

ONOMASTICON II

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Little did I envision the difficulties encountered in building a list of -cide words. In general, such words are a combined form, signifying 'killer' or 'killing' (from the Latin caedere, to cut or kill). There are, however, three groups of exceptions: (1) development from other, similar roots (such as cadere, to fall); (2) neologisms, many of which are nonsensical; and (3) accidents of etymology (such as silicide, from silic(on) + ide).

The following list includes all the words I have identified which end in -cide; variant spellings are grouped together in alphabetical order. For me, the most unusual word in the list is Georgicide, the act of killing someone named George. Why single out George for such special treatment?

- ABORTICIDE act of destroying a fetus in the uterus; or the agent that destroys the fetus and causes abortion (see also feticide)
- ACARICIDE substance or preparation for killing acarids, or mites
- ADULTICIDE an insecticide which kills an adult as distinguished from a larva
- ALCIDE a man's given name: Alcide St. Pierre (Newsweek, September 12, 1977, p. 92)
- ALGAECIDE, ALGICIDE a poisonous substance, usually copper sulfate, used to kill algae
- AMEBACIDE, AMEBICIDE, AMOEVICIDE agent which is destructive to amebae
- AMICICIDE act of murdering one's friend
- ANOPHELICIDE destructive to Anopheles mosquitoes
- ANTHRACOCIDE capable of destroying the bacteria of anthrax
- ANTRICIDE title of a poem by John Dickson, Evanston, Illinois (Spoon River Quarterly, I, 1, Winter 1976); refers, mistakenly, to ant-killing (see also formicide)
- ANTRYCIDE a trademark used for a white crystalline compound derived from quinoline and used in the control of trypanosomiasis in cattle
- APHICIDE, APHIDICIDE substance used to kill aphids
- APICIDE substance used to kill bees
- AQUACIDE a trademark used for a silicone-based water repellent: Southern Coatings & Chemicals Co., Inc., Sumter, SC
- ARACHNICIDE substance used to kill arachnids (as mites)

- ASCARICIDE agent destructive of ascarids (roundworms) (see also lumbricide)
- AUTOCIDE one who kills himself or another in the operation of an automotive vehicle; also, act of killing in this fashion
- AVICIDE killing of birds (see also birdicide)
- BACILLICIDE substance destructive to bacilli
- BACTERIACIDE, BACTERICIDE, BACTERIOCIDE agent capable of killing bacteria
- BACTICIDE a disinfectant, used in advertisements by Oxford Chemicals, Atlanta, GA (a possible variant of bactericide?)
- BARBICIDE a trademark used for a sterilizing disinfectant for combs: King Research Inc., Brooklyn NY
- BARMECIDE one who gives illusory benefits (sometimes capitalized)
- BIOCIDE any substance, especially a chemical, used to destroy insects, fungi, bacteria, protozoans, minute forms of plant life, etc. (see also pesticide)
- BIRDICIDE killing of a bird, used in reference to the Ancient Mariner (see also avicide)
- BOVICIDE slaughter of oxen; a butcher
- CANICIDE act of killing a dog
- CERVICIDE deer-killing
- CETICIDE whale-killer
- CHEMICIDE (1) listed in Lehnert's Reverse Dictionary without definition; (2) a company name: Gallard-Schesinger Chemicides, Inc., Carle Place, NY
- CHRISTICIDE act of killing, or one who killed Christ
- CIMICIDE agent destructive to bedbugs
- COINCIDE to agree in position, concur; happen at the same time
- CULICICIDE, CULICIDE agent destructive to gnats and mosquitoes (see also Mimm's culicide)
- CYANICIDE in metallurgy, any substance, as ferrous sulphate, that decomposes cyanides
- CYTOCIDE destructive to cells
- DECIDE to determine, adjudge, conclude
- DEICIDE act of killing a god or Jesus Christ (sometimes capitalized)
- DETERGICIDE a disinfectant, used in advertisements by USCI Division, Boston, MA
- DIOXCIDE a company name: International Dioxide, Inc., New York, NY
- DISILICIDE in chemistry, a compound containing two atoms of silicon in combination with an element or radical
- ECOCIDE destruction of (our) ecology; possibly used in Time
- ELEPHANTICIDE killing of an elephant
- EPISCOPICIDE killing of a bishop
- EPIZOICIDE destructive to an external parasite or commensal
- EXCIDE to cut out, extirpate
- FACTICIDE perversion of, or a perverter of, fact

