
Preface

This *Dictionary of Invertebrates* contains the majority of invertebrates occurring in the German-speaking part of Central Europe for which common names have been coined. The 12,800 animal names are arranged alphabetically within each of the major groups. While emphasizing the European fauna, a broad selection of globally important animals is also included, selected on the basis of their distribution, popularity, economic and medical importance, and ecological significance. Names were obtained from encyclopedic sources, faunas, field guides, red data lists, and monographs on individual animal groups (see References).

This dictionary is a ready reference for scientists, translators, journalists, and anybody involved in the fields of:

• Ecology/Biodiversity/Endangered Species/Nature Protection	• Parasites/ Venomous Animals	• Aquaristics/ Terraristics
• Environmental Assessment Analyses/ Surveys/Relevés	• Pest Control/Agriculture	• Marine Biology/ Diving
• Zoos/Collections/ Natural History Museums	• Animal Trade	• Food/Nutrition

This listing is a compilation of common names, rare names, colloquial names, vernacular names, trivial names, trade names, sometimes even vulgar names without claiming the authority of fixing any one name as the only acceptable English name, while such a ranking may be desirable. Some animals for which common names could not be identified in the literature have been assigned a suggested English/German name (marked by asterisk *); these names are derived from their scientific names, geographic occurrence, or other pertinent characteristics. All names are “creations” – they prove themselves by being used, or they perish!

As stated by the Committee on Names of Aquatic Invertebrates (CNAI) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS): “Common names have the potential to be stabilized by general agreement; scientific names, on the other hand, often change with advancing knowledge.” While genus names may change due to revisions, species/specific names

(epithets) are more stable and thus more reliable. If a particular animal is not identifiable by genus name here, one may be able to trace the according species by its epithet in the e-book version of this dictionary.

A word of caution in the use of common names and a “disclaimer”: In some cases common names can be utterly confusing. One and the same animal may be known by several common names and one name may be used by different people to designate different animals. Besides, the usage of names may change over time. This may pose a particular problem in the case of medically relevant animals (parasitic or venomous). For instance, scorpions and tarantulas show a great degree of regional variation within one and the same species, and two different species may physically resemble each other to the point of being nearly undistinguishable by a nonspecialist. Yet many antivenoms are highly specific and only usefully applied if the particular culprit is known. Attempts have been made by some members of the scientific community to establish uniform common names, for North America this notably applies to insects (through the American Entomological Society) and arachnids (through the American Arachnological Society), for German vernacular names of central and northern European Auchenorrhyncha (plant-hoppers, froghoppers, cicadas etc.) this has been achieved by Nickel & Remane (2002).

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