

# SOME EARLY NAMES IN CANCELLARIIDAE

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## ABSTRACT

Gmelin (1791) proposed six species-level names in the family Cancellariidae. Of these, *Buccinum piscatorium* Gmelin is in common usage (as *Cancellaria (Solatia) piscatoria* (Gmelin)); *Murex semilunaris* Gmelin is a junior synonym of *C. piscatoria*; and *Buccinum pyrozonalis* Gmelin is a junior synonym of *Cancellaria cancellata* (Linné, 1767). The remaining three names are identifiable senior synonyms of names proposed later. *Buccinum scalare* Gmelin is a senior subjective synonym of *Trigona pellucida* Perry, 1811 and *Delphinula trigonostoma* Lamarck, 1822, the type species of *Trigonostoma* Blainville, 1827. *Murex scala* Gmelin is a senior subjective synonym of *Trigonaphera withrowi* Petit, 1976 and is now placed in the genus *Scalptia*. *Voluta nassa* Gmelin is considered a senior subjective synonym of *Cancellaria lamellosa* Hinds, 1843 and is referred to the genus *Scalptia*.

*Cantharus triplicatus* Röding, 1798 is a junior synonym of *Cancellaria cancellata* (Linné, 1767).

All known 18th Century species-level taxa in Cancellariidae are listed.

In the 10th Edition of his *Systema Naturae*, Linné described only one species of the Neogastropod family Cancellariidae. In the 12th Edition another species was added. Prior to the publication of Gmelin's 13th Edition, only four cancellariids had been named. These were the two Linnaean species plus *Admete viridula* (Fabricius, 1780) and *Admetula evulsa* (Solander, 1766). Neither of these latter two names were mentioned by Gmelin. In addition to listing Linné's two species, Gmelin introduced six additional species-level names in the family, although he placed them in three different Linnaean genera. One of these names, *Cancellaria piscatoria* (Gmelin) has been in common usage for many years and is a senior synonym of *Murex semilunaris* Gmelin. Another of his names is a synonym of *C. cancellata* (Linné). The other three Gmelin names have been ignored or mis-treated in the subsequent literature. These names have priority over all other names for the species involved if they can be identified; thus, a careful search was made of the literature and the citations and discussions of various authors were studied. It was found that all three of these names can be applied, with varying degrees of certainty, to species which are currently known by later names. By applying the Law of Priority and placing these Gmelin names into general usage, stability will be achieved for these taxa as there is minimal possibility of the existence of senior synonyms.

The opportunity is taken to place into synonymy an unused name proposed by Röding, the only name he introduced for a cancellariid.

In summary, a list is given of all known 18th Century species-level taxa in the Cancellariidae with synonyms.

## DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. *Buccinum scalare* Gmelin, 1791 and *Murex scala* Gmelin, 1791.

Gmelin proposed the above names using identical figure references. His citations are as follows:

*Murex scala* (page 3551)

Mus. Lees. f. b.

Chem. Conch. 4. p. 1. vign. 37. f. a.b.c.

*Buccinum scalare* (page 3495)

Chemn. Conch. 4. p. 1. vign. 37. f. a.b.c.

Meussch. mus. Leens. f. b.

B) Knorr Vergn. 6. t. 17. f. 7.

Martini Conch. 4. 6. 122. f. 1130

Except for the order of the two primary references, and the references for the "variety" of *Buccinum scalare*, the two citations are the same. The short descriptions differ slightly, but seem to apply to the figures to which the names are applied herein. As the two figures cited represent two different identifiable species there appears to be no reason to

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ignore Gmelin's names. As discussed below, no long term usages will be disturbed by the adoption of these names which have long priority.

The confusion surrounding these taxa was compounded by the inclusion of the Chemnitz vignette and a reference to *Buccinum scalare* Gmelin by Lamarck in his list of references for *Cancellaria scalarina* Lamarck, 1822. As shown herein, these references have been eliminated from the synonymy of Lamarck's species.

The reference cited by Gmelin as "Mus. Leess." and as "Meussch. mus. Leens." is a rare sales catalogue by F. C. Meuschen (1767) which lists the collection of Arnoud Leers.

