

LITERATURE CITED

- Lewis, P. A. 1974. Taxonomy and Ecology of *Stenonema* Mayflies (Heptageniidae: Ephemeroptera). United States Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Monitoring Series, EPA-670/4-74-006, 81 p.

PROC. ENTOMOL. SOC. WASH.
81(2), 1979, p. 325

NOTE

The Gender of *Nosopon* Hopkins (Mallophaga)

The genus *Nosopon* was erected by Hopkins in 1950 (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (12) 3:239) with the sole species indicated as *Menopon* “*fulvofasciatum* var.” *minor* Piaget. No new combination was made nor was a statement made regarding either gender or derivation of the generic name. A few authors have placed additional species in the genus. The latest of these is Price (1976. J. Kans. Entomol. Soc. 49:23–26) who describes a new species and includes four other species in his key to the genus; viz., *N. australiensis* Price, *N. casteli*, *N. chanabensis*, *N. clayae*, and *N. lucidum*, the latter four without citation of authors’ names.

It seems evident that the generic name is analogous to *Menopon*, inasmuch as no other reasonable derivation for it can be found in lexicons. Erichson (*In* Agassiz. 1846. Nomenclator Zoologicus. Fasc. 9 & 10. Epizoa:1) derived *Menopon* from Greek *menos* ‘force, strength’ + *ōps* ‘face, aspect.’ The name therefore has a suffix or termination *-on* appended to it. This changes its gender from that of *ops* to neuter (Internatl. Code of Zool. Nomencl., Art. 30.a.i.3). *Nosopon* may be derived from Greek *nosos* ‘disease, distress’ + *ōps* + *on*. Inasmuch as *-on*, as used in these names, is generally associated with neuter gender, both *Menopon* and *Nosopon* should be considered of neuter gender, as the former generally has been. Two of the species of *Nosopon* bearing adjectival species epithets should be in the neuter form; viz., *N. chanabense* and *N. australiense*. *Nosopon lucidum* is correctly neuter, and the other two epithets are in the genitive case. The neuter form of the epithet *minor*, incidentally, is *minus*.

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