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## A Note on Three Species of Mitridae

(Mollusca : Gastropoda)

BY

WALTER OLIVER CERNOHORSKY

Vatukoula, Fiji Islands

IN MY PAPER on Fijian Mitridae (1965) I have regarded the two distinct species *Mitra variegata* (GMELIN, 1791) and *M. variegata* REEVE, 1844 as conspecific. Since that account was written, I had the opportunity to examine more material of both species and found that certain sculptural differences, which appear to be of a constant nature, indicate two separate species. In *M. variegata* (GMELIN) the interstices of the spiral ridges on the body whorl are pitted, while *M. variegata* REEVE lacks the pittings. In the former species the earlier whorls and a small area anterior to the body whorl suture are crossed by prominent axial ridges which are pitted in the interstices; in *M. variegata* REEVE the earlier whorls are uniformly granulose. Both species will vary appreciably in colour, but live-collected specimens of *M. variegata* (GMELIN) are generally ornamented with dark brown wavy axial lines on the body whorl, and the immediate area next to the columella and sometimes the edge of the labial lip are tinged with orange.

The radulae of two specimens of *Mitra variegata* (GMELIN) have been examined and were found to be quite distinct from the radula of *M. variegata* REEVE, thus confirming their separate specific status. The radula of the former species belongs to the genus *Swainsonia* H. & A. ADAMS, 1853, and resembles that of *S. fissurata* (LAMARCK, 1811); the rhachidians have 8-10 cusps while

the laterals are equipped with 4 strong cusps. The radula of "*Scabricola variegata*" (GMELIN) from Mauritius, figured by CERNOHORSKY (1966, p. 116, fig. 33) is in actual fact the radula of *Mitra variegata* REEVE, which has been renamed *Mitra suffecta* DAUTZENBERG & BOUGE, 1923.

The genus *Scabricola* SWAINSON, 1840 (type species *Mitra serpentina* LAMARCK, 1811 = *Voluta variegata* GMELIN, 1791) should be deleted and placed in the synonymy of *Swainsonia* H. & A. ADAMS. The species *Mitra suffecta* DAUTZENBERG & BOUGE is the only species of *Swainsonia* with a unicuspid rhachidian and lateral teeth. The formation of the laterals suggests an affinity with the genus *Swainsonia*, and the species should be retained in this genus. The two species have been correctly figured in "Marine shells of the Pacific" (CERNOHORSKY, 1967, in press); figure 251 depicts *Swainsonia suffecta* (DAUTZENBERG & BOUGE), and figure 252 *S. variegata* (GMELIN, 1791).

The authorship of *Mitra edentula*, the type species of the subgenus *Dibaphus* PHILIPPI, 1847, should be credited to SWAINSON, 1823 (p. 378) and not to REEVE, 1844. REEVE obviously overlooked SWAINSON's previous description when referring to SWAINSON's manuscript name "*Conohelix edentula*." SWAINSON's description, although brief, is fitting for the species:



"10. *Mitra edentula*

'Shell cylindrical, striated; aperture longer than the spire; outer lip inflexed; columella without teeth.

'Hab. — Mus. Dubois."

SWAINSON's English description is a verbatim translation of his Latin diagnosis which precedes it.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mr. D. Heppell, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, was kind enough to procure a copy of the SWAINSON reference, which is acknowledged with thanks.



### NOTES & NEWS

#### *Mitra prosanguinolenta*

J. CATE, 1966

#### Relegated to Synonymy

BY

JEAN M. CATE

12719 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90049

INADVERTENTLY, through an error in interpretation of the Rules of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, I have unnecessarily given a new name, *Mitra prosanguinolenta*, to the species *Mitra sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, 1811 (J. M. CATE, 1966). My error was based on the incorrect assumption that in citing a different species as type figure, LAMARCK had thereby described *Mitra sanguinolenta* in synonymy — a practice ruled invalid by the ICZN in Article 11 (d): "Publication in Synonymy."

According to Dr. A. Myra Keen (*in litt.*), there was evidently meant to be a distinction between the terms "Publication in Synonymy" and "Publication as a Synonym."

Various suggestions as to the correct interpretation of this rule have been offered to me in connection with the

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REEVE, LOVELL AUGUSTUS

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problem — not all in agreement with one another, but nevertheless unanimous in the conclusion that my selection of a new name for the species was unnecessary. It should have been clear to me that since LAMARCK's holotype exists, no further action was called for.

Although I do not consider myself qualified to discuss the relative merits of the different taxonomic viewpoints on this rather complicated problem, I am grateful to all those who furnished their suggestions, and hereby declare *Mitra prosanguinolenta* J. CATE, 1966 an objective synonym of *Mitra sanguinolenta* LAMARCK, 1811.

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CATE, JEAN MCCREERY

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A. M. U.

### Pacific Division

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING of the American Malacological Union, Pacific Division, will be held this year at the Conference Grounds of Asilomar State Park, which is located at the ocean's edge on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula. The meeting will convene on June 28<sup>th</sup> and end July 1<sup>st</sup>. Members of the AMU and AMU-PD and anyone interested in the study of malacology are invited to attend and to contribute papers. The Concho-





Cernohorsky, Walter Oliver. 1967. "A note on three species of Mitridae (Mollusca: Gastropoda)." *The veliger* 9, 441–442.

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