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ETYMOLOGY OF PHANACIDINI TAXA (CYNIPOIDEA: CYNIPIDAE)

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Abstract: The etymology of taxon names (genera and species) within the tribe Phanacidini (Cynipidae), which predominantly occurs in the Palearctic region and primarily induces galls on plants of the family Asteraceae, is examined here in detail for the first time. It is clearly demonstrated that the naming of species in this group largely relies on their host plants. Additionally, both genus- and species-level names are influenced not only by dedications to individuals but also by morphological characteristics and geographic names. Given the diversity of Phanacidini species, etymological analyses of their scientific names provide a valuable reference resource. The compilation of these data is of great importance for understanding the role of accurate and meaningful nomenclature in scientific communication and the documentation of biodiversity.

Keywords: Cynipid, Binomial nomenclature, Etymology, Asteraceae.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The binomial nomenclature system, which underpins modern biological classification, was formalized by Carl Linnaeus in Species Plantarum (1753) and later extended to animals in the 10th edition of Systema Naturae (1758) (Lodos, 1979; Winston, 1999, 2018; Knapp et al., 2004). This structure facilitated scientific communication and enabled the consistent classification of biodiversity across regions and disciplines. When *Systema Naturae* was published, Latin was the common language of science, so Linnaeus and his contemporaries saw no need to explain name origins. As classical languages declined, the meaning of some taxon names became unclear. Over time, as the use of classical languages declined, understanding the origins of some taxon names became more challenging, leading to an increased focus on documenting their etymology. Following the establishment of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) and its codes, the origins of taxon names have been increasingly well documented over the past fifty years (Ride et al., 1999; Karataş and Karataş,

2023). The etymology of newly described taxa explains the origin, rationale, and formation of the name (Winston, 1999).

Scientific names assigned to newly described taxa by researchers can be categorized into various groups, such as morphonyms, eponyms, autochthonyms, toponyms, bionyms, taxonyms, ergonyms, anagrams, and tautonyms (Karataş and Karataş, 2023). Morphonyms are based on morphological traits; eponyms honor real or mythological figures; autochthonyms are derived from local languages. Toponyms refer to geographic locations; bionyms to natural habitats; taxonyms to previously established taxa. Ergonyms reflect behavioral traits; anagrams are formed by rearranging letters; and tautonyms occur when genus and species names are identical (Karataş and Karataş, 2023). While these names arise from diverse origins, the rules governing their formation are codified by the *Code*.

The *Code* clearly defines the rules for the formation and modification of species-group names. At the genus and species levels, all names must be in Latin or appropriately latinized. For names honoring individuals, the suffix "-i" is used for man and "-ae" for woman. If the species epithet is an adjective or participle, it must agree in gender with the generic name. However, eponyms are generally treated as nouns and are formed using only the appropriate gendered suffix (Ride et al., 1999; Dubois, 2007; Braby et al., 2024).

The tribe Phanacidini (Cynipoidea: Cynipidae) predominantly comprises species that induce galls on plants belonging to the family Asteraceae, with most galls forming specifically on the stems. It includes four genera: *Asiocynips* Kovalev, 1982, *Diakontschukia* Melika, 2006, *Phanacis* Förster, 1860, and *Zerovia* Diakontshuk, 1988. While the tribe is native to the Palearctic region, it has been introduced to various other parts of the world and currently encompasses a total of 41 recognized species (Nastasi et al., 2025).

This study aims to examine the origins and structural features of Latin taxon names of cynipid species belonging to the tribe Phanacidini, which are distributed worldwide. The compiled etymological data contribute to a better understanding of scientific naming standards in the processes of species identification, classification, and nomenclature, while also serving as a valuable reference source for both researchers and enthusiasts.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The currently valid species belonging to the tribe Phanacidini (Cynipidae), which are predominantly distributed in the Palearctic region and typically induce galls on plants in the family Asteraceae, have been listed in alphabetical order by Nastasi et al. (2025). In addition to the list, the original sources in which these taxa were first described are also discussed in detail. Following each taxon name, the author and the year of description are provided. For newly described taxa, if the original sources include etymological information, these statements have been quoted verbatim within quotation marks (""). In cases where no explicit etymology is provided, the relevant literature—particularly the taxon descriptions and accompanying notes—has been carefully examined, and potential clues regarding the origin of the name have been thoroughly evaluated in an effort to infer its etymology. When no etymological information was provided in the original descriptions, online resources containing Latin and Ancient Greek dictionaries (e.g., Latinitium, Logeion, The Perseus Digital Library) were used to explore the meanings of taxon names. Definitions from these sources were cross-referenced to verify their accuracy, and the original root forms identified in the dictionaries were included

in the study. Alongside the proposed meanings, Latin inflectional endings and Ancient Greek spellings were also documented.

