Case 2871

*Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 and *H. nitens* Michaud, 1831 (currently *Aegopinella nitidula* and *A. nitens*; Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation of the specific names and designation of a neotype for *H. nitidula*

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific names of *Aegopinella nitidula* (Draparnaud, 1805) and *A. nitens* (Michaud, 1831) which are in universal use for common terrestrial pulmonate species (family *Zonitidae*) from western Europe. It has long been recognised that the existing syntype of *A. nitidula* is a specimen of *A. nitens* and it is therefore proposed that a neotype be designated for the former species in accordance with current usage, so conserving also the usage of *A. nitens*. The suppression is proposed of *Helix nitens* Gmelin, [1791], a little-used senior primary homonym of *H. nitida* Müller, 1774. The name *H. nitidula* Draparnaud was placed on the Official List in Opinion 336 (March 1955).

1. Draparnaud (1805, p. 117) established the name *Helix nitidula* for a new species of mollusc. He described the taxon but did not provide a figure or mention a locality or specimens. He also briefly described and figured *H. nitidula* var. β (pp. 117, 118, pl. 8, figs. 21, 22), noting that it was 'une variété plus petite et plus sensiblement striée'.

2. In 1894 Locard studied Draparnaud’s mollusc collection, housed in the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna. Locard (1895, pp. 1–27) recorded that, following Draparnaud’s death in 1804 and that of his widow, Draparnaud’s heirs had sold the collection to the Museum in 1820; this included type material for many new taxa described in Draparnaud’s publications *Tableau des mollusques terrestres et fluviales de la France* (1801) and *Histoire naturelle des mollusques ... de la France* (published posthumously in 1805). Locard (p. 13) recorded that Draparnaud’s own handwritten labels, giving the name of the taxon (with varieties indicated by Greek letters) and the number corresponding to that used in the *Histoire naturelle*, were still in place in the glass tubes containing each specimen. However, Locard found that the collection in 1894 was less complete than in 1820, and that the Museum register recorded that specimens of several of the better represented species had been given to Bischof von Hohenwarth.

3. Locard (1895, p. 26) noted that of the two original specimens of *Helix nitidula* in Draparnaud’s collection in 1820 one had subsequently been removed to Bischof von Hohenwarth’s collection (which is very probably now lost); he identified (pp. 147–150) the remaining specimen labelled as this species as an adult specimen of *H. nitens* Gmelin, [1791] (see para. 5 below). He also noted that the specimen described and figured by Draparnaud as *H. nitidula* var. β (see para. 1 above) was a
juvenile of a totally distinct species. Under Article 72b(i) of the Code this variant is excluded from the type series of *H. nitidula*; it was however included by both Locard (1895, pp. 26, 147, 148) and Forcart (1957, p. 203; 1959, p. 21; see para. 4 below). Locard (p. 148) commented that authors had been inconsistent in their use of the name *nitidula*; Rossmässler (1835, p. 72, pl. 1, fig. 24; 1838, p. 36, pl. 39, fig. 526), Dupuy (1848–1849, pp. 226–228, pl. 10, fig. 5) and Westerlund (1886, p. 57) had described under this name a species which differed from that of Draparnaud (1805) and Dupuy's figure showed a more rounded shell than that of Rossmässler.

4. Forcart (1957, p. 203; 1959, pp. 21–22) commented that the current concept of *H. nitidula* differed from the taxon described by Draparnaud (1805) under that name, and that Draparnaud's (p. 118) statement 'Animal grise de perle, tachete de points noirs et blancs' did not apply to any species of Aegopinella Lindholm, 1927 (the genus in which *nitidula* auctt. is now placed). Forcart (1957, 1959) noted that the current usage of *nitidula* dated from Rossmässler (1835, 1838); he recorded (1957, p. 203; 1959, p. 21, pl. 3, fig. 6) Draparnaud's remaining (adult) syntype of *H. nitidula* as a fully-grown specimen of *H. nitens* Michaud, 1831 (p. 44, pl. 15, figs. 1–5) (cf. Locard's identification in para. 3), and that the latter name was a junior primary homonym of *H. nitens* Gmelin, [1791] (see para. 5 below).

