

Case 2548***Harpa articularis* Lamarck, 1822 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the well known harp shell name *Harpa articularis* Lamarck, 1822, which is threatened by the unused senior synonyms *Harpa delicata* and *Harpa urniformis* Perry, 1811.

1. George Perry in his 1811 *Conchology* (pl. 40, fig. 1–3) figured and briefly described three species of *Harpa*. These particular Perry illustrations are poor, and the figures cannot be identified with any degree of certainty. In the words of Melvill (1916, p. 40): 'the figure of No. 1 [*Harpa grandiformis*] is fairly good; of Nos. 2 and 3 very fantastic and specious, all impossible to determine with absolute certainty'. Perry's species of *Harpa* are *H. grandiformis*, *H. delicata* and *H. urniformis*. None of these names have been used as valid names and none of Perry's types have ever been located (with the possible exception of *Conus fasciatus* Perry (Wilkins, 1957, p. 137)). *Harpa grandiformis* Perry, 1811 is considered by Rehder (1973, p. 247) to be a junior synonym of *Harpa major* Röding, 1798 and does not enter into this petition.

2. *Harpa delicata* Perry, 1811 (pl. 40, fig. 2) was listed as a senior synonym of *Harpa articularis* Lamarck, 1822 by Rehder (1973, p. 250) in a monograph on the genus and stated to be a *nomen oblitum*. *Harpa nobilis* Lamarck, 1816 is listed as a junior synonym of *H. delicata*, but does not require action as it is a junior primary homonym of *Harpa nobilis* Röding, 1798 and is therefore invalid. Under Art. 79c (iii) of the 1985 Code the relegation of *H. delicata* as a *nomen oblitum* is not valid, and the Commission is asked to ratify Rehder's action. *Harpa articularis* Lamarck, 1822 has been used as the valid name of this species in recent years by many authors; ten representative publications have been submitted to the Commission Secretariat.

3. *Harpa urniformis* Perry, 1811 (pl. 40, fig. 3) has been mentioned in subsequent literature only by Deshayes (1844, p. 131) and Melvill (1916, p. 40). Deshayes, who considered Lamarck's taxa inviolable (see Petit, 1984), listed Perry's figure in the synonymy of *Harpa ventricosa* Lamarck, 1816. This is the only one of Perry's figures mentioned by Deshayes, which is strange considering that it is the poorest of the three. Melvill (1916, p. 40) stated of Perry's *H. urniformis*: 'var. monstr. *incertae sedis*'. The present authors do not consider this Perry figure to be identifiable as to species and petition for the suppression of *Harpa urniformis*.

4. Although we are advocates of the Principle of Priority, it is our opinion that stability of nomenclature will be best served in this instance by the suppression of these names which have not been used as senior synonyms since their original publication.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *delicata* Perry, 1811, as published in the binomen *Harpa delicata*;
 - (b) *urniformis* Perry, 1811, as published in the binomen *Harpa urniformis*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, the name *articularis* Lamarck, 1822, as published in the binomen *Harpa articularis*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *delicata* Perry, 1811, as published in the binomen *Harpa delicata* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *urniformis* Perry, 1811, as published in the binomen *Harpa urniformis* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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