The Linnean genus *Monoculus* (1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 634) has now vanished from zoological literature. Each of its nine species has been put into a different newer genus. The genera are the following (using the enumeration in the *Systema Naturae*):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of species</th>
<th>Genus in which species now placed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>Monoculus Polyphemus</em></td>
<td><em>Limulus</em> Müller, 1785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>M. foliaceus</em></td>
<td><em>Argulus</em> Müller, 1785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>M. Apus</em></td>
<td><em>Lepidurus</em> Leach, 1819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <em>M. Pulex</em></td>
<td><em>Daphnia</em> Müller, 1785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <em>M. Pediculus</em></td>
<td><em>Polyphemus</em> Müller, 1776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <em>M. quadricornis</em></td>
<td><em>Cyclops</em> Müller, 1776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <em>M. conchaceus</em></td>
<td><em>Cypris</em> Müller, 1776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <em>M. lenticularis</em></td>
<td><em>Limnadia</em> Brongniard, 1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. <em>M. Telemus</em></td>
<td><em>Cavolina</em> Abildgaard, 1791</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the first seven species of *Monoculus*, Linnaeus gave references to publications, usually quoting figures, and from these figures and the description in the text we are certain to what animals the names apply. But species Nos. 8 and 9 cannot immediately be recognised from their descriptions and for each of them Linnaeus gave only a reference to one person. These were, for species No. 8, Udman, a pupil of his, studying in Finland, and, for species No. 9, E. Brander, the Swedish consul at Algiers; presumably they had sent him the specimens.

Species No. 8, *Monoculus lenticularis*, is difficult to recognise from its short description in 1758 in the *Systema Naturae*, but this description was improved in 1761 by the addition of the word “pellucida” in the Second Edition of the *Fauna Suecica* (: 499). **Hermann** (1804) thought that his *Daphnia gigas* might be *Monoculus lenticularis*. **Brongniard** (1820) named the same animal *Limnadia hermanni*. **Lilljeborg** (1871) was sure that these animals, since they occur in Sweden, were *Monoculus lenticularis*, because there is no other flat and pellucid species of this kind in that country. **Sahlberg** (1875) pointed out that, as it is also found in Finland, it must be the Linnean species. It is now called *Limnadia lenticularis* (Linnaeus).
Species No. 9, *Monoculus Telemus*, is a pteropod mollusc belonging to the genus *Cavolina* Abildgaard, 1791. Telemus was a soothsayer in Homer's "Odyssey". The species is today called *Cavolina tridentata* (Forskål). Davila (1767, vol. 1, plate 20 figs. D and E) figured the shell. Forskal (1775, *Descr. Anim.:* 124) described it as *Anomia tridentata*. Abildgaard (1791) named it *Cavolina natans*, because Cavolini of Naples had told him how this animal swims; he referred to Davila. Hermann (1804) recognised that the species described by Davila, Forskal and Abildgaard corresponds to *Monoculus Telemus* Linnaeus. I have been able to confirm this from a handwritten entry by Linnaeus in his copy of the 12th Edition of the *Systema Naturae* (1767), now in the library of the Linnean Society of London, which refers to the plate and figures of Davila. Philippi (1853) renamed the genus *Cavolinia*, but there is no justification for this. No advantage of any kind would be served by the re-introduction of the trivial name *telemus* Linnaeus, 1758, for this species, in place of the well-known trivial name *tridentata* Forskal, 1775, by which it has been known continuously for nearly 150 years. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to suppress the trivial name *telemus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Monoculus telemus*) and, having done so, (i) to place that trivial name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology, and (ii) to place the trivial name *tridentata* Forskal, 1775 (as published in the binominal combination *Anomia tridentata*) on the Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology.

While the nine species of *Monoculus* are now placed in nine other genera, the Linnean genus itself is still nomenclatorially available and every one of the generic names at present used for the nine species is liable to be superceded if one or other of those species were to be selected as the type species of *Monoculus* Linnaeus. This is highly undesirable, since the generic names in question have come to be very well known to zoologists. One of these names, *Limulus* Müller, has indeed already been placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology. I accordingly apply herewith to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to suppress the name *Monoculus* Linnaeus, 1758, under its plenary powers, on the grounds that reintroduction of this name would clearly lead to greater confusion than uniformity, and, having done so, to place this name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

**References**


Müller, O. F. (1776). Zoologiae danicae Prodromus, Copenhagen.


View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/43930
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/33470

Holding Institution
Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by
Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse
Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.
License: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/
Rights: https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions

This document was created from content at the Biodiversity Heritage Library, the world’s largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org.