

TECTARIUS (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA) : REQUEST FOR
VALIDATION IN ITS ACCUSTOMED SENSE. Z.N.(S.) 1754

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While revising the family Littorinidae for the "Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology", I was obliged to conclude that the name *Tectarius*, as commonly applied to a taenioglossate group of prosobranch gastropods, is nomenclaturally invalid. The proposal of *Tectarius* is credited to Valenciennes, 1832 ("1833") ("Voy. Intér. Amer. [Humboldt & Bonpland], Obs. Zool. II, 271", as cited by Sherborn and by Neave), although authors are not in agreement as to the type-species. The name was actually published in the report on a Voyage to the Americas by Humboldt and Bonpland. Clarification is required both for the status of the name and for the interpretation of the type-species. The proposal is in French, not Latin. One might translate pertinent passages as follows:

TECTAIRE

The genus *Monodonta* has been divided off by Lamarck from *Trochus* Linné but without separating this new genus, the Tectaires of Denis Montfort. Lamarck thought that the form of the shells places them near *Trochus*, with which he had united them previously. But Cuvier thinks otherwise; in dissecting the animal of *Monodonta* he has found that this gastropod is similar to *Turbo*. . . . This illustrious anatomist however keeps the genus *Tectaire* of Denis Montfort as a division of *Trochus*. Blainville is of the same opinion. I shall follow the procedure recommended by these two famous zoologists; and as the shell collected by Humboldt and Bonpland is similar to *Trochus tectum-persicum* of Linné, I am describing it as a new species of the genus *Tectaire*.

"Tectaire couronné

"*Tectarius coronatus*. . . ." [Here follows a formal specific description.]

When one examines the "Tectaire" of Montfort (1810, *Conch. Syst.* 2 : 186-187) one finds that the latinized form was spelled *Tectus*. The type-species of *Tectus*, by original designation, is *T. pagodalis* Montfort, figured on his page 186. This figure is recognizable as *Trochus mauritianus* Gmelin, 1791. The *Tectus* of Montfort is currently accepted as a genus in the rhipidoglossate family Trochidae, a division of Archaeogastropoda, whereas the Littorinidae are in Mesogastropoda. *Tectus* has nacreous shell material; *Tectarius* of authors does not, its shell material being porcelaneous.

The manner in which Valenciennes introduced the name *Tectarius* makes it an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Tectus*, for he merely latinized the vernacular "Tectaire" of Montfort in a different way. His intention to use Montfort's genus is obvious, and he nowhere gives indication that he wished to propose a new generic taxon. As a spelling error, then, *Tectarius* under Article 33 (b) of the Code has no status in nomenclature. Even if interpreted as an emendation [Art. 33 (a) (ii)], it would fall as a junior objective synonym.

As to the interpretation of the type-species of the *Tectarius* of authors: Clench and Abbott in 1942 (*Johnsonia* 1 (4) : 1) were first to cite one of the two included specific names as type-species. They selected *T. coronatus*. However, this form has never been figured. Some authors have interpreted it as *T. pagodus* (Linné, 1758). Others have cited the name but not attempted a synonymy. Through the courtesy of Dr. Edouard Fischer-Piette, I have obtained a photograph of Valenciennes' type specimen, which is in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris. The form is easily recognizable as the one commonly called "*Trochus bullatus* Martyn 1784" (a name published in a work rejected by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in Opinion 456); the earliest available name for this specific taxon seems to be *Trochus grandinatus* Gmelin, 1791.

Junior synonyms are available that could replace *Tectarius* and that would stand in the way of disregarding *Tectarius* Valenciennes as a spelling error and dating it from its subsequent validation by a later author, such as Fischer, 1885. These are: *Echinella* Swainson, 1840 (*Treatise Malac.*: 221), type-species by subsequent designation of Herrmannsen, 1847, *Monodonta coronaria* Lamarck, 1816 [not preoccupied by *Echinella* Bory St. Vincent, 1824, a diatom], plus *Echinellopsis* Rovereto, 1899, *pro Echinella* as a supposed homonym; *Pagodus* Gray, 1839, and *Pagodella* Swainson, 1840, both based on *Turbo pagodus* Linné, 1758. None of these available names has been used for the group *Tectarius* of authors in the major zoological literature. On the contrary, *Tectarius* has had wide currency, the several species that have been assigned to it being distributed in the East and West Pacific and in the Caribbean.

Therefore, in the interests of stability of nomenclature, the Commission asked,

- (1) Under the plenary powers to declare that *Tectarius* Valenciennes, 1832,¹ is to be considered a new name, although it was actually an incorrect spelling for *Tectus* Montfort, 1810;
- (2) to place the generic name *Tectarius* Valenciennes, 1832 (gender : masculine), type-species by designation by Clench & Abbott, 1942, *Tectarius coronatus* Valenciennes, 1832, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *grandinatus* Gmelin, 1791, as published in the binomen *Trochus grandinatus*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

¹ The title page of the Humboldt and Bonpland work is dated 1833, and this date has been accepted by some authors; however, according to Hertlein and Strong (1955), the publication was noticed by Ducles in May 1832 in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelle*, Paris, vol. 21, p. 110.



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