

ON THE ORIGIN [OF THE NAME] OF [GENERA AND] SPECIES:
A DOZEN DERIVED FROM HARRY POTTER CHARACTERS & INCIDENTS

ABSTRACT

In the 18th century, Swedish physician, naturalist, and explorer Carl Linnaeus introduced a system of binomial nomenclature to designate genera and species by means of two Latin, Greek, or Latinized names. Flora and fauna were thus named for people who discovered them, where they were discovered, or a prominent feature. Then, in the 19th century, they began to be named after esteemed colleagues or even wealthy patrons.

Soon after, scientists began to name some of their discoveries after characters in literature, and literature for children and young adults was no exception. In a 2014 ChLA presentation, I identified ten genera or species derived from characters in such works as Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky," Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio*, and Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*.

At that time, only three species—the *Aname aragog*, a trap door spider in Western Australia; the *Dracorex hogwartsia*, remains of a dinosaur discovered in South Dakota in 2004; and the *Macrocarpaea apparata*, a suddenly-appearing gentian in southern Ecuador—had derived their names from the Harry Potter series. Given the detailed and lengthy protocol for scientific naming, this was not entirely surprising. In the intervening years, however, three more spiders, four insects, an arthropod, and a reptile have followed suit, for a total of twelve, verified, scientific designations ascribed to the Harry Potter books alone, and more are quite likely to be recorded in the future.

A handout with all examples will be provided, as will complete descriptions and attributions, accompanied by PowerPoint slides for each genus and species named.