Abbreviations: adj.: adjective; class.: classic; cf.: confer (compare); f. or fem.: feminine; gen.: genitive; Gr.: Greek; Lat.: Latin (classic); late Lat.: late Latin; m.: masculine; n. or neut.: neuter; pl., plu. or plur.: plural; subst.: substantive, -ly; syn.: synonym, -ymous; v.: verb, vide.

3. RESULTS

When examining the distribution of taxon names based on their etymological origins, the most frequently used naming category at the species level is bionym, with 22 examples. Species names derived from eponyms, morphonyms, and toponyms were used seven, seven, and five times, respectively. In contrast, genus-level names show less diversity: eponyms were used twice, while morphonyms and toponyms were each used only once. Notably, bionym names were not used at the genus level (Figure 1).

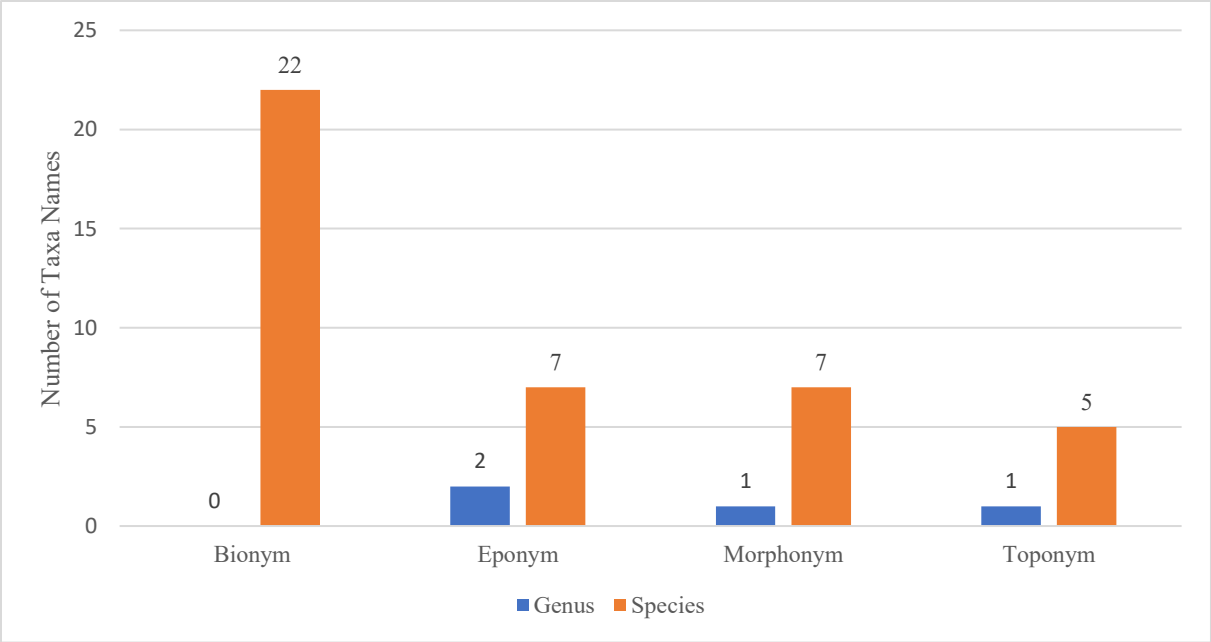

Figure 1: Etymological Categories of Phanacidini Taxa Names

3.1. The Etymology of Scientific Names

Tribe PHANACIDINI Nieves-Aldrey, Nylander & Ronquist, 2015 (41 species) (Derived from type genus *Phanacis* Förster, 1860)
phanacidini = Derived from φανός, ή, όν (visible, distinct) and ἀχις (the point); refers to the ovipositor sheath projecting as a distinct point. In the original text (German): "*Von φανός, ή, όν, sichtbar, deutlich und ἀχις die Spitze, bezieht sich auf die als deutliche Spitze hervorragende Legescheide*." (Förster, 1860). + -**ini** *pl*. Lat.: The suffix is used for a tribe name in zoological nomenclature (Ride et al., 1999).