5. Gmelin ([1791], pp. 3624, 3633) included both *Planorbis nitidus* Müller, 1774 (p. 163) and *Helix nitida* Müller, 1774 (p. 32) in *Helix* Linnaeus, 1758; he replaced the latter name with *H. nitens* Gmelin, [1791] (p. 3633), no doubt to avoid secondary homonymy. Gmelin's taxonomic placement of *P. nitidus* was not subsequently followed (see, for example, Draparnaud, 1805, p. 46, pl. 2, figs. 17–19; pl. 8, figs. 11–12; Michaud, 1831, pp. 46, 82; and Dupuy, 1848, p. 222; 1850, p. 448) and *H. nitidula* Gmelin has had very little use as a valid name. *P. nitidus* Müller, 1774 is the valid name of the type species by monotypy of *Segmentina* Fleming, 1818 (family PLANORBIDAE), whilst *H. nitida* Müller, 1774 is the type by monotypy of Zonitoides Lehmann, 1862 (family ZONITIDAE). The names *Segmentina*, *P. nitidus*, *Zonitoides* and *H. nitida* have been placed on Official Lists (Opinion 335; March 1955). Forcart (1957, p. 199) stated that G.L. Hartmann (1807, p. 222) and W. Hartmann (1821, p. 232) employed the name *H. nitens* sensu Gmelin; however, he later (1959, p. 24) concluded that Hartmann (1807) had used the name sensu Michaud (1831). Forcart (1959, p. 24, pl. 3, fig. 9a–d) designated a specimen in the Lyon Museum, France as the lectotype of *H. nitens* Michaud.

6. Both the names *nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 and *nitens* Michaud, 1831 are universally in use for common terrestrial pulmonate species of western Europe. The taxa are conchologically similar but have different distributions. *H. nitidula* occurs in a variety of habitats along the Atlantic side of Europe from Spain to Scandinavia, including the British Isles; it is absent from Switzerland. *H. nitens* is a montane species, found in abundance in the French and Swiss Jura. Both names have appeared in field guides in a number of languages, and in works on molluscan biology and ecology, as well as taxonomy. Recent publications in which both names have been used include Jaeckel (1962, p. 131), Zilch (1962, p. 15), Ložek (1964, pp. 246, 247), Riedel (1966, p. 60), Kerney & Cameron (1979, pp. 121, 122), Kerney & Cameron (1980, p. 136), Kerney, Cameron & Jungbluth (1983, pp. 165, 166), Pfleger & Chatfield (1983, pp. 90, 193) and Gittenberger, Backhuys & Ripken (1984, pp. 87, 89). A list of a further 16 representative references is held by the Commission.
Secretariat for the name *nitidula*, and a further six for *nitens*. The name *H. nitidula* was included, without comment, in the mollusc names placed on the Official List in Opinion 336 (March 1955).

7. Recognition of Draparnaud’s (1805) syntype of *H. nitidula* would necessitate using *nitidula* as the valid name for the species now called *nitens* Michaud, 1831, with *nitens* becoming a junior subjective synonym. Another name would be required for *nitidula* as currently understood. These changes would cause considerable and unnecessary confusion. I therefore propose that the current understanding of the name *nitidula* should be conserved by setting aside the type status of Draparnaud’s syntype and designating a neotype which accords with current usage (see para. 4 above). Since the zonitids in general and *Aegopinella* species especially are poorly defined by shell characters, whereas the genitalia are more clearly diagnostic, a specimen from which both shell features and anatomical data can be demonstrated has been selected. The proposed neotype is from France (Department of Pas-de-Calais, Forêt de Guines, 3 km south-east of Guines, UTM DS13), deposited in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna (catalogue no. 86934). The shell is 4.1 mm high and 8.1 mm broad. It has four whorls that increase relatively slowly and gradually in width. The genitalia are similar to those figured for the species by Forcart (1959, figs. 6–8). A full description and illustrations of the specimen are given by Gittenberger (1993). I also propose that the name *H. nitens* Michaud, 1831 should be conserved by the suppression of the unused senior homonym *H. nitens* Gmelin, [1791].

8. Forcart (1957, p. 203; 1959, p. 22) proposed to apply to the Commission to conserve the current usage of *H. nitidula* Draparnaud, and (1957, p. 199; 1959, p. 24) to conserve the name *nitens* Michaud by the suppression of *nitens* Gmelin. However, he made no application. This present application is known to several specialists in the field and there is agreement on the proposals. During a recent meeting (1992) on European non-marine molluscan nomenclature, held near Heidelberg, all the 20 participants concurred with the proposals.

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:
   (a) to set aside the type status of the syntype of *Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 and to designate as neotype the specimen proposed in para. 7 above;
   (b) to suppress the specific name *nitens* Gmelin, [1791], as published in the binomen *Helix nitens*, and all uses of the name *Helix nitens* prior to the publication of *Helix nitens* Michaud, 1831, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to add to the entry for *Helix nitidula* Draparnaud, 1805 on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the endorsement that it is defined by the neotype designated in (1)(a) above;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *nitens* Michaud, 1831, as published in the binomen *Helix nitens* and as defined by the lectotype designated by Forcart (1959);

(4) to place on the Official Index of Specific Names in Zoology the name *nitens* Gmelin, [1791], as published in the binomen *Helix nitens* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above (a junior objective synonym of the specific name of *Helix nitida* Müller, 1774).
References


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