(5) AMENDED PROPOSAL FOR VALIDATING *PECTINARIA* LAMARCK, 1818 (POLYCHAETA), *P. BELGICA* (PALLAS, 1766) AND *P. KORENI* (MALMGREN, 1866) UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.

Z.N.(S.)2202

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"The object of the Code is to promote stability and universality in the scientific names of animals . . . ." (Preamble: International Code of Zoological Nomenclature).

"The Law of Priority is to be used to promote stability and is not intended to be used to upset a long-established name in its accustomed meaning through the introduction of an unused name which is its senior synonym. A zoologist who considers that the application of the Law of Priority would in his judgement disturb stability or universality or cause confusion is to maintain existing usage and must refer the case to the Commission for a decision under the plenary powers" (Article 23 a-b: International Code of Zoological Nomenclature).

The above quotations could have been the motto for the proposal to validate the genus name *Pectinaria* and the two species names *P. belgica* and *P. koreni* (Nielsen, Kirkegaard & Lemche, 1977). As Dr. Lemche died unexpectedly, just before the publication of the original proposal, the present comments have therefore been prepared by Nielsen & Kirkegaard alone.

Dr. Holthuis has sent us a copy of his manuscript with his comments on our proposal, together with a kind letter with suggestions for the present, amended proposal. We should like to thank Dr. Holthuis heartily for this help. Our comments will follow those of Dr. Holthuis.

a. The family name is, of course, the least important problem. We feel, however, that it would be convenient to stabilize the current preference for the name PECTINARIIDAE, which is based on the most widely known genus. Since, as pointed out by Dr. Holthuis, the name AMPHICTENEA dates from Grube, 1851, and PECTINAREA from Quatrefages, 1865, this can only be done by asking the Commission to give PECTINARIIDAE preference over AMPHICTENIDAE.
b. The generic name is, as also pointed out by Dr. Holthuis, a straightforward case of priority versus usage. We still maintain that since *Cistena* Leach, 1816, has not been used as a valid name since its introduction, a reintroduction of this name as a replacement for the widely known name *Pectinaria* Lamarck, 1818, would violate Article 23 (a-b) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

Dr. T. Holthe (University of Trondheim) has called our attention to the problem of subgeneric names. If the present proposal is followed the accustomed use of the subgeneric names *Pectinaria* s.str. and *Lagis* Malmgren, 1866, will be unchanged. If one of Holthuis’ proposals is followed the subgenus now known as *Lagis* would become *Cistena* s.str. (proposal A) or *Pectinaria* s.str. (proposal B) while the other subgenus would require a new name.

c. The species names pose the most difficult problems. The important thing for us as marine biologists and zoologists is to stabilize the current use of the two widely known names. Dr. Holthuis points out that the name *belgica* has been used for the sand-bottom species in popular Dutch seashore books and we have now found also that some polychaete specialists have questioned Malmgren’s description of *P. belgica*. Cunningham & Ramage (1888: 656-659), Hornell (1891: 162-163) and Horst (1896: 26-27) discuss the differential characters used by Malmgren (1866) to distinguish the genera *Lagis* and *Pectinaria*, but all these authors state that *P. belgica* has the number of setae and hooks that characterizes *Lagis* and that Malmgren must have been in error. Apparently all these authors dealt with the sand-bottom species and none of them had actually seen the mud-bottom species which Malmgren called *belgica*.

We admit that even as late as 1922 a polychaete specialist (Horst, 1922: 274) could have misinterpreted Malmgren’s (1866) definitions of the two species, but we find it impossible to believe that the widely accepted treatise by Fauvel (1927) on sedentary polychaetes in “Faune de France” can have been overlooked. As nobody except Lucas & Holthuis (1975) seems to have questioned Fauvel’s use of the names *belgica* and *koreni* (which accords with that of Malmgren in 1866), we must conclude that the names we ask the Commission to stabilise have now been in stable use for 50 years. It is thus not correct for Holthuis to say the name *belgica* “is still used for more than one species”.

It is regrettable, but without nomenclatural importance, that a species called *belgica* does not occur on the Belgian coast.

Holthuis’ statement “If the name *koreni* is accepted all such synonyms that are known at present have to be suppressed by the Commission; but notwithstanding this any such synonym that becomes known later still will make the name *koreni* invalid” is directly contradicted by the provisions in the Code regarding unused senior synonyms and can therefore be disregarded.

We agree with Holthuis that the name *pennata* Sowerby, 1805 (as published in the combination *Nereis pennata*) is an incorrect spelling for *pectinata* Sowerby, 1805, and should in any case be placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names as a junior homonym.