Genus *Asiocynips* Kovalev, 1982 (4 species) (toponym)

asiocynips = In collections from Central Asia and Kazakhstan, several species of the new genus have been discovered. In the original text (Russian): "В сборах из Средней Азии и Казахстана обнаружено несколько видов нового рода, ..." (Kovalev, 1982).

***Asiocynips caulina* Diakontshuk, 1988** (bionym)

caulis (**cōlis**; and **coles**; cf. cauliculus), is, *m*., = καυλός, *the stalk or stem of a plant* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **caulias**, ae, *m*., = καυλίας, *taken* or *derived from the stalk* (Lewis and Short, 1879).

***Asiocynips cousiniae* Diakontshuk, 1988** (bionym)

cousiniae = Named from its host plant, *Cousinia* Cass. (Diakontshuk, 1988). The plant genus name is likely given in honor of the psychologist Victor Cousin. In the original description (French): "*...que nous dédions au célèbre psychologiste Victor Cousin*. (*…which we dedicate to the famous psychologist Victor Cousin*.)" (Cuvier, 1827).

***Asiocynips lugubris* Kovalev, 1982** (morphonym)

lūgŭbris (lūgūbris), e, *adj*. [lugeo and fero], *of* or *belonging to mourning, mourning*- (Lewis and Short, 1879). In Latin, *lugubris* also means *sorrowful, gloomy, dark*, or *dull*. In zoology, this adjective is typically used in cases where: (1) the species has dark, dull, or somber coloration patterns, (2) or the general appearance of the species gives a "*melancholy*" or "*unadorned*" impression. It is understood that the author may have given this name due to the body coloration and overall appearance of the species.

***Asiocynips pannucea* Kovalev, 1982** (morphonym)

pannūcĕus and **pannūcĭus**, a, um, *adj*. [pannus], *ragged, tattered*. **I. Lit.:** *Subst*.: **pannūcĕa**, ōrum, *n*., *rags*. **II. Transf.,** *wrinkled, shrivelled, flabby* (Lewis and Short, 1879). It is understood that the author may have given this name due to a morphological characteristic.

Genus *Diakontschukia* Melika, 2006 (1 species) (eponym)

diakontschukia = "This species is named in honour of L.A. Diakontshuk (=Diakontschuk)" (Melika, 2006). **-ia** *f*. (*m*. -ius, *n*. -ium) Lat.: The Latin suffix is used for a genus name in zoological nomenclature, if the personal name ends in a consonant (Ride et al., 1985).

***Diakontschukia saussureae* (Diakontshuk, 2001)** (bionym)

saussureae = Named from its host plant, *Saussurea* DC. (Diakontshuk, 2001). This plant genus name is dedicated to the Swiss naturalists Horace-Bénédict de Saussure (1740-1799) and his son Nicolas-Théodore de Saussure (1767-1845).

Genus *Phanacis* Förster, 1860 (35 species) (morphonym)

phanacis = Derived from φανός, ή, όν (visible, distinct) and ἀχις (the point); refers to the ovipositor sheath projecting as a distinct point. In the original text (German): "*Von φανός, ή, όν, sichtbar, deutlich und ἀχις die Spitze, bezieht sich auf die als deutliche Spitze hervorragende Legescheide*." (Förster, 1860).

***Phanacis carthami* Gussakovkij, 1933** (bionym)

carthami = Named from its host plant, *Carthamus* L. (Rodd et al., 1933). The plant genus name derives from Arabic *qurṭum*, which comes from Classical Syriac *qūrṭəmā* (safflower), ultimately rooted in *qarṭem*, meaning "*to cut off gently*", referring to the harvesting of petals for dyeing. **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis caulicola* (Hedicke, 1939)** (bionym)

caulĭcŭlus or **cōlĭcŭlus**, i, *m*. dim. [caulis], *the small stalk* or *stem of a plant* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-cola** *m*., (*gen*., **-colae**) Lat.: This suffix means "*dweller*" or "*inhabitant*". It refers to an

organism that lives on or is associated with the host plant. In original gall description: "*The gall (of which there is no indication from the outside) consists of an ellipsoidal cell in the pith of the stem of Picris echioides L*. (Synonym of *Helminthotheca echioides* (L) Holub)." (Hedicke, 1939). It is understood that the author chose this name because the larval chambers are located in the stem of the host plant.

