

**PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES  
IN ZOOLOGY" OF THE GENERIC NAME "CHAMA" LINNAEUS,  
1758 (CLASS PELECYPODA)**

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When recently, at the request of the Secretary to the International Commission, I investigated the question of the place in which the genus *Ostrea* Linnaeus, 1758, was first made the type genus of a family-group, I found this to have been done by Rafinesque in 1815. In the course of this investigation I examined the *Manuel de Malacologie* of H. M. D. Blainville published in 1825. In this work I found (: 541) what is, I believe, the first family-group name to have been published for the genus *Chama* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 691). I think it desirable that the name of this well-known family should be stabilised by being placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*, and it is the purpose of the present application to ask the International Commission to take action in this sense.

2. In the work referred to above Blainville established a number of supra-generic groups which he termed "Familles" and for each of which he cited two names, the first, a vernacular (French) name, the second, a Latin name. Of the nominal groups so established the majority were based upon words which were not the names of contained genera and which therefore it is not necessary to take into account. Among the exceptions were, as already stated, the families established with *Ostrea* Linnaeus and *Chama* Linnaeus as type genera respectively. In the present case the family-name bestowed was in the incorrect form "CAMACEA". Fleming (J.), 1828 (*Hist. Brit. Anim.* : 408, 409) treated *Chama* Linnaeus as the type genus of a family to which he applied the name CHAMADAE. The first author to publish this family name in the correct form CHAMIDAE was Gray (J.E.), 1840 (*Synopsis Contents Brit. Mus.* (ed. 42) : 137). The use of a correctly formed termination at the time of the first publication of a family-group name is not obligatory under the rules laid down by the Copenhagen Congress of 1953, and accordingly the present family name—with the corrected spelling and with the prescribed termination—becomes CHAMIDAE (correction of CAMACEA) Blainville, 1825.

3. Fleming (J.), 1818 (*Suppl. to 4th, 5th and 6th eds. of Ency. Brit.* 3 : 305) said that *Chama* Linnaeus "is represented by the *Chama Lazarus* of Linnaeus" but he did not use the word "type". Children (J.G.), 1823 (*Quart. J. Sci. Lit. Arts* 15 : 28) definitely cited *Chama lazarus* Linnaeus as the type species of *Chama* Linnaeus. Gray (J.E.) in 1847 also cited the above species as the type



species of this genus. Children's type selection was accepted as the earliest by Kennard, Salisbury & Woodward in their paper on Children's type-selections (1931, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* **82** (No. 17) : 13). This species has been very generally accepted by later authors as the type species of this genus.

4. It should be noted however that on the basis of a paper by Stewart (R.B.), 1930 (*Spec. Publ.* **3** *Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* : 33) Nicol (D.), 1952 ("Nomenclatural Review of genera and subgenera of Chamidae", *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **42** : 154) has claimed that the species *Chama gryphoides* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 692) was selected as the type species of *Chama* Linnaeus by Schumacher in 1817 (*Essai d'un nouveau Système des Habitations des Vers testacés* : 123). I have examined Schumacher's work carefully, for his so-called type selections have been rendered suspect by the decision by the Copenhagen Congress that the selection (as was at times made by Schumacher) of a structure exhibited by a particular specimen as the "type" of a genus does not constitute a valid selection of that species as the type species of that genus for the purposes of Rule (g) in Article 30 (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 71, Decision 134). Reference to Schumacher's work shows that in the present case *Chama gryphoides* Linnaeus was the sole example cited by Schumacher for the genus *Chama* Linnaeus but that the word "type" was not used. Schumacher's action cannot therefore be accepted as a type selection for this genus\* and accordingly Children's (1823) selection of *Chama lazarus* Linnaeus is the valid selection. Quite apart from the strictly nomenclatorial position set out above, the species *Chama lazarus* Linnaeus is more satisfactory as a type species than *Chama gryphoides* Linnaeus would have been. For the identity of the species named *gryphoides* by Linnaeus is not firmly established, while the authentic type specimen of *lazarus* Linnaeus is preserved in the Linnean collection. No systematist has attempted to separate *C. lazarus* generically from *C. gryphoides* and accordingly the concept represented by the nominal genus *Chama* does not depend on which of the two species is the type species.

5. There are three junior homonyms of *Chama* Linnaeus, 1758, which should be placed on the *Official Index* when that name is placed on the *Official List*. These names are:—(1) *Chama* da Costa, 1778, *Brit. Conch.* : 230 ; (2) *Chama* Oken, 1815, *Lehrbuch Naturgesch.* **3** (Zool.) : 253 ; (3) *Chama* Mörch (O.A.L.), 1853, *Catalogus Conchyliorum quae reliquit D. Alphonso d'Aguirra & Gedeo, Comes de Yoldi* **2** : 33.

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\* It has been claimed (Stewart, *loc. cit.*) that, in consequence of a reference on p. 20 of the introduction to Schumacher's work to "les espèces, que j'ai donner [*sic*] pour type tant des genres que pour leur subdivision", Schumacher's citation of a species as the sole example under any genus is equivalent to its designation as type species of that genus. This point needs clarification by an *Opinion* of the Commission. The present application is that *Chama lazarus* should be accepted as type species of *Chama* irrespective of any future decision on this point.



6. I accordingly ask the International Commission :—

- (1) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—*Chama* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Children (1823) : *Chama lazarus* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—*lazarus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Chama lazarus* (specific name of type species of *Chama* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
- (3) to place the family-group name CHAMIDAE (correction of CAMACEA) Blainville, 1825 (type genus : *Chama* Linnaeus, 1758) on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the under-mentioned names, each of which is a junior homonym of *Chama* Linnaeus, 1758 :—
  - (a) *Chama* da Costa, 1778 ;
  - (b) *Chama* Oken, 1815 ;
  - (c) *Chama* Mörch (O.A.L.), 1853 ;
- (5) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* the under-mentioned names, each of which is an Invalid Original Spelling for CHAMIDAE :—
  - (a) CAMACEA Blainville, 1825 ;
  - (b) CHAMADAE Fleming, 1828.



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