- FAMACIDE (1) slandering, defaming; (2) in law, a person who destroys another's reputation
- FEBRICIDE (1) lowering bodily temperature in fever; (2) agent that reduces fever
- FELICIDE killing of a cat
- FEMICIDE act of killing, or one who kills, a woman (see also gynecide)
- FETICIDE, FOETICIDE act of destroying a fetus or causing an abortion (see also aborticide)
- FILARICIDE agent destructive to filariae
- FILICIDE act of killing one's own son or daughter
- FORMACIDE a trademark? used for a proprietary formaldehyde preparation for disinfecting instruments
- FORMICICIDE, FORMICIDE any substance used for destroying ants (see also antricide)
- FRATRICIDE act of killing one's own brother or sister
- FULDICIDE a trademark used for a disinfectant: Fuld-Stalford, Inc., Havre de Grace, MD
- FUNGICIDE agent for killing fungus; also, one that inhibits the growth of the spores or hyphae
- GALLICIDE killer of fowls
- GALLINICIDE killer of hens or poultry
- GAMETOCIDE agent that destroys the gametocytes of a malaria parasite
- GEMICIDE killing of diamond dealers (from Weekend Update segment of NBC-TV's Saturday Night Live, October 15, 1977)
- GENOCIDE the use or user of deliberate, systematic measures, such as killing, bodily or mental injury, unlivable conditions, prevention of births, calculated to bring about the extermination of a racial, political or cultural group or to destroy the language, religion or culture of a group
- GEORGICIDE act of killing or one who kills a person named George
- GERMICIDE agent for killing germs or microorganisms; specifically, one destructive to disease germs
- GIGANTICIDE slaying of a giant
- GLOBULICIDE in medicine, an agent that destroys blood corpuscles
- GLUCIDE in chemistry, any of a class of substances comprising the simple or nonhydrolyzable sugars (oses) and compounds (osides) which yield on hydrolysis one or more simple sugars with or without other substances
- GLYCIDE in chemistry, a colorless liquid $\overline{\text{OCH}_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{OH}}$, obtained from certain derivatives of glycerol, and regarded as an anhydride of the latter
- GONOCOCCIDE, GONOCOCCOCIDE agent destructive to gonococci
- GRAMICIDE an antibiotic, obtained from certain soil bacteria, that is active against certain (Gram-positive) disease producing bacteria in local infections, but when introduced into the blood stream is destructive of red blood cells
- GYNAECIDE, GYNECIDE act of killing, or one who kills, a woman

- (see also femicide)
- HELMINTHICIDE substance or agent for killing worms (see also vermicide)
- HERBICIDE substance or preparation for killing plants, especially weeds or undesirable plants (see also weedicide)
- HERETICIDE act of killing a heretic
- HERPICIDE (1) probably the killing of reptiles (in Johnson's New Rhyming Dictionary); (2) a trademark used in hairdressing: Newbro's Herpicide - circa 1905 (found in the Bulletin of the Museum of Modern Art, New York)
- HIRUDICIDE substance destructive to leeches
- HOMICIDE act of killing another, especially a man (see also viricide)
- IMAGICIDE, IMAGOCIDE agent which destroys adult insects, especially adult mosquitoes
- INCIDE (1) to cut or divide as by sharp medicines (obsolete); (2) to be incident (rare)
- INFANTICIDE act of killing an infant, especially a new-born
- INSECTICIDE act of or a substance for killing insects (the Food and Drug Administration admits within the term insect small invertebrate animals which do not belong to the class Insecta but are called insects in popular language)
- LAPICIDE a stone-cutter
- LARVICIDE agent destructive to insect larvae
- LAVACIDE derived from lavatory? used in advertisements by Puritan Chemical Co., Atlanta, GA
- LEUCOCIDE, LEUKOCIDE substance, as in serum, specifically destroying leukocytes; a coccoid substance that destroys leukocytes
- LIBERTICIDE destruction of, or one who destroys liberty
- LOCUSTICIDE listed in Lehnert's Reverse Dictionary without definition (probably an agent destructive to locusts)
- LOUSICIDE agent for destroying lice (see also pediculicide)
- LUMBRICIDE agent which destroys lumbrici (the ascaris, or round intestinal worm) (see also ascaricide)
- LUPICIDE act of killing a wolf
- MARITICIDE act of killing one's own husband (see also viricide)
- MATRICIDE act of killing one's own mother
- MEDICIDE a trademark used for a disinfectant and air deodorant
- MENOCIDE undefined (used in Science Fiction Review, 22, p. 42)
- MENTICIDE systematic effort to undermine and destroy a person's values and beliefs, as by the use of prolonged interrogation, drugs, torture, etc., and to induce radically different ideas
- MICROBICIDE agent that destroys microbes
- MIMM'S CULICIDE a phenol camphor volatilized by heat and allowed to diffuse through a room (see also culicide)
- MISDECIDE wrong; amiss
- MITICIDE substance or preparation for killing mites, especially red spider mites

