

Eponyms in honour of the Royals Astrid and Léopold III of Belgium

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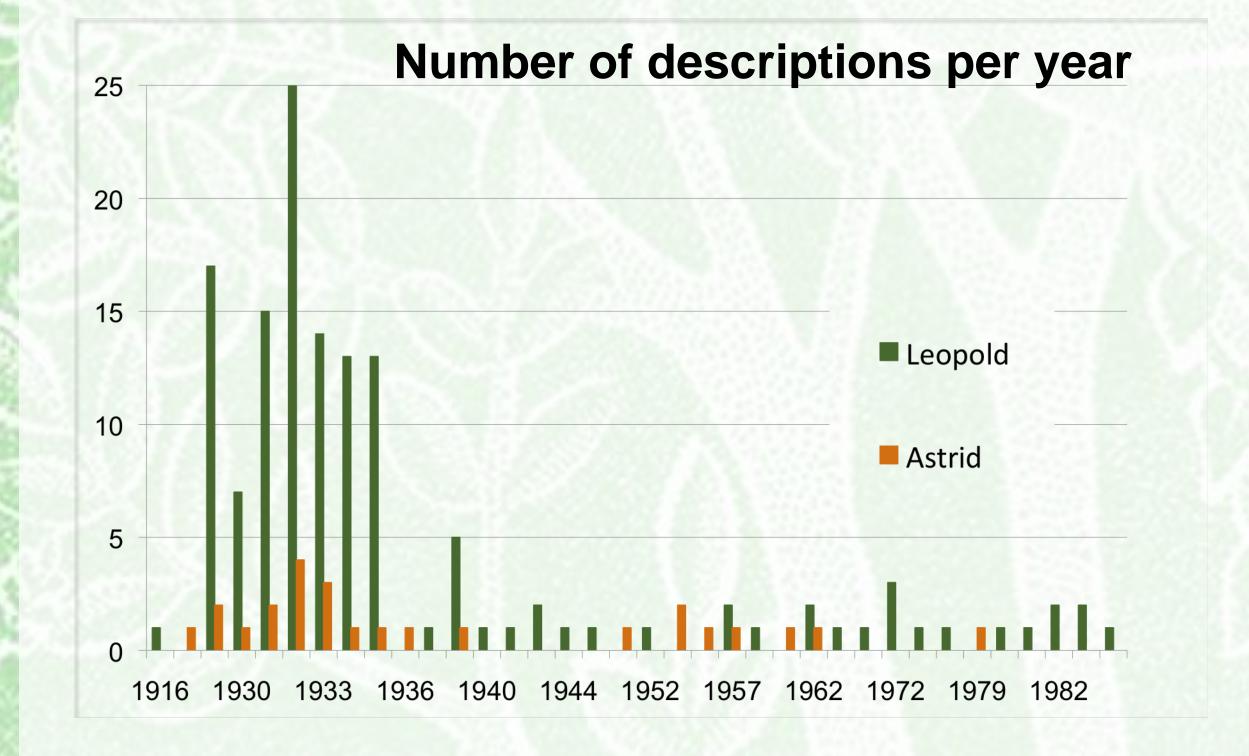
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What are eponyms?

In taxonomy, eponyms are nouns formed in honour of a person; often this is in recognition of the collector (Fellers, 2014) the discoverer, the fellow taxonomist, etc. Charles Darwin for instance has 301 eponyms (Miliĉić et al., 2011).

Why searching these eponyms?

Routine curation of the RBINS collections revealed many Léopold/Astrid eponyms. This



enables us to:

- •Better understand the history of the RBINS and its collections
- Showcase the feasibility to recover types in the RBINS collections (Digit3-BeLSPO project)
 Showcase the importance of having original publications coupled to natural history collections as primary sources

Showcase the 'limits' of internet aggregators such as the 'Index to Organism Names (ION)'

Results :

R	esearch sources	as search term 'leopold*'	Léopold III eponyms	unresolved LIII eponyms	as search term 'astrid*'	Astrid eponyms	unresolved Astrid eponyms
IC	N	358	114	4	87	26	0
Li	terature & collections ¹	N.A.	26		N.A.	1	0
IP	PNI ²	110	1	6	0	0	0
Тс	otal		141			27	

To be an eponym or not to be an eponym? That's the question...

Each potential eponym was verified and was checked against its original publication:

•The chiton *Acanthochites leopoldi* Leloup, 1933 is dedicated to Léopold III, but the ostracod *Nesidea leopoldi* Doeglas, 1931 is a misspelling of *N. leupoldi* Doeglas, 1931 and thus, not dedicated to Léopold III.

Number of eponyms per class Clitellata 1 Arachnida 18 Crustacea 4 Insecta 119 Ulvophyceae 1 Amphibia 1 Pisces 5 Reptilia 2 Anthozoa 2 Hydrozoa 2 Ostracoda 1 Asteroidea 2 Gastropoda 5 Polyplacophora 1 Secernentea 1 Udeonychophora 1

Distribution of contributions

Catostomus leopoldi Siebert & Minckley, 1986 is a fish named after Aldo Leopold.
Diaphus Astridae Giltay, 1929 is a species dedicated to princess Astrid unlike Temnophylloides astridula Henry, 1939 in which the name indicates the absence of stridulation of this locust.