*Scalptia scala* (Gmelin, 1791)

*Murex scala* Gmelin, 1791, p. 3551

*Murex scala* Gmelin, Bosc, 1801, 4:229 (reference to Chemnitz, Conch. 4, vign. 37, figs. a, b, c.)

*Cancellaria costata* Sowerby, 1833, p. 7, fig. 42 (*non C. costata* Sowerby, 1821).

*Trigonaphera withrowi* Petit, 1976, p. 39, pl. 2, fig. 3.

*Scalptia withrowi* (Petit), Abbott & Dance, 1982, p. 230, unnumbered figure.

Bosc (1801), by citing only the Chemnitz vignette, intentionally or unintentionally restricted Gmelin's taxon to those figures. Recognition of the three Chemnitz figures is possible only when it is realized that in these figures the shell is oriented with the apex tilted away from the viewer, and the area between the shoulder angle and the suture is not visible. Specimens of this West African species have become available in reasonable quantities only in the past few years or recognition of the Chemnitz figures certainly would have been made sooner. A specimen in the writer's collection matches these Chemnitz figures in details of sculpture and color, the only difference being that the illustrations are slightly elongated making the shell appear more attenuate. This is an artifact of the tilted position of the shell in the drawings and otherwise the delineation is excellent.

As the only other available name for this species has been in use for less than a decade there seems to be no reason why the Rules of Priority should not apply.

*Trigonostoma scalare* (Gmelin, 1791)

*Buccinum scalare* Gmelin, 1791, p. 3495

*Trigona pellucida* Perry, 1811, pl. 51

*Delphinula trigonostoma* Lamarck, 1822, 6(2):231

*Cancellaria trigonostoma* (Lamarck), Deshayes, 1830, 2:180; 1843, 9:409

*Trigonostoma pellucida* (Perry), Petit, 1967, p. 217.

Gmelin based this taxon on two figures, and a variety on two additional figures. Eliminating the references to what he considered to be a variety, and eliminating the Chemnitz reference which was Bosc's sole reference for *Murex scala* Gmelin, leaves only the Meuschen figure to represent *Bucci-*

*num scalare*. This rare Meuschen reference was apparently cited by no authors after Gmelin, and the single plate contains only two figures. Meuschen's figure b. is a very good drawing of the species later described as *Trigona pellucida* Perry and *Delphinula trigonostoma* Lamarck, and is here designated as representing the lectotype of *Buccinum scalare* Gmelin, 1791. This well-known but rare species is figured in the standard iconographies of Sowerby, Reeve, Kiener and Tryon. A color photograph is in Abbott & Dance (1982:229).

No locality was given by Gmelin or Lamarck, and Perry stated that it was from the "South Seas." Sowerby (1833:7) gave the location as Ceylon, which should be considered as the type locality. The species ranges from Ceylon to Queensland, Australia. Australian records are given by Garrard (1975:21) but he misidentifies the species as *T. antiquata* (Hinds, 1843).

*Trigonostoma pellucida* (Perry) has been used for this species only since 1967 and as it has appeared in very few works the Rules of Priority should be adhered to and the oldest name for the species, *T. scalare* (Gmelin), applied.

Deshayes (1843:403), in his convoluted attempt to conserve *Cancellaria scalarina* Lamarck which is discussed later in this paper, evidently recognized the possibility of *Buccinum scalare* being the same as *Cancellaria trigonostoma* (Lamarck) as he states: "*Pour le Buccinum scalare, dont il faudrait avant tout retrancher le variété, il faudra peut-être établir une troisième espèce qui a les plus grands rapports avec la Cancellaria trigonostoma.*"

2. *Buccinum pyrozonias* Gmelin, 1791 and *Cantharus triplicatus* Röding, 1798

*Cancellaria (Bivetiella) cancellata* (Linné, 1767)

*Murex scabriculus* Linné, 1758, p. 751

*Voluta cancellata* Linné, 1767, p. 1191 (*nom. subst. pro Murex scabriculus* Linné, 1758, *non Voluta scabriculus* (Linné, 1758))

*Buccinum pyrozonias* Gmelin, 1791, p. 3488 (ref. to "Martini, Conch. 3, t. 109, f. 1017").