- MODERNICIDE killer of a modernist (a person whose views and tastes are modern)
- MOLLUSCACIDE agent that will destroy snails and other molluscs
- MONSTRICIDE destruction of a monster, such as a fetal monster
- MOSQUITOCIDE agent destructive to mosquitoes
- MURICIDE definition uncertain (probably marine gastropods or molluscs)
- MUSCACIDE, MUSCICIDE destructive to flies
- NEMATICIDE, NEMATOCIDE chemical substance destructive to nematode worms
- ORTHOCIDE a trademark used for a fungicide: Chevron Chemical Co., San Francisco, CA
- OVICIDE agent that kills eggs, especially an insecticide effective in the egg state
- OXYURICIDE in medicine, one that kills worms of the genus Oxyuris
- OZAGENOCIDE obliteration of an insect-like race of sentient beings (Philip José Farmer, The Lovers)
- PANAMA LARVICIDE preparation for killing Anopheles larvae
- PARASITICIDE agent for killing parasites
- PARENTICIDE (1) act of killing a parent; (2) parricide (rare)
- PARRICIDE act of killing one's kin, especially father or mother
- PATRICIDE parricide; specifically (a) a traitor, also a treasonable act, or (b) act of killing one's own father -- now the usual sense
- PEDICULICIDE agent for destroying lice (see also lousicide)
- PERDRICIDE partridge-killer (used chiefly attributively)
- PESTICIDE substance for killing pests (see also biocide)
- PHILOSOPHICIDE one who would destroy philosophers or philosophy
- PHYTOCIDE substance or preparation for killing plants
- PHYTONCIDE a volatile substance produced in and eliminated from certain plants, especially of the genus Allium, which is lethal for various protista and for tubercle bacilli
- PISCICIDE substance poisonous to fish
- PLASMOCIDE agent which is destructive to plasmodia (malarial parasites of the genus Plasmodium)
- POPULICIDE slaughter of the people (rare)
- PREDECIDE priority of time (trans. verb)
- PRENTICECIDE apprentice-killer
- PROLICIDE crime of killing one's child before or immediately after birth
- PROTOZOACIDE substance used to kill protozoans
- PULICICIDE, PULICIDE agent destructive to fleas
- PUTRICIDE definition uncertain: destruction of that which is rotten? (found in Webster's Second under 'putri-')
- RACE SUICIDE gradual extinction of a race through the voluntary failure of its members to have a number of children sufficient to keep the birth rate equal to or greater than the death rate
- RATICIDE substance or preparation for killing rats

RATTICIDE title of a story, "The Politics of Ratticide", by Arsen Darnay (Galaxy Science Fiction, XXXVI, March 1975)

REDECIDE to decide again

REGICIDE act of killing a king

RODENTICIDE substance or preparation for killing rodents

SCABICIDE destructive to the organisms causing scabies (see also scabieticide)

SCABIETICIDE destructive to the organisms causing scabies (see also scabicide)

SCHISTOSOMACIDE, SCHISTOSOMICIDE agent which destroys schistosomes (trematode parasites, or blood flukes)

SCHIZONTICIDE agent selectively destructive of the schizont of a sporozoan parasite (as of malaria)

SEALICIDE killing of gray seals (Time, October 23, 1978, p. 60)

SELFCIDE intentional taking of one's own life (also see suicide)

SENICIDE killing of old men, especially as a tribal custom

SERPENTICIDE killing of a serpent

SILICIDE in chemistry, a binary compound of silicon usually with a more electropositive element or radical

SORORICIDE act of killing one's own sister

SPARROWCIDE killing of a sparrow

SPARTACIDE a Spartacist (member of the Spartacus party, in Germany) (capitalized)

SPECTRACIDE a trademark name for Diazinon, a chemical to eliminate carpet beetles, etc.