Dr. Holthuis has called our attention to additional species referred to *Pectinaria* in the older European literature. Montagu (1803, pp. 552-553) described three types of tubes which Johnston (1845, p. 446) with doubt referred to *Pectinaria*. Two of these species, *arenaria* and *syb cylindrica*, have
cylindrical rather than conical tubes and are therefore not pectinariids, and the third species, *setiformis*, has a tube “composed of very fine fragments of shells and minute fragments of stones ... lying on each other in an imbricated manner. Length three or four inches, size double that of hog’s bristle”, which indicates the tube of the oweniid *Myriochele* rather than that of a pectinariid. Hartman (1959, pp. 558, 564, 565) lists all three species as indeterminate. Risso (1826, pp. 411-412) described two species of *Pectinaria*, *P. castanea* and *P. nigrescens*, from the Mediterranean. The first species is by Hartman (1959, pp. 478, 480) listed as a doubtful synonym of *P. koreni*, and the second (op.cit., p. 480) is listed as indeterminate. We treat them as *nomina dubia* and propose no action concerning them.

Through an error, in the final manuscript of the original proposal we omitted the formal proposal asking the Commission to validate our selection of a neotype of *belgica* (in accordance with §24 in our original proposal); this error should be remedied by (1) (C) (b) below.

Our amended proposal to the Commission is therefore as follows:

1. Under the Plenary Powers
   (A) to suppress the specific names:
      (a) *cylindraria* Pallas, 1776, as published in the combination *Nereis cylindraria*
      (b) *tubiformis* Pennant, 1777, as published in the combination *Sabella tubiformis*
      (c) *pectinata* Sowerby, 1805, as published in the combination *Nereis pectinata*
      (d) *pallassii* Leach, 1816, as published in the combination *Cistena pallassii*
   (B) to suppress the generic name *Cistena* Leach, 1816, type by monotypy *Cistena pallassii*
   (C) (a) to set aside all type material used by Pallas (1776) in describing his variety *Nereis cylindraria belgica* and, having done so,
      (b) to validate the neotype selection of *Nereis cylindraria belgica* made by Nielsen, Kirkegaard & Lemche (1977)
   (D) to give the family name PECTINARIIDAE Quatrefages, 1865 (correction pro PECTINAREA by Hartman, 1941) precedence over the family name AMPHICTENIDAE Grube, 1851

2. To place on the respective Official Lists:
   (A) the specific names:
      (a) *belgica* Pallas, 1766, as published in the combination *Nereis cylindraria belgica*, as defined by the neotype validated under (1) (C) (b) above
      (b) *koreni* Malmgren, 1866, as published in the combination *Lagis koreni*
   (B) the generic name *Pectinaria* Lamarck, 1818, type-species by subsequent designation by Malmgren (1866) *Nereis cylindraria belgica* as defined under (2) (A) (a) above
   (C) the family-group names:
      (a) PECTINARIIDAE Quatrefages, 1865 (correction pro PECTIN-
AREA by Hartman, 1941) with the annotation that this name be given precedence over AMPHICTENIDAE Grube, 1851, by those authors who consider the genera Amphictene Savigny, 1822, and Pectinaria Lamarck, 1818, to belong to the same family.

(b) AMPHICTENIDAE Grube, 1851 (correction pro AMPHICTENEA by Malmgren, 1867) with the annotation that authors who consider the genera Amphictene Savigny, 1822, and Pectinaria Lamarck, 1818, to belong to the same family shall give the name PECTINARIIDAE Quatrefages, 1865, precedence over AMPHICTENIDAE.

(3) To place on the respective Indexes of Rejected and Invalid names:
(A) the specific names:
(a) cylindraria Pallas, 1766, as published in the combination Nereis cylindraria, and suppressed under (1) (A) (a) above
(b) tubiformis Pennant, 1777, as published in the combination Sabella tubiformis and suppressed under (1) (A) (b) above
(c) pectinata Sowerby, 1805, as published in the combination Nereis pectinata and suppressed under (1) (A) (c) above
(d) pallassii Leach, 1816, as published in the combination Cistena pallasi and suppressed under (1) (A) (d) above
(e) pennata Sowerby, 1805, as published in the binomen Nereis pennata (a junior primary homonym of Nereis pennata Müller, 1766)

(B) the generic name Cistena Leach, 1816, as suppressed under (1) (B) above.

REFERENCES


FINANCIAL REPORT 1976.

The accounts for 1976 show an improvement on those of the year 1975. This is due to the increase in the rate of subscription to the Bulletin and to sales of the International Code as well as to the generous provision of voluntary help in the Commission’s Office.

As a result there was an excess of income of £264.88 compared with a deficit in 1975 of £3637.

During the year it was possible to restore a little of the reduction in reserves which were so seriously depleted during 1975.

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