***Phanacis centaureae* Förster, 1860** (bionym)

centaureae = Named from its host plant, *Centaurea* L. (Förster, 1860). **centaurēum** or **-ĭon**, i, *n*. (access. form *centaurĭa*, ae, *f*.): κενταύρειον and κενταύριον, *centaury*. **Chīron** (*nom*. **Chīro**), ōnis, *m*., = Χείρων, *one of the Centaurs*, distinguished for his knowledge of plants, medicine, and divination, *son of Saturn and Philyra*. **Centaurus**, i, m., = Κένταυρος, *a Centaur*; *the Centaurs were wild people in the mountains of Thessaly, who fought on horseback*; acc. to the fable, monsters in Thessaly of a double form (the upper parts human, the lower those of a horse) (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-ae** *gen*., Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis chondrillae* (Gain, 1894)** (bionym)

chondrillae = Named from its host plant, *Chondrilla juncea* L. (Asteraceae). **chondrillē (chondryllē),** ēs, *f*., or **chondrillon**, i, *n*., = χονδρίλλη, *chondrilla*, *Spanish succory* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-ae** *gen*., Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis ciceki* Azmaz & Katılmış, 2021** (eponym)

ciceki = "In honour of Assoc. Prof. Dr Mehmet Çiçek who is an expert botanist" (Azmaz and Katılmış, 2021). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis cichorii* (Kieffer, 1909)** (bionym)

cichorii = Named from its host plant, *Cichorium intybus* L. (Kieffer, 1909). **cĭchŏrĭum** or **-on** (**cĭchŏrēum**), ii, *n*., = κιχόρια (usually κιχώριον), *chiccory, succory*, or *endive* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis comosae* Nieves-Aldrey, 2008** (bionym)

comosae = "Named after the host plant, *Picris comosa* (Boiss.) Benth. & Hook. f. ex B. D. Jacks. (Synonym of *Helminthotheca comosa* (Boiss.) Holub)" (Nieves-Aldrey et al., 2008). **cŏmōsus**, a, um, *adj*. [coma], *hairy, with much* or *long hair* (rare) (Lewis and Short, 1879).

***Phanacis cousiniae* Diakontshuk, 1988** (bionym)

cousiniae = Named from its host plant, *Cousinia* Cass. (Diakontshuk, 1988). The plant genus name is likely given in honor of the psychologist Victor Cousin. In the original description (French): "*...que nous dédions au célèbre psychologiste Victor Cousin*. (*…which we dedicate to the famous psychologist Victor Cousin*.)" (Cuvier, 1827).

***Phanacis crassinervis* Diakontshuk, 1980** (morphonym)

crassinervis = **crassus**, a, um, *adj*. [Sanscr. kart-, to spin; cf.: crates, cartilago, etc.]; as opp. to flowing, thin, lean, delicate, etc., *solid, thick, dense, fat, gross*, etc. (Lewis and Short, 1879) + **nervus**, i, *m*. [root snar-; Old Germ. snara, a snare; Gr. νεῦρον; cf. parvus and παῦρος], *a sinew, tendon, nerve* (Lewis and Short, 1879). In the original description (Russian): "Жилки явственные, коричневые. Радиальная жилка R1 и R2 более темная, чем субкостальная Sc. (*The veins are distinct and brown. The radial veins R1 and R2 are darker than the subcostal vein Sc.*)" (Diakontshuk, 1980). It is understood that the author may have given this name due to the wing venation, which is a distinguishing feature of the species.

***Phanacis dobrogicus* Şchiopu, Tataroğlu & Katılmış, 2024** (toponym)

dobrogicus = "Derived from the name of Dobrogea Province (Southeastern Romania) where this species was first time found. Noun in apposition" (Şchiopu et al., 2024). **-icus** *m*. (*f*. **-ica**, *n*. **-icum**) Lat.: The suffix indicates *belonging to, derived from*, or *pertaining to something*, *often suggesting a connection*. It is used to form *some substantivized nouns from other nouns*, helping to express characteristics or relationships to a particular source or concept.

