DONACILLA DE BLAINVILLE, 1819 AND *AMPHIDESMA*
LAMARCK, 1818 (BIVALVIA): REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION
OF DESIGNATIONS OF TYPE-SPECIES. Z.N.(S.) 1959

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Lamarck (1812, p. 107) published the French vernacular name "Donacille" for a genus of bivalves with a distinctive internal ligament in the hinge, but did not thereby make a generic name available. Later (Lamarck, 1818, p. 490) he gave this genus the Latin name *Amphidesma*, referred to the earlier publication of "Donacille", and included 16 species, the first being *A. variegata*. In the "Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles", de Blainville (1819, p. 429) gave Lamarck's "Donacille" the Latinised form *Donacilla*, giving a full bibliographic reference to Lamarck's (1818) description of *Amphidesma*. Although de Blainville included no species in *Donacilla*, the name is an available genus *caelebs*, since the reference to the previous description constitutes an indication (Article 16 (a) i).

2. De Blainville's reference to the description of *Amphidesma*, the only description cited in the proposal of *Donacilla*, could well be construed to indicate that *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819 was published in the synonymy of *Amphidesma* Lamarck, 1818; and apparently was so interpreted by Keen (1969, p. N 609), who stated that *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819 was "proposed in synonymy." Also, as Lamarck (1818) included the new species *Amphidesma donacilla* in his list of species, as *Donacilla* could be interpreted as a synonym of *Amphidesma*, and as Lamarck himself stated that *Amphidesma* was the genus he had previously called "Donacille", it could be construed that the type-species of *Donacilla* is *Amphidesma donacilla* Lamarck, 1818 by tautonymy. Iredale (1914, p. 490) apparently reasoned this way, to conclude that *Amphidesma donacilla* Lamarck was also the type-species of *Amphidesma* by tautonymy. This interpretation led to consistent New Zealand usage of *Amphidesma* Lamarck, 1818 in place of *Mesodesma* Deshayes, [1832] (type-species: *Mactra donacia* Lamarck, 1818, which is classified in the same family as *Donacilla*).

3. However, J. G. Children (1823, p. 301) designated *Amphidesma variegata* Lamarck, 1818 as type-species of *Amphidesma*. Since *Amphidesma variegata* is now regarded as a synonym of *Semele purpurascens* (Gmelin [1791]), the type-species by monotypy of *Semele* Schumacher, 1817, *Amphidesma* has been consistently interpreted as a junior subjective synonym of that genus by all workers during this century, except those in Australia and New Zealand. The first worker to point out the synonymy of *Amphidesma* with *Semele* was W. H. Dall (1900, p. 985), although Dall was not aware of Children's designation.

4. R. A. Philippi (1836, p. 37) established a new nominal species of *Donacilla*, *D. lamarckii*, and included in its synonymy the names *Amphidesma donacilla* Lamarck, 1818 and *Mactra cornea* Poli, 1795 (1 : 73-74; tab. 19 figs. 8-11; an earlier name for the same species). This is the first inclusion of

species in *Donacilla*, and has generally been regarded as constituting selection of the type-species of *Donacilla* by subsequent monotypy. Thus Dall (1898, p. 912), Keen (1969, p. N 609) and all other major revisers I am aware of have attributed *Donacilla* to Philippi, 1836, type-species *D. lamarckii*, and have used the genus only for the Mediterranean species.

5. As pointed out to me by Mr. D. Heppell, the name *Donacilla* was used twice after de Blainville (1819) and before Philippi (1836), by Ferussac (1822, p. xlv) and by Dubois (1824, p. 49), but in both cases the name *Donacilla* appears in the synonymy of *Amphidesma*.

6. Consequently, in most world literature during this century, the name *Mesodesma* Deshayes, [1832] has been used for the large Mesodesmatidae of Australasia and America, *Amphidesma* has been regarded as a synonym of *Semele*, and *Donacilla* Philippi, 1836 has been used for the small Mediterranean *Mactra cornea* Poli, 1795. The only exception is that in Australasia the name *Amphidesma* has been used consistently since 1914 for the large Mesodesmatidae of New Zealand sandy beaches.

7. Dawson (1959, p. 44) pointed out the type designation by Children (1823), and introduced *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819 for all Australasian Mesodesmatidae. This has been followed in Australia (Macpherson and Gabriel, 1962; Garrard, 1969) but not in New Zealand, where *Amphidesma* is still in use.

8. No recent authors except Dawson (1959) have regarded *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819 as an available name, some because they interpreted it as published in the synonymy of *Amphidesma* Lamarck, 1818. However, its use as the name of a taxon by Philippi (1836) and Dawson (1959), and by many other authors who attributed it to Lamarck (1812), makes it impossible to disregard the name on the grounds of publication in synonymy (Article 11 d), and *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819 must be regarded as an available name. Since it makes no practical difference whether *Donacilla* is attributed to de Blainville (1819) or to Philippi (1836), the simplest solution seems to be to confirm the selection of *Donacilla lamarckii* Philippi, 1836 as type-species of *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819 by subsequent monotypy of Philippi (1836), and attribute the name to de Blainville, 1819. Molluscan taxonomists would regard as undesirable the reintroduction of *Amphidesma* Lamarck in place of *Donacilla* that would result if the dubious selection by tautonymy of *Amphidesma donacilla* Lamarck as type-species of *Amphidesma* were upheld, and therefore Children's selection of *Amphidesma variegata* Lamarck as type-species of *Amphidesma* Lamarck should also be confirmed.

9. Therefore, in the interests of stability of nomenclature, the Commission is requested:

- (1) to confirm the designation by J. G. Children in 1823 of *Amphidesma variegata* Lamarck, 1818 as type-species of *Amphidesma* Lamarck, 1818, and to set aside all other type designations for *Amphidesma*;
- (2) to confirm the selection of *Donacilla lamarckii* Philippi, 1836 [= *Mactra cornea* Poli, 1795] as type-species of *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819, by subsequent monotypy of Philippi, 1836, and to set aside all other type designations for *Donacilla*;

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

(i) *Amphidesma* Lamarck, 1818 (gender: neuter), type-species (by designation by J. G. Children, 1823, and confirmed under (1) above): *Amphidesma variegata* Lamarck, 1818 [recte *variegatum*];

(ii) *Donacilla* de Blainville, 1819 (gender: feminine), type-species (by subsequent monotypy of R. A. Philippi, 1836, and confirmed under (2) above): *Donacilla lamarckii* Philippi, 1836 [= *Macra cornea* Poli, 1795];

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

(i) *variegata* Lamarck, 1818, as published in the binomen *Amphidesma variegata*;

(ii) *cornea* Poli, 1795, as published in the binomen *Macra cornea* [senior synonym of *Doncilla lamarckii* Philippi, 1836].

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