*Cantharus triplicatus* Röding, 1798, p. 133 (ref. to "Martini, 3, t. 109, f. 1017").

*Cancellaria (Bivetiella) cancellata* (Linné, 1767), Petit, 1976, p. 34.

*Buccinum pyrozonias* Gmelin, based on Martini's plate CIX, fig. 1017, was used as a valid name by Dillwyn (1817:635) and Wood (1818:111; 1828:111). Pfeiffer (1840:28) and Hanley (1856:118) recognized the conspecificity of *Buccinum pyrozonias* and *Voluta cancellata*, and Gmelin's name has not appeared in later literature.

For *Cantharus triplicatus*, Röding not only referred to the same figure cited by Gmelin for *Buccinum pyrozonias*, but listed Gmelin's taxon as a synonym. *Cantharus triplicatus* Röding is thus a junior objective synonym of *Buccinum*



*pyrozonias* Gmelin and a junior subjective synonym of *Cancellaria cancellata* (Linné).

Richardson, Abbott & Davis (1979:126) incorrectly list *Ampulla purpurea* Röding as referring to the aforementioned Martini figure. Röding's incomplete reference for *A. purpurea* is to Chemnitz, vol. 9, plate 118, figs. 1017 and 1018.

For a discussion of the two names used by Linné for this species, see Petit (1976:34).

A good argument could be presented to the effect that the Martini figure (volume 3, pl.109, fig. 1017) is actually intended to represent the species now known as *Cancellaria similis* Sowerby, 1833 and not the similar (hence the name) *C.cancellata* Linné. Such an argment would be fortified by the comments of Chemnitz and Dodge. Dodge (1955:100) in discussing *C. cancellata* states: "Martini did not describe or figure it, although it was a well-known shell to the conchologists of his day, and Chemnitz commented on this fact in figuring the species (1780–1795, vol. 11, p. 27, pl. 179, figs. 1727–1728) as follows: 'To my great astonishment I see that the well-known *Voluta cancellata* of Linnaeus, which we receive in fair numbers from the West Indies and the coast of Guinea, a clear figure of which is seen in Born's Testac. Mus. Caes. pl. 9, figs. 7, 8, has been up to now forgotten and passed over in this Conchylien work.'"

As the name *Cancellaria similis* Sowerby is firmly entrenched in the literature, and a petition to the I.C.Z.N. for its preservation would almost surely be successful, further inquiry along these lines is pointless, and it is in the best interests of nomenclatorial stability to leave *Buccinum pyrozonias* Gmelin mired in the synonymy of *Cancellaria cancellata* (Linné).

### 3. *Voluta nassa* Gmelin, 1791.

*Scalptia nassa* (Gmelin, 1791)

*Voluta nassa* Gmelin, 1791, p. 3464

*Cancellaria nassa* (Gmelin), Roissy, 1806, 6:13

*Cancellaria lamellosa* Hinds, 1843, p. 49; 1844, p. 43, pl. 12, figs. 15, 16

Not *Trigonostoma lamellosa* (Hinds), Garrard, 1975, p. 24, fig. 3(13).

Gmelin based his *Voluta nassa* on three references: Seba 3, pl. 53, fig. 42; Knorr 4, pl. 26, fig. 6; Martini 4, pl. 124, figs. 1172, 1173. Seba's plate 53 contains two figures with the number 42. The left-hand figure 42 is a species of *Nassarius*. The right-hand figure 42 is a dorsal view of the species later described as *Cancellaria lamellosa* Hinds. The two Martini figures are dorsal and ventral views of a *Nassar-ius*. The Knorr figure is a cancellariid, and with much imagination could be interpreted as a worn specimen of the species figured by Seba. It would appear that Gmelin had access to a specimen as the only ventral view among his references is that of a *Nassarius* yet in his description he states: "*Columella triplicata umbilicata*." However, Kohn (1966:75) has pointed out that the species names introduced

by Gmelin were based entirely on published information, rather than on specimens. The description "*columella triplicata*" could have been taken from Martini (1780, 4:45), but the source of the descriptive "*umbilicata*" is problematical. As pointed out by Dodge (1959:172) and reiterated by Kohn (1966:76), the diagnosis should receive more weight than an indication in attempts to identify a nominal species. Gmelin's short description, together with the cited figure of Seba, is considered to be adequate for specific determination.

