

On the Question of *Inostemma seoulis* or *Inostemma seoule*

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Inostemma seoulis is a Hymenopterous parasitoid that has been successfully utilized for the control of the pine gall-midge, *Thecodiplosis japonensis*, in Korea. This wasp was discovered in Seoul in 1962 by Dr. Je Ho Ko of the Forest Research Institute, Seoul, Korea. He described it, as a new species, *Isostasius seoulis*, in 1965. Later, Yoshida and Hirashima (1979) transferred the species to the genus *Inostemma* and treated it as *Inostemma seoulis*.

In 1982, Dr. R. W. Carlson, Asian Parasite Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture, Seoul, Korea, proposed that *Inostemma seoule* is the correct combination because the gender of this genus is neuter and the specific name, an adjective (personal communication, 1982). Hence this wasp has been known as *Inostemma seoule* in Korean literature. I do not agree with Dr. Carlson on this change in the specific name.

I agree with Dr. Carlson that the gender of *Inostemma* is neuter because the last component, *-stemma*, is derived from *stemma* (στέμμα), a Greek neuter noun. At issue is whether or not *seoulis* should be changed to *seoule*, as proposed by Dr. Carlson.

According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, a species-group name based on a geographical name should be (a) preferably an adjective derived from the geographical name, and ending in a suitable suffix, such as *-ensis* or *-iensis*, or (b) a noun in the genitive case (Appendix D, IV, 22). In addition to *-(i)ensis*, the Latin suffixes include *-(a)nus*, *-ianus*, *-icus* or *-inus*, but not *-is*. In Latin, there are other adjectival suffixes, such as *-alis*, *-aris*, *-estris* or *-(b)ilis*, but these are not equivalent to or identical with *-is*. The only case in which the ending *-is* is treated as an adjectival suffix is in such words as *bicornis* (bis+cornu), *Zongipennis* (longus+penna), *uniformis* (unus+forma), etc. It should be pointed out, however, that this is recognizable only when the nouns become the last component of a compound word. This is not the case in *seoulis*.

There are also many Latin adjectives which end in *-is*, such as *affinis*, *brevis*, *grandis*, *similis*, etc., but one cannot make an adjective like *seoulis* (Seoul+-is) by simply adding *-is* to the noun or noun stem. Accordingly, the specific name *seoulis* should not be considered to be an authentic adjective.

On the contrary, there are many Latin nouns (the third declension or i-nouns) which end in *-is* in the nominative singular form, such as *auris*, *basis*, *canalis*, *canis*, *felis*, *penis*, *unguis*, etc., which end in *-is* in the genitive singular form, such as *bos*, *bovis* (*Hypoderma bovis*, a fly), *caput*, *capitis* (*Aphelinus capitis*, a wasp), *corpus*, *corporis*

(*Pediculus humanus corporis*, the body louse), *vespertilio*, *vespertilionis* (*Argas vespertilionis*, a mite), etc.

The question now is this : Is there a possibility that *seoulis* is a noun in the genitive case ? Seoul may be Latinized as *Seoulia* as in Japan and Japonia ; *Seoulium*, as in Mannheim (W. Germany) and *Mannheimium* ; *Seoulis*, as in Naples and Neapolis ; and Seoul, as in Arabia and Arabia. The genitive case of *Seoulis* is *Seoulis* only if the former is a Latinized name.

Thus, we can see that, the specific name *seoulis*, may be regarded either as an adjective or a noun. Unfortunately the original author failed to show the etymology of it. In such a case we have to apply Article 30 (i) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, which reads :

“Where the original author of a species-group name did not indicate whether he regarded the name as a noun or as an adjective, and where it may be regarded as either, and where the evidence of usage is not decisive, it is to be treated as a noun in apposition to the generic name.”

Accordingly, it is now very clear that *seoulis* should be treated as a noun in apposition to the generic name. Again, if the specific name *seoulis* is not considered to be an adjective, as stated above, it should be treated as an indeclinable noun. Therefore, *Inostemma seoulis* is correct, regardless of the gender of the genus.

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