
(see volume 19, pages 174–176)

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The specimen represented by pl. 3, fig. 3, of Linck, 1733 (De Stellis marinis), which Miss Clark has proposed as the lectotype of Asterias nodosa Linnaeus, 1758 (the type-species of the genus Protoreaster Döderlein, 1916), was cited by Schroter, 1782 (Musei Gottwaldiani testaceorum : 58) as referable to the genus Pentaceros Linck. If Schroter's citation of the name Pentaceros rendered that name available, the generic name Protoreaster Döderlein, 1916 (which Miss Clark seeks to conserve), would be a junior synonym of Pentaceros Schroter, 1782.

We do not regard Pentaceros Schroter, 1782, as an available name: it was published in a work in which the author did not consistently apply the principles of binominal nomenclature.

In 1908 Fisher (Smithson. Misc. Coll. 52 : 93) stated: "Schroter, in 1782 (Musei Gottwaldiani Testaceorum, Stellarum marinum, etc., Nürnberg, 58), used Pentaceros, but he is not a consistent binomialist, and his 'generic' names are not tenable".


Jordan and Evermann, 1917 (Genera of Fishes : 126) stated: "It is evident that Pentaceros has no standing in nomenclature prior to its use by Cuvier and Valenciennes [for a genus of fishes], unless given it by Schroter in 1782, a matter which awaits decision". [Emphasis added.]

Smith, 1951 (Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. (12) 4 : 876) stated: "Pentaceros was first used by Schultz [misprint for Schulze] in 1760 for a Star-fish, but this is ruled as inadmissible. This name was again used in the same respect by Schroter in 1782, but objections have been raised against the validity of his nomenclature. The matter is apparently still open, but should be settled since it has repercussions in two fields". [Emphasis added.]

Schroter used the name Pentaceros only in the following paragraph (p. 58):


Schroter's use of binominal Latin names in the foregoing paragraph and elsewhere in the same work demonstrates that he did not consistently apply the principles of binominal nomenclature in that work. The name Pentaceros, as published in that work, therefore does not fulfill the requirement of availability that is specified by Article 11(c) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.
Furthermore, Schröter’s citation of Pentaceros from a prelinnean author is a case similar to that considered in Opinion 5, in which the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature ruled that a prelinnean name, ineligible because of its publication prior to 1758, did not become eligible by being cited, without adoption or acceptance, after 1757.

We therefore suggest that Miss Clark’s application include a request that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1) place the name Pentaceros Schröter, 1782 (Musei Gottwaldiani testaceorum: 58) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology, and (2) place the work Schröter (J. S.), 1782, Musei Gottwaldiani testaceorum, stellarum marinarum et coralliorum quae supersunt tabulae, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoology.

In making this suggestion, we are prompted by the necessity of determining whether the generic name Pentaceros Cuvier in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829 (Pisces) is valid.

By H. Barraclough Fell (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

The application which was prepared in consultation with European authorities on the Asteroidea, and has as its aim the stabilization of the existing nomenclature as customarily employed, would appear to achieve this aim. I have examined the figures referred to in a copy of Johannis Henrici Linckii: De Stellis Marinis, Lipsiae, 1733, and the reference made to them in the British Museum offset printing of the Systema Naturae, ed. 10. In my opinion the application is deserving of the strongest possible support.

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