SPERMATOCIDE, SPERMATOZOICIDE, SPERMICIDE agent that kills spermatozoa

SPIRILLICIDE agent which destroys spirilla (relatively rigid, spiral-shaped bacteria)

SPIROCHAETICIDE, SPIROCHETICIDE in medicine, an agent, especially a drug, capable of killing spirochetes, specifically within the human or animal body (see also treponemicide)

SPORICIDE substance for killing spores

STAPHYLOCIDE, STAPHYLOCOCCIDE, STAPHYLOCOCCICIDE agent destructive to staphylococci

STILLICIDE (1) a continual falling or succession of drops; (2) now especially, the dripping of rain water from the eaves, or eavesdrop

STREPTOCOCCICIDE agent destructive to streptococci

SUICIDE (1) intentional taking of one's own life (see also selfcide); (2) ruin of one's own interests; self-destruction

SUITORCIDE fatal to suitors

SULFOSILICIDE, SULPHOSILICIDE presence of sulphur as an ingredient in a silicide

TAENIACIDE, TAENICIDE, TENIACIDE, TENICIDE substance, especially a remedy, destroying tapeworms (see also vermicide)

TALPICIDE killing of a mole

TAURICIDE killing of a bull

- TEENICIDE listed in Lehnert's Reverse Dictionary without definition
(possibly killing of a teenager)
- TERRACIDE title of a book by Ron M. Linton, Terracide: America's
Destruction of Her Living Environment (Boston: Little, Brown,
1970; Paperback Library, 1971)
- THURICIDE a trademark used for an insecticide for inchworms (ac-
tive ingredient: *Bacillus thuringiensis*)
- TICKICIDE substance used to kill ticks
- TOXICIDE a drug capable of overcoming toxic agents
- TOXINICIDE agent destructive to toxins
- TREPONEMICIDE agent destructive to parasitic spirochetes (see also
spirocheticide)
- TRICHOMONACIDE agent destructive to trichomonads (parasite of the
genus *Trichomonas*)
- TRYPANOCIDE, TRYPANOSOMACIDE agent destructive to trypano-
somes (protozoan parasites of the genus *Trypanosoma*)
- TUBERCULOCIDE agent destructive to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*;
or any tubercle bacilli
- TUMORCIDE agent destructive to cancer cells
- TYRANNICIDE act of killing a tyrant
- UNCLECIDE killing of an uncle (Neil Simon, Murder by Death, 1976)
- UNDECIDE to unmake a decision (rare)
- URSICIDE bear-killer
- UXORICIDE act of killing one's own wife
- VACCICIDE killing of a cow
- VATICIDE (1) act of killing a prophet; (2) one who kills poets
- VERBICIDE (1) one who mutilates or destroys a word; (2) the per-
version of a word from its proper meaning; destroying the sense
or value of a word
- VERMICIDE substance or agent for killing worms, especially a drug
to kill parasitic intestinal worms (see also taeniocide)
- VERMINICIDE agent destructive to vermin
- VESPACIDE agent destructive to, or one who kills, wasps
- VIRICIDE killing of a man or a husband (see also homicide, mariticide)
- VIRUCIDE, VIRUSCIDE substance for killing viruses
- VITICIDE insects, etc. injurious to vines
- VULPECIDE, VULPICIDE in England, act of killing a fox other than
by hunting with hounds
- WEEDICIDE substance or preparation for killing plants (see herbicide)
- ZINCIDE a compound of zinc with an element or radical
- ZYMOCIDIC a trademark? for a proprietary disinfectant
and antiseptic

To locate -cide words, I used several reverse and rhyming dictionaries: (Air Force) Normal and Reverse English Word List, Martin Lehnert's Reverse Dictionary of Present-Day English, Johnson's New Rhyming Dictionary, and Walker's Rhyming Dictionary. For definitions, I relied upon Chambers Technical Dictionary, Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged, Random House, Webster's Second and Third, and Thomas Register.

The author encourages additions and corrections to this onomasticon.

O THOU IMPROPER, THOU UNCOMMON NOUN

This is the name of Willard Espy's new book on eponyms: "improper, because they have ceased to be proper names; uncommon, because it is uncommon for proper names to become common" (but he gives some 1500 examples). Published by Clarkson N. Potter, it can be purchased either in cloth (\$12.95) or paperback (\$7.95).

Reading a dictionary of eponyms is like reading a dictionary of words -- great in small doses, but inciting mental indigestion in excess. Although many etymologies are cribbed from standard sources, he does inject his own humor and commentary, as SCHLEMIEL ("the kind of man who, were it raining soup, would have only a fork") or BUGGER (derived from Volga via Bulgar, "a form of etymological river pollution"). Old friends such as CARDIGAN, BOYCOTT and GERRYMANDER are there, together with less-familiar examples. Did you know that UKULELE is the Hawaiian word for "little flea", the nickname of a British officer who was an expert player of the instrument, or that ISABEL is a shade of brownish-yellow named for the Infanta Isabella who vowed never to change her unmentionables until her husband captured Ostend (the siege lasted three years)?

It was inevitable that Espy should author this book, for how many of us can claim a son-in-law whose name is an eponym? To PLIMP is to engage in participatory journalism such as that practiced by George Plimpton, who wrote about playing football with the Detroit Lions and boxing with Archie Moore.