***Phanacis eryngi* (Diakontshuk, 1984)** (bionym)

eryngi = Named from its host plant, *Eryngium* L. (Diakontshuk, 1984). **ērynge**, ēs, *f*., and **ēryngĭon**, ii, *n*., = ἠρύγγη and ἠρύγγιον, *a sort of thistle* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis eugeniae* (Diakontshuk, 1981)** (eponym)

eugeniae = **eugĕnēus** or **-īus**, a, um, *adj*., = εὐγενής, *well-born*, i. e. *noble, generous* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-ae** *gen*. Lat.: This suffix indicates "*possession*" or "*association*" and is added to the end of woman names (Ride et al., 1999). It is understood that the author dedicated this name to a woman (Eugenia or Eugenie).

***Phanacis helminthiae* (De Stefani, 1902)** (bionym)

helminthiae = Named from its host plant, *Helminthia aculeata* DC. (Synonym of *Helminthotheca aculeata* (Vahl) Lack) (De Stefani, 1902). The plant genus name comes from Ancient Greek ἕλμινθος (hélminthos), genitive singular of ἕλμινς (hélmins, "worm").

***Phanacis heraclei* (Hedicke, 1923)** (bionym)

heraclei = Named from its host plant, *Heracleum sphondylium* L. (Hedicke, 1923). **Hēraclēus** or **-clĭus**, a, um, *adj*., *of* or *belonging to Heraclea* (in Lydia), *Heraclean* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis heteropappi* Diakontshuk, 1988** (bionym)

heteropappi = Named from its host plant, *Heteropappus canescens* L. (Diakontshuk, 1988). **hetero**: A Greek-derived prefix meaning "*different*" or "*varied*" + **pappus**, i, *m*., = πάππος. **I.** *An old man*. **II.** *The woolly, hairy seed of certain plants*. **III.** *A plant, also called* erigeron (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis hypochoeridis* (Kieffer, 1887)** (bionym)

hypochoeridis = Named from its host plant, *Hypochaeris radicata* L. (Kieffer, 1887). **hypo**: Greek prefix meaning "*under*" or "*below*" + **chaeris** (Χαίρης): Derived from *chairo* (Χαίρω), meaning "to rejoice" or "to be glad", referring to *joy* or *happiness*. The plant genus name means "*less than joyous*", because of weedy habit.

***Phanacis irani* (Tavakoli & Melika, 2006)** (toponym)

irani = "The species is named after the country, Iran, where it was collected" (Tavakoli and Melika, 2006). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis kiefferi* (Cotte, 1915)** (eponym)

kiefferi = The species was named in honor of M. Kieffer. In original text (French): "*J'ai cru prudent de soumettre mes animaux à M. Kieffer*" (Cotte, 1915). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis lapsanae* (Perris, 1873)** (bionym)

lapsanae = Named from its host plant, *Lapsana communis* L. (Perris, 1873). **lapsăna (lampsăna)**, ae, *f.* (also **lapsănium**, ii, *n.*), = λαψάνη and λαμψάνη, *an edible plant, charlock* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-ae** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis lorestanicus* (Tavakoli & Melika, 2006)** (toponym)

lorestanicus = "The species is named after the Iranian province, Lorestan, where it was collected" (Tavakoli and Melika, 2006). **-icus** *m*. (*f.* **-ica**, *n*. **-icum**) Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis lusitanica* (Tavares, 1903)** (toponym)

lusitanica = **Lūsĭtānĭa**, ae, *f*., *the western part of Spain, the mod. Portugal and a part of the Spanish provinces of Estremadura and Toledo* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-ica** *f.* (*m*. **-icus**, *n*. **-icum**) Lat.: The suffix. The galls were first collected in Lousã (Tavares, 1903), is a town and municipality located in the central region of Portugal, in the district of Coimbra.

***Phanacis maculatus* Diakontshuk, 1988** (morphonym)

măcŭla, ae, *f.* [for malocula, malcula, *dim*.; cf. Sanscr. mala, dirt], *a spot, mark, stain* (class.). (Lewis and Short, 1879). In the original description (Russian): "Голова черная, с желтыми пятнами, … (*The head is black, with yellow spots, …*)" (Diakontshuk, 1988). It is understood that the author may have given this name due to the yellow spots on the head of the species.

