus, *Parameletus* Bengtsson, 1908, is the valid name for this genus [type-species: *Parameletus chelifer* Bengtsson, by monotypy] with *Sparrea*, *Potameis*, *Palmenia*, and *Siphonuroides* all falling as junior synonyms.

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