In introducing the name *Cancellaria scalarina*, Lamarck (1822, vol. 7:113) listed several references to figures and also included in the synonymy *Voluta nassa* Gmelin, with further reference to *Buccinum scalare* Gmelin. It was a fairly common practice in Lamarck's time to rename a species upon transfer from one genus to another, a practice that was fortunately short-lived. Deshayes, when revising Lamarck's work, went to great lengths to conserve Lamarck's names and in doing so added to already existing confusion. He recognized that the figures cited by Lamarck, which would include Gmelin's references for *V. nassa*, represented several species. His solution (Deshayes, 1843:403), which is taken as "first reviser" action, was to restrict *Voluta nassa* to the figures of Knorr and Seba and to restrict Lamarck's *Cancellaria scalarina* to the Martini figures. It should be noted here that Lamarck copied Gmelin's error in referring to Volume 4 of the Conchylien-Cabinet as being of Martini, as it was actually authored by Chemnitz. Sowerby (1833:7) had already cited, but not figured, *C. scalarina* Lamarck, giving as the sole reference these same Chemnitz figures. Deshayes (1843:410), in his discussion of *C. nassa*, which he attributes to Roissy, states that the species was recognized by Roissy and was figured by Knorr and Seba, but that he could not locate the species in the recent monographs of Kiener (1841) and Sowerby (1832–33). It would appear that he had a specimen in hand as he gave a rather detailed description that is at some variance with the figures cited. As it is impossible to make a specific identification from Deshayes' description, *Voluta nassa* Gmelin is here further restricted to the right-hand figure 42 of Seba which is here selected representative of the lectotype of *Voluta nassa* Gmelin and is considered to be conspecific with *Cancellaria lamellosa* Hinds, 1843.

Although the name *Cancellaria lamellosa* was proposed over a century ago, its passing into synonymy should not cause any disruption of the literature. Literature citations for *C. lamellosa* since the standard iconographies of the 19th Century have been very few, and there is considerable confusion in these records. *Cancellaria lamellosa* Hinds was listed by Melvill & Standen (1901:451) from the Persian Gulf, but was not figured. Due to the confusion regarding the identity of species of *Scalptia*, and due to an almost total lack of detailed information as to the range and variability of species, it cannot be determined with certainty that the species they cited was in fact *C. lamellosa*. It has been reported from South Africa and Mozambique by Bartsch (1915:232), Barnard (1959:15) and Kensley (1973:194, fig. 754) but I consider these references to represent *Scalptia*



*crossei* (Semper, 1861). For a discussion of this see Petit (1980:212). The most recent reference to *C. lamellosa* is that of Garrard (1975:24, fig. 3(13)), but the shell illustrated is not typical of the species and may represent another taxon.

Gmelin gave the locality of his *Voluta nassa* as "S. Mauritii et Guineam" which were localities cited by Chemnitz (1780:46). As the Chemnitz figures have been eliminated from the synonymy of *V. nassa* this locality citation has no meaning. Hinds (1843:49) did not cite a type locality for *Cancellaria lamellosa*, but stated that it had been found in the Indian Archipelago, the Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, and in the Straits of Macassar. He further stated that Cuming "procured specimens in seven fathoms, coarse sand, at the Island of Corregidor, in the Bay of Manila." Garrard's (1975:25) designation of the "Indian Archipelago" as type locality for *C. lamellosa* cannot be allowed to stand as the locality is too vague, and the only existing type material is from the Philippines. There are seven syntypes in the British Museum (Natural History), register numbers 1968414 and 1968415. The type locality for *C. lamellosa* is here designated as Island of Corregidor, Manila Bay, Philippines.