***Phanacis neserorum* Melika & Prinsloo, 2007** (eponym)

neserorum = "Named after Stefan and Ottilie Neser, PPRI, Pretoria, for their invaluable contribution to the study of South Africa's fauna of parasitic Hymenoptera. The type material of the new species was collected by Stefan Neser" (Melika and Prinsloo, 2007). **-orum** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix is added to the end of the personal name if the name is of men or of man (men) and woman (women) together (Ride et al., 1985).

***Phanacis phlomidis* Belizin, 1959** (bionym)

phlomidis = Named from its host plant, *Phlomis tuberosa* L. (Synonym of *Phlomoides tuberosa* (L.) Moench) (Belizin, 1959). **phlŏmis**, ĭdis, *f*., = φλομίς, *mullein* (pure Lat. verbascum); cf. phlomos (Lewis and Short, 1879).

***Phanacis phoenixopodos* (Mayr, 1882)** (bionym)

phoenixopodos = Named from its host plant, *Phoenixopus* (*Lactuca*) *vimineus* L. (*Lactuca viminea* (L.) J.Presl & C.Presl) (Mayr, 1882). One often finds the name misspelt "*Phoenixopus*", a spelling that apparently results from a misinterpretation of its etymology. As explained by Cassini (l.c.), *Phaenixopus* means "*with an apparently sticky foot*" and has no relation with *phoenix* (either the mythical bird or the date palm) (Flann et al., 2010).

***Phanacis pillicornis* (Thomson, 1877)** (morphonym)

pillicornis = **pĭlus**, i, *m*., *a hair* (syn.: villus, seta) (Lewis and Short, 1879) + **cornū**, ūs (access. form *cornum*, -i, n.): *a horn*, [kindred with κέρας, and Germ. and Engl. *horn*; cf. also *carina, cervus*] (Lewis and Short, 1879). In the original description (Latin): "…*antennis tenuibus pilosulis,…* (*…with thin, hair-like antennae, …*)" (Thomson, 1877). It is understood that the author gave this name to the species due to this characteristic of the antenna.

***Phanacis rufipes* Ionescu & Roman, 1959** (morphonym)

rufipes = **rūfus**, a, um, *adj*. [kindred with ruber], *red, reddish,* of all shades (Lewis and Short, 1879) + **pēs**, pĕdis, *m*. [kindr. with Sanscr. pād, foot, from root pad, ire; Gr. ποδ-, ποῦς; Goth. fōt; old Germ. vuoz; Engl. foot]: *a foot* of man or beast (Lewis and Short, 1879). It is understood that the author gave this name because the color of the species' legs is described as *rufous* (Ionescu and Roman, 1959).

***Phanacis sonchi* (De Stefani, 1900)** (bionym)

sonchi = Named from its host plant, *Sonchus asper* Willd. (De Stefani, 1900). **sonchus**, i, *m*., = σόγχος, *the herb sow-thistle* (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis strigosa* Melika, Stone & Tavakoli, 2022** (bionym)

strigosa = "Named after the species name of the host plant, *Picris strigosa* M. Bieb. (Asteraceae)" (Tavakoli et al., 2022). **strĭgōsus**, a, um, *adj*. [stringo], *lean, lank, thin, meagre* (Lewis and Short, 1879).

***Phanacis taraxaci* (Ashmead, 1897)** (bionym)

taraxaci = Named from its host plant, *Taraxacum dens-leonis* Desf. (Synonym of *Taraxacum officinale* F.H.Wigg.) (Ashmead, 1897). *Taraxacum* may have been borrowed into Medieval Latin from the Arabic term "*ṭarak̲šaqūn*", which itself came from Persian, meaning "*bitter herb*". **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis tavakolii* Melika, Stone & Pujade-Villar, 2022** (eponym)

tavakolii = "In recognition of the continuing contribution of Majid Tavakoli (Lorestan Agricultural and Natural Resources Research Center, Khorramabad, Lorestan, Iran) to studies on gall wasps of Iran" (Tavakoli et al., 2022). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis urhani* Azmaz & Katılmış, 2021** (eponym)

urhani = "In honour of Prof. Dr Raşit Urhan who is a senior acarologist" (Azmaz and Katılmış, 2021). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis urospermi* (Kieffer, 1901)** (bionym)

urospermi = Named from its host plant, *Urospermum picroides* (L.) Scop. ex F.W.Schmidt. (Kieffer, 1901). οὐρά (**ourá**): *tail* (Liddell and Scott 1940) + **sperma**, ătis, *n*., = σπέρμα, *seed, semen, sperm* (Lewis and Short, 1879). The plant genus name means "*tail seed*" or "*seed with a tail*". **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

