

**Jacobus J. van Aartsen\***

**ANISOCYCLA MONTEROSATO, 1880 OR EBALA LEACH  
IN GRAY, 1847: THAT IS THE QUESTION.@**

Recently Warén (1994) published a most interesting article about some pyramidellid-species known as *Anisocycla nitidissima* (Montagu, 1803) and related forms. It is demonstrated that these molluscs have unique anatomical features and therefore require a family of their own.

The nomenclatorial arguments on the basis of which Warén (l.c.: 207, 208) concludes that the genusname *Ebala* is the one to use for these species, however, are not correct in my opinion.

For this reason it seems best to follow Warén's arguments and give my comments on them.

First it should be made clear that there are two important papers, which play a crucial role in the discussion. The «october»-paper in which Gray (1847) gives a list of genera taken from a manuscript by Leach. A month later Gray published an other paper which we shall call the «november»- paper, which contains a list of all Recent molluscan genera, with their *type-species as understood* by Gray.

In both papers the name *Ebala* occurs. The «october»-paper gives *Ebala elegantissima* (Montagu) as a synonym of *Turritella* and both Warén and I do agree that the name *Ebala* Leach in Gray, Oct. 1847 has *Turbonilla elegantissima* (Montagu, 1803) as its type-species by monotypy.

The «november»-paper is a long list of all generic molluscan names. Now, although Warén claims that «Gray's intention [in the «october»-paper; was evidently to coordinate Leach's and existing molluscan names (but not necessarily to validate them)» I am convinced that Gray wanted to validate Leach's names. This can be learned from the introduction of the «october»-paper where we are told «I (=Gray) am much inclined, as these names were for years exhibited in the Museum collection and ..., to regard them as published and having priority from 1818». In fact, from the 73 names introduced in the «october»-paper as of Leach, nearly all of them (70) are also mentioned in the «november»-list. This strongly corroborates my conviction.

\* Adm.Helfrichlaan 33, 6952GB Dieren, Holland.

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We come now to Warén's remarks with respect to the «november»-paper and the introduction of *Ebala*. According to Warén (l.c.: 207) «Here *Ebala* is listed as a synonym under *Turbonilla* Risso, 1826 and with *Turbo nitidissimus* Montagu, 1803 a «species as type of the genus.» He has thus changed the concept of the genus, and he did not quote Leach as the author of the name, although he invariably gave the author of all other genera (except those introduced as new).»

Here a number of inaccuracies should be pointed out. In the first place we find in the «november»-paper (l.c.: 160 nr. 288) the genus *Turbonilla* Risso, 1826 with a number of direct synonyms among which «*Ebala* Leach MSS» with type-species *Turbo elegantissima*, completely in line with the «october»-paper. However, matters are complicated by the fact that the name *Ebala* (without author) is given again under the same heading with *Turbo nitidissimus* as type-species. It should be realized, however, that Gray frequently indicated type-species that are invalid, because they are not in the original publication by the author of the genus. If we realize that from the 70 names by Leach, from the «october»-paper, the type-species of no less than 25 have been changed by Gray in the «november»-paper it is clear that Gray was not following the rules which are now valid for designation of type-species. A notorious case in point is the genus *Balcis* which, from the «october»-paper has *Helix polita* Montagu as its type.

In the «november»-list we find *Balcis* Leach MSS with *Eulima* Risso as a synonym and *Helix subulata* as type-species. In the next entry we read *Eulima* Risso, 1826 with *Balcis* Leach as a synonym and *Helix polita* as type species!! Several other cases could be mentioned to show that Gray was a rather careless worker measured with our present standards.

