Following the lead of George Scheetz in compiling lists of words with a common ending, I have chosen words ending in -IFER, the majority of which derive from the suffix meaning 'to bear' or 'to carry'. Numbers of words ending in -IFERA (e.g. PORIFERA) and -IFEROUS (e.g. BULBIFEROUS) have no sanctioned curtailments to -IFER, even though such words would be logical derivations. Except as noted, all words are in the Merriam-Webster unabridged dictionary (Second or Third editions). The only -IFER word accompanied with an illustration is SPIRIFER, in Webster's Second. PRO-LIFER was included, coming from contemporary dialog, probably not yet in a dictionary. There are a number of family names that qualify, such as PULSIFER, but these were not included. The two-word Latin names of living creatures are far from completely noted in the large general dictionaries. Many genera are listed but species names are not to be found (at least in the alphabetic order of the specific name). STILIFER is one genus name, of American marine snails, missing from Webster's; I have included a few species names which seem equally deserving.

ANATIFER a goose barnacle
ANTENNIFER the socket of an antenna in arthropods (5)
ACUIFER a water-bearing bed of permeable rock
ARCHDAIFER chief or principal dapifer (which see)
ARMILLIFER a genus of endoparasitic animals of the family Poroccephalidae (6)

BIFER a plant that bears fruit twice a year
CHELIFER a genus of scorpions
CIFER cipher (reformed spelling)
CONIFER a plant of the order Coniferales (a cone-bearing plant)
CRUCIFER 1. one who carries a cross; 2. a plant in the family Cruciferae

DAPIFER one who brings meat to the table
FIFER a player of the fife
FLORIFER species name of the black lace murex, Murex florifer (1)
FORAMINIFER one of the Foraminifera order of marine protozoans
GEMMIFER species name of a Malaysian butterfly, Ancistroides gemmifer (2)

HETIFER a young cow
JENNIFER feminine first name
KNIFER one who slashes or stabs with a knife

LACTIFER a laticifer (which see) (5)

LATICIFER any latex-containing cell, series of cells, or duct (5)

LEUCIFER a genus of crustaceans

LUCIFER 1. a name of the planet Venus; 2. the devil; 3. species name of the lucifer hummingbird, Calothorax lucifer (3)

MAMMIFER a mammal (archaic)

NAIFER more naif, by analogy with naiver (in lightface in Webster's Third)

P.A.LPIFER part of the jaw of an insect

PARASITIFER the host of a parasite (6)

PESTIFER species name of the Russian thistle, Salsola pestifer (4)

PILIFER part of the jaw of a butterfly

POTIFER a pot bearer

PRO-LIFER an opponent of abortion (do pro-lifers proliferate?)

PROTOFORAMINIFER prototype of a foraminifer (which see)

PULMONIFER one of the Pulmonifera group of terrestrial snails

RANGIFER a genus of reindeer and caribou

RESILIFER a spoon-shaped structure supporting the resilium in certain bivalve mollusks

RIFER more rife (lightface in Webster's Third)

ROTIFER one of the Rotifera, a class of microscopic aquatic organisms

SECURIFER one of the Serrifera division, comprising sawflies, horn-tails and the like

SIGNIFER a standard-bearer

SONIFER a variety of ear trumpet (6)

SPIRIFER a genus of brachiopod snails

STILIFER a genus of marine snails (1)

THURIFER an altar boy who carries a thurible (censer)

TROPHIFER posterolateral region of insect heads, with which mouths articulate (5)

TOXIFER one of the Toxoglossa of marine gastropods

TUBERCULIFER species name of the oivaceous flycatcher, Myiarchus tuberculifer (3)

TUBIFER an animal bearing a tube

UMBELLIFER a plant of the family Umbelliferae, as the carrot

URCEOLIFER a species name of the Indian hemp, Apocynum urceolifer (4)

VACCINIFER the person or animal that is the source of a vaccine

VALIFER part of an insect's ovipositor
I was unable to locate the definitions of two words, CORYMBIFER and SUIPESTIFER, which are reported to be in the 24th edition of Dorland.

(1) P. A. Morris, A Field Guide to the Shells of our Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, (Houghton Mifflin, 1951)
(2) H. L. Lewis, Butterflies of the World (Follett, 1973)
(3) C. S. Robbins et al., Birds of North America (Golden Press, 1966)
(4) N. Britton and A. Brown, An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada (Dover, 1970), in three volumes
(6) Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary (Saunders, 1974), 25th edition

POE, CREATOR OF WORDS

There are all-too-few books devoted to the wordplay of well-known writers. Burton R. Pollin, a scholar of Poe who has written more than 75 articles on this subject, published a short monograph of Poe's word-coinages in 1974 based on a 1973 lecture to the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore: Poe, Creator of Words, issued by Nicholas T. Smith for $11, is a revision and augmentation of the 1974 work.

This book contains slightly more than 1,000 words, most of which are considered to be coinages by virtue of the fact that they do not appear in the Oxford English Dictionary, or else appear only in later citations (perhaps with Poe as the first citation). Of course, this does not prove that Poe originated all of these words -- it is possible he picked them up from other sources unexamined by the OED compilers, or heard them in conversation.

The majority of the words are hyphenated combinations of more-or-less well-known words, a form of word-creativity engaged in by many authors: prose-poem, perfumery-girl, self-diffusion, sable-bound, school-thesis, vacant-minded. Others are variant forms: unastronomical, uninstigated, supremeness. Some, particularly proper names, are more fanciful: Frogpondium (for Boston), Fatquack (in derogation of another author), Goosetherumfoodle, Mrs. Squibalittle, Wampooos, Abel-Shittirn (later changed to Abel-Phittim), Aries Tottle (for Aristotle).

Literary scholars might ask the further question: how many of these coinages came into more-or-less general use as a result of Poe? Alas, this is a difficult question to answer without a much more comprehensive citation collection. Pollin suggests that the list might be used to draw up a personality profile of Poe: what can one say about the frequent use of words ending in -looking or -like, or of the negative prefixes in-, un- or non- that often appear?