

The question then arises, Shall we apply to Linnæus himself the canons of nomenclature which would be rigorously enforced were the claims of his successors in question? It is with a view to obtaining the opinions of those who are expert in these matters that we present below a full synopsis of the literature bearing upon the questions at issue.

The facts in this case have doubtless been fully unearthed by many investigators; but, probably believing it best to "let sleeping dogs rest," no one* has to my knowledge seriously raised the questions to which I desire now to direct attention.

The genus *Tethys* was founded by Linné in the tenth edition of the 'Systema Naturæ,' p. 653, for two species, thus:—

"254. TETHYS. *Corpus oblongum, bilabiarum: corpusculo medio cartilagineo oblongo. Tentacula duo, cuneiforma. Foramina duo, spirantia.*

"limacina 1. *T. auriculis quatuor.*

"*Habitat in Oceano Australi.*

"*Corpus oblongum, antice quasi 4 auriculis acutis instructum.*

"leporina. 2. *T. corpore rubro, margine membranaceo, auriculis duobus.*

"[a] *Rond. pisc. 1. p. 520. Lepus marinus.*

"[b] *Bell. aquat. 437. Lepus marinus.*

"[c] *Gesn. aquat. 475. Lepus marinus. Aldr. exsangu. 78. Lepus marinus 1.*

"*Habitat in M. Mediterraneo.*

"*Conf. Column. aqu. t. 26, f. 2, 3.*"

It will be noticed that the above description of *limacina* contains nothing diagnostic of a species, though the genus is clearly indicated. As Linné gives us no reference to earlier writers, we have absolutely no means of learning what *Tethys limacina* is, and the name must be dropped.

In the case of *leporina*, Linné gives ample references to the sources whence his information was derived. These we analyze as follows:—

[a] Gulielmi Rondeletii, etc., *Libri de Piscibus Marinis*, etc. (1554), Liber xvii. p. 520, figures an *Aplysia* which seems to be the *A. fasciata* of authors (for it lacks the conspicuous shell-foramen of *depilans* and the broadly united parapodia of *punctata*). [b] *La Nature & diversité des poissons, avec leurs pourtraicts, representez au plus pres du naturel, par Pierre Belon du Mans* (Paris, 1555), p. 437, seems to be an undeterminable species of "Lievre Marin" from the Cyclades, known to Belon through the ancient authors only. [c] *Conradi Gesneri medici Tigurini Historiæ Animalium, Liber IIII. qui est de Piscium & Aquatilium Animantium natura* (1558), p. 561 (Linné wrongly gives 475 as the page). A reversed copy of Rondelet's figure is given, Gesner's information being wholly second hand. [d] *Ulyssis Aldrovandi etc., De Reliquis Animalibus*

* Except R. Bergh, who in *Mal. Unters. i. p. 33*, in Semper's 'Reisen,' 2ter Theil, has made the bald statement that Linnæus's earlier *Tethys* was an *Aplysia*, but who continues to use *Tethys* for the Nudibranch.

exanguibus, libri quatuor, post mortem eius editi Nempe De Mollibus, Crustaceis Testaceis, et Zoophytis (1606), De Mollibus, liber I. p. 78. In this work, which is purely a compilation, all of Rondelet's figures again do service, and Linnæus's reference will naturally be confined to the first of these. Aldrovandus also figures (p. 82) a couple of species of *Doris* as "*Leporis marini alia species*," and (p. 83) two other figures possibly representing *Aclesia*. Linné's "conf. Columna" refers us to figures of the Nudibranch commonly known as *Tethys fimbria*; but this figure is merely cited for comparison, not as a representation of the species *T. leporina*.

It would therefore seem that Linné originally intended *Tethys* for the *Aplysia* species, his generic diagnosis and references unmistakably indicating the "*Lepus marinus*" of the early zoological renaissance authors.

In the twelfth edition of the 'Systema,' p. 1089, Linné wholly alters the diagnosis of *Tethys*, as follows:—

"289. TETHYS. *Corpus* liberum, oblongiusculum, carnosum, apodum. *Os* proboscide terminale, cylindrica, sub labis explicato. *Foramina* 2 ad latis colli sinistrum.

"leporin. 1. *T. labro ciliato*. †

"*Column. aquat.* 27. †. 26. *Lepus marinus major*.

"*Rondel. pisc.* 526. *Leporis marini tertia species*.

"*Habitat in Mari Mediterraneo*.

"fimbria. 2. *T. labro crenulato*.

"*Bohads. mar.* 54 t. 5. f. 1, 2. *Fimbria*.

"*Habitat in mari adritico*.

"*Videtur a præcedenti distincti species*."

All of these references belong to the one Mediterranean species (see Bergh, in Semper's 'Reisen,' 2ter Theil, ii. p. 348), known as *Tethys fimbria* or *leporina* *.

On page 1082 of the twelfth edition the new genus *Aplysia* or *Laplysia* ‡ is proposed, thus:—

* The specific name of this Nudibranch must stand *fimbria*, Linn., the binomial combination *Tethys leporina* being preoccupied by Linnæus, 1758. The synonymy of the genus is as follows:—

1761. *Fimbria*, Bohadsch, 1761 (a mononym).

1767. *Tethys*, L. 1767, not *Tethys*, L. 1758.

1801. *Tethis*, Lam. Syst. An. s. Vert. p. 63.

1808. *Thethys*, Cuvier, Ann. du Mus. d'Hist. Nat. xii. p. 257.

1808. *Thetis*, Meckel, Beytr. zu vergleich. Anat. I. i. p. 9, not *Thetis*, J. Sowb. Min. Conch. 1826.

1817?. *Thetys*, Fér. Tabl. Syst. p. 28.

1819. *Phoenicurus*, Rudolphi, Entozoorum Synopsis, p. 573.

1823. *Vertumnus*, Otto, Nov. A. Ac. C. Leop. Nat. Cur. xi. pp. 294–300.

Of these names, the first was not distinctly proposed as a genus, Bohadsch's nomenclature being strictly mononymic. The seventh and eighth were founded on minute appendages of the animal, supposed to be parasitic worms; and certainly the genus could not be identified by these descriptions. The other names are variants on Linnæus's original *Tethys*.

‡ The spelling "*Laplysia*" is evidently a typographical error or over-



Minchin, E. A. 1895. "On the origin of the triradiate spicules of Leucosolenia." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 16, 427–428. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222939508680298>.

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