Not only the type-species of Leach's genera are changed by Gray. Also other well-known genera such as *Cumia* Bivona, 1838, *Defrancia* Millet, 1826, *Rissoa* Fremenville [sic!] 1814; Risso, 1826, *Alvania* Risso, 1826, *Parthenia* Lowe, 1840 [sic!], *Chemnitzia* d'Orbigny, 1836?, 1841 and *Gastrochaena* Spengler, 1783 to mention only a few, are connected with type-species that were not mentioned by their original authors. Of special interest is the case of *Parthenia* Lowe, 1841 for which Gray (November 1847) indicates «*Turbo spiralis* Montagu» as type-species. This is (erroneously) cited by H. & A. Adams (1853: 233) and only at the end of the nineteenth century it was realized that this was incorrect and the genus *Partulida* Schaufuss, 1869 came into use for *Turbo spiralis* Montagu.

As is evident from the foregoing it is my firm belief that *Ebala* Leach in Gray, 1847 is treated as an available name in the «november»-paper, it is there given as a synonym of *Turbonilla* Risso, 1826 and also mentioned separately with *invalid* (!) type-species *Turbo nitidissimus* Montagu, 1803. This invalid type-designation has been further introduced in the literature by Adams (1860), in the same way as in the case of *Parthenia* Lowe (see above), and has even been used by Thiele (1929: 236) who cites «*Ebala* Leach (with synonym *Anisocycla* Monterosato, 1880)» and by Wenz (1940: 866) who even cites «*Ebala* Leach (in Gray) 1847a» and so refers explicitly to the «october»-paper. The well-known Nomenclators of Schulze et al. (1929: 1087) as well as Neave (1939: 178) refer to «*Ebala* Leach 1847 (Oct.),



Ann. mag. Nat. Hist. v. 20 p. 270» as the original publication of the genus-name *Ebala*.

So even quite formally it is clear that *Ebala* Leach in Gray (Oct. 1847) has been used as an available name although with an invalid type-species. It is therefore a validated name and should take its valid type-species viz. *Turbonilla elegantissima* Montagu, 1803.

The conclusion can only be that *Ebala* Leach in Gray, 1847 is a synonym of *Turbonilla* Risso, 1826.

Now it can be argued that the name *Ebala* in the «november»-list is used twice and the second time no author is given. Although it is rare, authorship of genera is sometimes forgotten (printing error?) in Gray's «november»-list, contrary to what is mentioned by Warén. Although I have not gone through the whole list, I mention *Monoceros*, *Macrochisma*, *Viviparus* and *Utriculus* as examples where the name of the author is accidentally (?) missing. I therefore believe that also in this case Gray intended to speak about *Ebala* Leach.

But even if one considers *Ebala* Gray, 1847 (not of Leach) a new genus as of November, 1847, it is still a junior homonym of *Ebala* Leach in Gray, Oct. 1847 and therefore cannot be used.

The next question is which name should be used for the genus with *Turbo nitidissimus* as recent representative. Here the name *Anisocycla* Monterosato, 1880, which is a replacement name for *Aciculina* Deshayes, 1861 non A. Adams, 1853 comes into use. Contrary to what is suggested by Warén (l.c.: 208) I consider the explicit remark by Gougerot & Feki (1980: 89) viz. «On pourrait alors envisager que *Aciculina scalarina* Desh. restant seule des espèces originellement incluses dans *Aciculina* devenue *Anisocycla* (au sens primitif de 1880), soit considérée comme l'espèce-type de cette dernière par monotypie subseuente» as a valid type designation for both *Aciculina* Deshayes, 1861 as well as *Anisocycla* Monterosato, 1880. This is already stated by Van Aartsen et al. (1984: 50, 51). Therefore I consider WARÉN's act to choose *Aciculina emarginata* Deshayes as type-species of *Aciculina* Deshayes incorrect and therefore invalid.

On the basis of all the foregoing arguments it can only be concluded that the name *Ebala* should be replaced by *Anisocycla* Monterosato, 1880 as far as species of the *Turbo nitidissimus* (Montagu, 1803) – group are considered. The new family name than becomes Anisocyclidae fam. nov.



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