***Phanacis varians* Diakontshuk, 1980** (morphonym)

vărĭo, āvi, ātum, 1, *v.a*. and *n*. [varius]. **I.** Act., *to diversify, variegate, change* (class.). **II.** *Neutr*., *to be diversified, variegated; to change, alter, waver, vary*, etc. (Lewis and Short, 1879). In the original description (Russian): "Вид близок к Ph. Centaureae (Kalt), но отличается наличием параллельных бороздок между парапсидами в верхней части среднеспинки; более коротким и узким брюшком, более округлой грудью. (*The species is close to Ph. centaureae (Kalt), but differs by the presence of parallel grooves between the parapsides in the upper part of the mesoscutum; a shorter and narrower abdomen, and a more rounded thorax*.)" (Diakontshuk, 1980). It is understood that the author may have given this name because the species differs from others due to one or more morphological features.

***Phanacis zwoelferi* Nieves-Aldrey, 1995** (eponym)

zwoelferi = "Named in honour of Dr. Helmut Zwölfer for his prominent work on thistles and their associated insects" (Nieves-Aldrey, 1995). **-i** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix.

Genus *Zerovia* Diakontshuk, 1988 (1 species) (eponym)

zerovia = Named in honour of M.L. Zerova (Diakontshuk, 1988). In the original text (Russian): "Род названи именем М. Д. Зеровой. (*The genus was named after M. D. Zerova.*)" (Diakontshuk, 1988). **-ia** *f*. (*m*. -ius, *n*. -ium) Lat.: The suffix.

***Zerovia asiaemediae* Diakontshuk, 1988** (toponym)

asiaemediae = Named after Turkmenistan, Repetek, Southeast Karakum (located Central Asia), where it was collected. In the original text (Russian): "Туркмения, Репетек, Юго-Восточные Каракумы, ..." (Diakontshuk, 1988). **Asia** (Ἀσία) refers to the "*continent of Asia*" + **mĕdĭus**, a, um, *adj*. [Sanscr. madhya, the same; Gr. μέσος; Angl.-Sax. midd; Germ. Mitte; cf. dimidius, meridies (medi-), etc.], *that is in the middle* or *midst, mid, middle* (class.) (Lewis and Short, 1879). **-ae** *gen*. Lat.: The suffix. Thus, *asiaemediae* essentially means "*from* or *related to Central Asia*".

4. DISCUSSION

This study explores the naming practices of taxa within the tribe Phanacidini, offering insights into the etymological roots of their scientific names. The analysis indicates that *bionyms*—names derived from ecological associations such as habitat or host plant (e.g. *A. cousiniae*)—are the most frequently used category, accounting for 48.9% of the cases. Furthermore, a substantial portion of the names consists of *eponyms* (20%), which commemorate individuals (e.g. *P. urhani*); *morphonyms* (17.8%), which reflect morphological features of the insects or the galls they induce (e.g. *P. rufipes*); and *toponyms* (13.3%), which denote the geographical origins of the taxa (e.g. *P. dobrogicus*).

These findings suggest that species-level naming reflects a broader approach, often incorporating biological, morphological, and geographical characteristics of the organisms, whereas genus-level naming tends to be more limited and selective. Moreover, they reflect broader trends in taxonomic nomenclature. In particular, early taxonomic studies either omitted etymological explanations entirely or mentioned them only briefly. However, etymology has now become an almost indispensable part of new species descriptions. This shift has made the naming process more transparent and improved the understanding of the contextual background of taxon names. Moreover, etymological analyses not only clarify the meanings of taxon names but also help us better understand the perspectives and approaches of the scientists who discovered and described these taxa.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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