

DOTO OKEN, 1815 (GASTROPODA) ; PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER
THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1006

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The rejection by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of the names published in Oken's *Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte* (1815–1816) in Opinion 417, has as a consequence the disappearance of the well-known name *Doto* Oken (and the family name DOTOIDAE) for some sea slugs. This application is presented to save that name.

2. In 1807, Oken (*Göttingen Gelehrte Anzeiger* : 1067) gave the name *Doto* to a polychaete worm. This name has been considered a *nomen nudum* (see Pruvot-Fol, 1931, Notes de systématique sur les Opisthobranches—*Bull. Mus. Hist. nat. Paris* (2)3 : 314). Oken, however, wrote "*Doto* (*Amphitr. alveolar*)" by which he presumably meant *Amphitrite alveolar* = *Sabella alveolar* Linnaeus, 1767, and the species constitutes an indication for the generic name. The Commission is asked to use its plenary powers to suppress *Doto* Oken, 1807, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy.

3. In 1815, Oken (*Lehrbuch Naturgesch.* (3)1 : 278) established a genus of sea slugs under the name *Doto* (the name of a sea nymph in Greek mythology—gender always regarded as feminine), including the two species *Doris maculata* and *Doris pinnatifida*, both of Montagu, 1804 (*Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* 7 : 80 and 78, resp.). Gray (1840, *Syn. Cont. Brit. Mus.* (ed. 42) : 148) happened to introduce the name *Dota* as a printers' error for *Doto*. Thus *Dota* Gray, 1840, should be placed on the Official Index.

4. Of the two species mentioned under (3) above, J. E. Gray, 1847 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* : 165) selected *Doris maculata* as the type of the genus *Doto* Oken. All authors—the sole exception will be mentioned—agree that the species *maculata* Montagu is the same as *Doris coronata* Gmelin, 1791 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13)1 : 3105) which specific name, therefore, should be placed on the Official List.

5. Pruvot-Fol (1951, *Arch. Zool. exp. gén.* 88 : 49) records "*Doto coronata* " from Banyuls, stating that the specimens have "tubercules allongés digitiformes, ou a peine en forme de bosses ; toujours à points noirs. Je n'ai pas vu la variété à points rouges ". From these observations she (1954, *Faune de France* 58 : 408) concludes that *Doris maculata* Montagu, 1804—the type-species of *Doto*, and presented in the figure of Montagu as having red spots on the tubercles—is not conspecific with *Doris coronata* Gmelin, 1791, which, again, is characterized by the red spots on the tips of the tubercles, and by the whole body showing a more or less reddish tinge. A fortunate observation recently made by the present author in Sweden explains the misunderstanding underlying Pruvot-Fol's considerations. She is quite right in that at present two species are included under the taxon *Doto coronata*, one with a reddish hue, the other more or less greenish and with darker spots on the tubercles. For the moment I am trying to find the oldest available name for the greenish species. However, as both of the names *Doris coronata* and *Doris maculata* refer to the reddish species, there cannot be any doubt that the identification

of *Doris maculata* Montagu, 1804, with the older nominal species *Doris coronata* Gmelin, 1791, is correct, and hence I do not hesitate to propose this latter name to be placed on the Official List as the type of the genus *Doto*.

6. In 1838, Forbes (*Malac. Monensis* : 4) described a species *Melibaea* (not *Meliboea*, as often spelled) *fragilis* now always referred to the genus *Doto*. *Melibaea* is an incorrect spelling of the valid generic name *Melibe* Rang, 1829. It seems convenient to take the present opportunity to place the name *Melibaea* Forbes on the Official Index, together with the spelling *Meliboea* Forbes, 1838 (*Malac. Mon.* : 59). The specific name *fragilis*, being the oldest available name for the second common species of *Doto* from the Northern Atlantic, should be placed on the Official List.

7. Bergh (1871, *Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 21 : 1277) described the species *Doto pygmaea* which in another publication by the same author (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 28 : 574) was made the type of the new genus *Dotilla*. However, *Dotilla* Bergh, 1879, is a junior homonym of *Dotilla* Stimpson, 1858, a now generally used substitute name for the crustacean *Doto* de Haan, 1833 (*in* Siebold, *Fauna Jap.* : 24). As a consequence, the nominal genus *Dotilla* Bergh is invalid and should now be placed on the Official Index. As, however, the species for which the said generic name was intended, are now generally believed to belong to the genus *Doto* proper, there is no need to search for any valid substitute name for *Dotilla* Bergh.

8. Iredale introduced the new name "*Dotona* for the species *Meliboea fragilis* Forbes (*Malac. Monensis*, 1838, p. 4), the genus name *Doto* quoted as of Oken, 1815, having been used in 1807 by the same author in a different sense" (1918, *Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* 13 : 30). The name *Dotona* was not available at that time, having been used by Carter (1880, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (5)6 : 57) for a sponge. Thus, the name *Dotona* Iredale, 1918, is to be placed on the Official Index, and it is proposed to add also the *nomen nudum* *Dotona* Rafinesque, 1815 (*Analyse Nature* : 141).