BULLETIN	MEDEDEELINGEN		
DU	van het		
Musée royal d'Histoire	Koninklijk Natuurhistoris		
naturelle de Belgique	Museum van België		
Tome VI, n° 11.	Deel VI, n ^r 11.		
Bruxelles, août 1930.	Brussel, Augustus 19		

SUR UN GECKONIDAE NOUVEAU, GEHYRA LEOPOLDI NOV. SP. DE LA NOUVELLE GUINÉE

par L. D. BRONGERSMA (Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam).

La collection de Reptiles recueillie aux Indes orientales néerlandaises par leurs Altesses Royales le Prince et la Princesse Léopold de Belgique, en compagnie de M. V. Van Straelen, Directeur du Musée, renferme beaucoup de spécimens intéressants. Il convient de citer un exemplaire de Naja tripudians (Merr.) provenant de l'île de Bali, où cette espèce n'était pas encore connue. Une liste annotée relative à cette collection sera publiée ultérieurement. Je veux me borner à décrire ici une espèce du genre Gehyra que je crois nouvelle. Elle sera dénommée Gehyra leopoldi, en l'honneur de S. A. R. le Prince Léopold de Belgique.

Gehyra Leopoldi nov. spec.

Type : Un seul exemplaire, femelle, se trouvait entre quelques exemplaires de Hemidactylus frenatus (Dum. et Bibr.) capturés à Manoi et à Sorong (Nord-Ouest de la presqu'île du Vogelkop, Nouvelle Guinée), le 2 et le 3 mars 1929. Le type est conservé au Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle de Belgique à Bruxelles.

Description : La tête est plus longue que large. Le museau

Original description

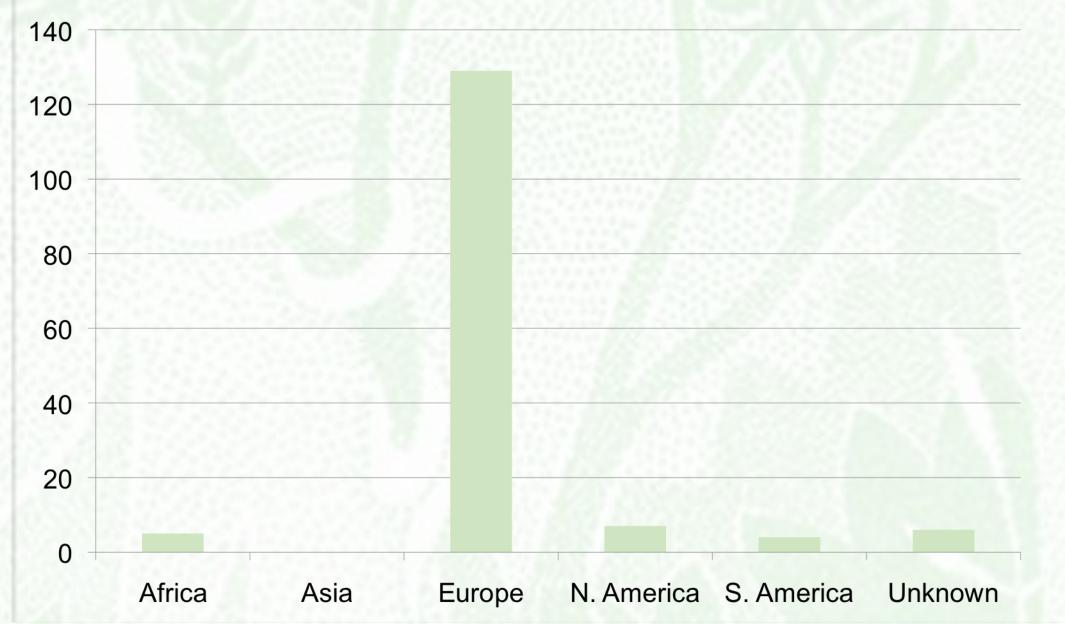
Study of the original description is the only way to confirm the validity of the species name and to verify the veracity of the eponym.

Types and collections

Types are irreplaceable scientific ressources providing research opportunities. This work has permitted to recover ± 170 types. Types form the objective standards of scientific names. In that sense they are of huge importance in collections. The RBINS safeguards ten thousands of types and is considered a worldwilde leader in the management of natural history collections.

Taxonomists

The majority of eponyms was established by Europeans even if the bulk of the material came from Africa an





est plus long que la distance entre l'œil et l'oreille, aussi long que la distance entre le bord postérieur de l'œil et le bord posté:

South-East Asia. Did the taxonomic impediment already exist nearly a century ago and did the Royals realize this?

Conclusions

•The numerous nature explorations of Princess/Queen Astrid and Prince/King Léopold III have resulted in vast zoological collections that are curated predominantly at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the Royal Museum of Central Africa.

Internet aggregators must be used under the precautionary principle and results must always be checked with original publications.
Recovery of types in the RBINS collections will be most efficient through systematic screening of in house publications linked to searches through the collections.
±170 eponyms have been recorded so far.

•The story continues. In 2014, a new species of wasp is named in honour of King Philippe : Nervellius philippus Braet, 2014

¹ Literature and collections: Mémoires du Musée royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique; Bulletin du Musée royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique; Revue de Zoologie et Botanique Africaines ; Annales de la Société Royale Zoologique de Belgique; only RBINS collections.
 ² IPNI: The International Plant Name Index.

Fellers, G. M. (2014). Animal taxa named for Rollo H. Beck. Archives of Natural History, 41(1): 113-123. Miliĉić et al. (2011). How many Darwins? List of animal taxa named after Charles Darwin. Natura Montenagrina, Podgorica, 10(4): 515-532.

