

CYPRAEA PIPERITA GRAY, 1825 (GASTROPODA); PROPOSED
SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1510

By Lt.-Col. R. J. Griffiths (*Sea Acres Sanctuary, Port Macquarie,
N.S.W., Australia*)

The two most recent reviews of the subgenus *Notocypraea* of the Molluscan family Cypraeidae are those by Schilder and Schilder (1938) and Griffiths (1961). Both include three species referred to under the specific names *Cypraea piperita* Gray, 1825, *Cypraea comptonii* Gray, 1847, and *Cypraea angustata* Gmelin, 1791. The nomenclature of these species is now in question. This submission gives the history of the names, and concludes with recommendations which have the object of stabilising the nomenclature and avoiding further confusion.

Cypraea piperita and *Cypraea comptonii*

2. Research by F. A. Schilder has shown that the species called *C. comptonii* in the two reviews mentioned above should, according to strict interpretation of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, be known as *C. piperita*, and that called *C. piperita* should be known as *Cypraea bicolor* Gaskoin, 1849. The reasons are given below. In an endeavour to simplify the explanation, names used in the sense intended by the authors will be followed by "(original sense)", and those used as in the reviews will be followed by "(modern usage)".

3. *C. piperita* was named by Gray in 1825 (: 498). No illustration was given. The name did not originate with Gray, but was apparently adopted from Solander's manuscripts. No holotype was designated, but five specimens from Gray's collection, named in his handwriting "*Cypraea piperita* Solander" are in the British Museum (Natural History). All five specimens are considered by both F. A. Schilder and Griffiths to belong to the species *C. comptonii* (modern usage). In 1847, Gray named *Cypraea comptonii* (: 356); both the figure and specimens from Gray's collection in the British Museum show this to be a slightly different form of the species *C. piperita* (original sense), but not specifically different from it. According to the rules, *C. comptonii* should be considered a synonym of *C. piperita* (original sense), and should no longer be used.

4. The error in the use of the name *piperita* appears to be due to Sowerby. In 1832 he repeated Gray's description, but illustrated the species by a dorsal view of a specimen of *C. piperita* (modern usage), as well as a base view of what may be a specimen of *C. pulicaria* Reeve, 1846. The first figure has led later writers to accept the incorrect identification. Appendix A gives the names used by various writers.

5. The first reviewer of the species *C. piperita* (modern usage) was Gaskoin in 1849. He described a different form of the somewhat variable species as *Cypraea bicolor* (: 92). In accordance with the rules *C. bicolor* should be the correct name for the species. So the position is :

Modern usage	Correct Name
<i>C. piperita</i> Gray, 1825	<i>C. bicolor</i> Gaskoin, 1849
<i>C. comptonii</i> Gray, 1847	<i>C. piperita</i> Gray, 1825



Nsw, A. 1962. "CYPRAEA PIPERITA GRAY, 1825 (GASTROPODA); PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. ZN (S.) 1510." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 19, 317–317.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44461>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/34837>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.