*Cancellaria scalarina* Lamarck, although restricted by Deshayes to the obviously nassariid figures of Chemnitz, is not a *Nassarius*. Deshayes' restriction is meaningless as Lamarck's holotype is in existence in the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle de Geneve, register number 1097/85 and it is a *Scalptia*. Although a photograph of the type is available, the specimen appears to be gerontic and specific identification with other taxa is not attempted at this time.

4. *Buccinum piscatorium* Gmelin, 1791 and *Murex semilunaris* Gmelin, 1791.

*Cancellaria (Solatia) piscatoria* (Gmelin, 1791)

*Buccinum piscatorium* Gmelin, 1791, p. 3496

*Murex semilunaris* Gmelin, 1791, p. 3549

*Cancellaria nodulosa* Lamarck, 1822, p. 113

*Cancellaria piscatoria* (Gmelin) Fischer-Piette, 1942, p. 218, plate 6, fig. 3.

Gmelin based *Buccinum piscatorium* on Chemnitz, volume 4, plate 124, figures 1151 and 1152, the same figures cited by Lamarck for *Cancellaria nodulosa*. *Murex semilunaris* was based on Adanson's plate 8, figure 15. The Chemnitz figures are recognizable, but are not as good as the Adanson figure. Although the synonymy of *B. piscatorium* and *C. nodulosa* was recognized very early (Sowerby, 1833:5), Kiener (1841:15) and Deshayes (1843:404) attempted to conserve Lamarck's name. However, they were the only authors to give *C. nodulosa* priority.

Although Adanson's work was well known and his illustrations of good quality, Gmelin's *Murex semilunaris* does not appear to have been mentioned by any author prior to Fischer-Piette (1942:218) who properly placed it in the synonymy of *Cancellaria piscatoria* (Gmelin) which has page priority.

This West African species is the type of the genus-level taxon *Solatia* Jousseaume, 1887.

5. 18th Century species-level taxa in Cancellariidae.

This annotated list is believed to be complete for all binomina proposed prior to 1801.

*Murex scabriculus* Linné, 1758 = *Cancellaria cancellata* (Linné, 1767)

*Buccinum evulsum* Solander, 1766 = *Admetula evulsa* (Solander, 1766). Eocene, Europe. Type of *Admetula* Cossmann, 1889.

*Voluta cancellata* Linné, 1767 = *Cancellaria (Bivetiella) cancellata* (Linné, 1767). Recent, West Africa. Type of *Bivetiella* Wenz, 1943.

*Voluta reticulata* Linné, 1767 = *Cancellaria reticulata* (Linné, 1767). Recent, Caribbean. Type of *Cancellaria* Lamarck, 1799.

*Tritonium viridulum* Fabricius, 1780 = *Admete viridula* (Fabricius, 1780). Recent, Circumboreal.

*Voluta nassa* Gmelin, 1791 = *Scalptia nassa* (Gmelin, 1791). Senior subjective synonym of *Cancellaria lamellosa* Hinds, 1843. Recent, Indo-Pacific.

*Buccinum pyrozonias* Gmelin, 1791 = *Cancellaria cancellata* (Linné, 1767).

*Buccinum scalare* Gmelin, 1791 = *Trigonostoma scalare* (Gmelin, 1791). Senior subjective synonym of *Trigona pellucida* Perry, 1811, and of *Delphinula trigonostoma* Lamarck, 1822, the type of *Trigonostoma* Blainville, 1827. Recent, Indo-Pacific.

*Buccinum piscatorium* Gmelin, 1791 = *Cancellaria (Solatia) piscatoria* (Gmelin, 1791). Recent, West Africa. Type of *Solatia* Jousseaume, 1887.

*Murex semilunaris* Gmelin, 1791 = *Cancellaria (Solatia) piscatoria* (Gmelin, 1791).

*Murex scala* Gmelin, 1791 = *Scalptia scala* (Gmelin, 1791). Senior subjective synonym of *Trigonaphera withrowi* Petit, 1976. Recent, West Africa.

*Cantharus triplicataus* Röding, 1798 = *Cancellaria cancellata* (Linné, 1767).

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