

Case 2801***Potamolithus* Pilsbry, 1896 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed confirmation of *P. rushii* Pilsbry, 1896 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the nominal genus *Potamolithus* from Pilsbry (1896, December), with *P. rushii* Pilsbry, 1896 as the type species, in accordance with universal acceptance. The generic name is available from a paper by Pilsbry & Rush (1896, November) which appeared a month earlier, but *P. rushii* was there only a nomen nudum and so not eligible to be the type species. Species of *Potamolithus* (family HYDROBIIDAE, subfamily LITHOGLYPHINAE) typically inhabit freshwater streams in the Neotropical region and are of considerable biogeographical and palaeontological interest.

1. The generic name *Potamolithus* first appeared, without description, in a paper by Pilsbry & Rush (1896, November, p. 80). Most of the 16 nominal species and subspecies included in the genus (including *rushii*; see para. 2 below) were nomina nuda and only four had available names: *Lithoglyphus buschii* Frauenfeld, 1865 (p. 530, pl. 11), *Paludina lapidum* d'Orbigny, 1835 (p. 29) and *Lithoglyphus tricostatus* and *L. conicus*, both of Brot, 1867 (pp. 68 and 69, pl. 1, figs. 4 and 5 respectively). The authors noted (p. 78, footnote) that 'the... new forms will be described in *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.* and the next number of *Nautilus*, space being lacking in this number'. Inclusion of the four available specific names renders the name *Potamolithus* available by indication (Article 12b(5) of the Code), but to our knowledge none of these nominal species has ever been designated as the type.

2. Subsequently, Pilsbry alone (1896, December, pp. 86–89; see also Clench & Turner, 1962, pp. 131, 175 for the dates of publication) published a second paper, giving a formal definition of the genus *Potamolithus* (p. 86), and of all its constituent species in the form of a diagnostic key. Pilsbry designated the new species *Potamolithus rushii* Pilsbry, 1896 (p. 87) as the type. However, *rushii* was not among the available nominal species included in the November publication and this designation is therefore invalid (Articles 67g and 69a(i)).

3. Pilsbry (1911, p. 566) cited himself alone as the author of the generic name (from the November paper) and *rushii* as the type species. Other workers have adopted the name *Potamolithus* from the second (December) paper, crediting authorship to Pilsbry (1896), and have accepted *P. rushii* as the type species. The genus includes both Recent and fossil species and these workers include Formica Corsi (1900, p. 329), Parodiz (1955, p. 96; 1965a, p. 1; 1965b, p. 273; 1969, p. 111), Jaekel (1969, p. 814, pl. 3, fig. 65), Clench & Turner (1962, p. 122), Pons da Silva & Davis (1983, p. 131), Davis & Pons da Silva (1984, p. 75), Manceñido & Damborenea (1984, p. 439) and Morton (1987, p. 206).

4. To maintain *P. rushii* Pilsbry, 1896 as the universally accepted type species of *Potamolithus* and authorship of the generic name as Pilsbry (1896), we propose that the Commission should rule that the generic name is to be taken as first available from the second (December) paper, with *P. rushii* as the type. The holotype of *P. rushii*, specimen no. 69686 in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, came from Paysandú on the Uruguay River, Uruguay.

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

- (1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the generic name *Potamolithus* is deemed to be first available from Pilsbry (1896, December);
- (2) to confirm that the type species of the nominal genus *Potamolithus* Pilsbry, 1896 is by original designation *Potamolithus rushii* Pilsbry, 1896;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Potamolithus* Pilsbry, 1896 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation, as confirmed in (2) above, *Potamolithus rushii* Pilsbry, 1896;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *rushii* Pilsbry, 1896, as published in the binomen *Potamolithus rushii* (specific name of the type species of *Potamolithus* Pilsbry, 1896).

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