9. Again, Iredale and O'Donoghue (1923, *Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* 15 : 210) changed the name *Doto* to *Idulia* Leach, 1852 (*Synops. Moll. Great Brit.* : 25), type by monotypy *Doris maculata* Montagu, 1804, with the explanatory note that "*Dotona* was proposed for *Doto* preoccupied, as *Idulia* had been regarded as simply a misspelling of *Idalia*, but reference to Leach's proof-sheets, printed in 1819, shows *Idulia* to have been invented years before *Idalia*, so *Idulia* must be used". In consequence a number of authors, mostly from Great Britain, took over the name *Idulia* Leach in an attempt to obey the Rules. The leading authorities on the group (Baba, Pruvot-Fol, Odhner) simply refused to change, finding the arguments insufficient and the proposed name *Idulia* Leach very inappropriate, as it was easily confused with the then well-established nudibranch name *Idalia* Leach, of which—as mentioned above—it may be only another spelling. Thus, the name *Idulia* never came into general use, and at present almost all authors have returned to *Doto* as the name of the genus. Let it suffice to add here that the well-known authority on British molluscan names, the late R. Winckworth, intended to return to "*Doto*", as is seen from his posthumously published note "*Doto* Oken, replaces *Idulia*" (1951, *J. Conch.* 23 : 133).

10. In short, the name *Doto* Oken, 1815, has been consistently used for a certain genus of nudibranchs for more than a hundred years, with the exception of a short period of disturbance following the year 1923, as caused by the change to *Idulia* Leach in a list of British mollusca. General return to the name *Doto* has been rapid, and there does not seem to exist any desire to keep the name *Idulia* Leach with its risk of confusion with the name *Idalia* Leach. Thus, it will be most inconvenient, and even confusing, if the name *Doto* Oken, 1815, should now be declared invalid.

11. The first to have based a family-group name on the generic name *Doto* seems to have been Gray, 1853 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (2) **11** : 220) who established the family name DOTONIDAE. This name was also used by Jeffreys (1869, *Brit. Conch.* **5** : 59) who, however, added a footnote to explain that "a purist would say DOTOIDAE". From the Rules as now accepted the latter spelling is the correct one, and it is proposed that DOTOIDAE Gray should be placed on the Official List. On the adoption of the name *Idulia* Leach instead of *Doto* Oken, Iredale & O'Donoghue (1923, *Proc. malac. Soc. London* **15** : 210) introduced the substitute family name IDULIIDAE. This name, however, is a junior synonym of DOTOIDAE.

12. I therefore ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

(1) to use its plenary powers :

- (a) to suppress the generic name *Doto* Oken, 1807, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy ;
- (b) to validate the generic name *Doto* Oken, 1815, with type-species *Doris coronata* Gmelin, 1791 ;

(2) to place the generic name *Doto* Oken, 1815 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above, *Doris coronata* Gmelin, 1791, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology ;

(3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology :

- (a) *coronata* Gmelin, 1791, as published in the binomen *Doris coronata* (type-species of *Doto* Oken, 1815) ;
- (b) *fragilis* Forbes, 1838, as published in the binomen *Melibaea* [sic] *fragilis* ;

(4) to place the following generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology :

- (a) *Doto* Oken, 1807, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above ;
- (b) *Dota* Gray, 1840, an incorrect spelling for *Doto* Oken, 1815 ;
- (c) *Melibaea* Forbes, 1838, an incorrect spelling for *Melibe* Rang, 1829 ;
- (d) *Meliboea* Forbes, 1838, an incorrect spelling for *Melibe* Rang, 1829 ;
- (e) *Dotilla* Bergh, 1879, a junior homonym of *Dotilla* Stimpson, 1858 ;
- (f) *Dotona* Rafinesque, 1815 (a *nomen nudum*) ;
- (g) *Dotona* Iredale, 1918, a junior homonym of *Dotona* Carter, 1880 ;

(5) to place the family-group name DOTOIDAE (correction of DOTONIDAE)

Gray, 1853 (type-genus *Doto* Oken, 1815) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology ;

- (6) to place the family-group name DOTONIDAE Gray, 1853 (type-genus *Doto* Oken, 1815), an incorrect original spelling for DOTOIDAE, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF FOUR GASTROPOD
FAMILY-GROUP NAMES. Z.N.(S.) 1212

(see volume 18, pages 337-339)

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I write to support the application by the late J. B. Knight, R. L. Batten, and E. L. Yochelson for preservation of the gastropod family names SINUITIDAE Dall, 1913, MACLURITIDAE Fischer, 1885, EUOMPHALIDAE de Koninck, 1881, and ORIOSTOMATIDAE Wenz, 1938, by suppression of the respective prior family names mentioned in the application. The application is in accordance with Article 23d(ii) of the International Code, as revised in 1961, referring to cases where application of the rule that priority is to be followed in the choice of family-group names would upset general usage. Hitherto the general practice among Mollusca taxonomists has been in accordance with the principle that family names should be based on the currently accepted names of their type-genera and never on names discarded as synonyms. The four family names which I have cited above are thus in general use by specialists on Palaeozoic Gastropoda, are employed by W. Wenz in his work on "Gastropoda" forming Band 6 of the *Handbuch der Paläozoologie* (1938-44), and are also accepted by the applicants in their contribution to Part I of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* (1960). It is undesirable that they should be replaced by names which have never been generally used and are not based on generic names which are now accepted.



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