

ACMAEA LIMATULA CARPENTER, 1864 (MOLLUSCA,
GASTROPODA): PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY USE OF
THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 2268

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The purpose of this application is to request suppression of a species-group name which has not been applied to the appropriate species for over 110 years, and which as a senior synonym would replace a well established name. Since its original description, the only citation of the name has been as a junior synonym. Although this name was a secondary homonym for approximately 100 years, this issue was not addressed by workers; the two species are no longer considered congeneric. Application is here made to the Commission to suppress the specific name as a senior synonym unused except as a junior synonym. The facts of the case are as follows:—

2. Rathke, 1833 (*Zool. Atlas* Part 5. Berlin: 18), established *Acmaea mammillata*. This species-group name was recognized by workers Philippi, 1846 (*Z. f. Malacol.*: 107), Carpenter, 1857 (*Rep. br. Assoc. Adv. Sci.* vol. 1856: 173) and Dall, 1871 (*Am. J. Conchol.* vol. 6: 241), as a junior synonym of *Acmaea mitra* Rathke, 1833.

3. Reeve, 1855 (*Conch. Icon.* vol. 8: Species 119 and 140), established the names *Patella scabra* and *Patella mamillata* for another acmaeid species (both names applying to the same species). Because of page priority *Patella scabra* was accepted in general usage and *Patella mamillata* was considered a junior synonym of the former (Carpenter, 1864, *Rept. br. Assoc. Adv. Sci.* for 1863: 527; 1866, *Am. J. Conchol.* vol. 2: 345). Dall, 1914 (*Nautilus* vol. 28: 14), pointed out that *Patella scabra* Gould, 1846, was the valid name for the acmaeid species which had been previously known as *spectrum* Reeve, 1855, and that primary homonymy existed between *Patella scabra* Reeve, 1855, and *Patella scabra* Gould, 1846. Dall rejected the junior name, *Patella scabra* Reeve, and replaced it with what he believed to be the earliest synonym, *Acmaea limatula* Carpenter, 1864 (*Rep. br. Assoc. Adv. Sci.* for 1863: 650). However, the earliest available name for this taxon is *Patella mamillata* Reeve, which at that point should have been rejected as a junior secondary homonym (*Acmaea mammillata* Rathke, 1833, vs. *Acmaea mamillata* (Reeve, 1855) under the Code, Article 59b). Dall did not discuss this name and there is no indication that he was aware of its existence or significance. *Acmaea*

mammillata Rathke and *Acmaea limatula* Carpenter are no longer considered to be congeneric. The latter has been rightfully transferred to the genus *Collisella* Dall, 1871 by McLean, 1969 (*Los Angeles Co. Mus. Natl. Hist., Sci. Ser.* vol. 24, Zool. No. 11: 16).

4. The species-group name *Acmaea* (or *Collisella*) *limatula* enjoys wide acceptance in the molluscan literature. Usage includes: Grant and Gale, 1931 (*Mem. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.* vol. 1: 810); Keep and Baily, 1935 (*West Coast Shells*, Stanford: 175); Abbott, 1954 (*Amer. Seashells*, Princeton: 102); Abbott, 1974 (*Amer. Seashells*, New York: 31); McLean, 1978 (*Nat. Hist. Mus. Los Angeles Co., Sci. Ser.* vol. 24: 16); Light & Others, 1954 (*Intertidal Invertebrates of the Central California Coast*, Berkeley: 248); Carlton & Roth, 1975 (Phylum Mollusca: Shelled Gastropods, in R.I. Smith & J.T. Carlton, *Light's Manual*, Berkeley: 480); Ricketts & Calvin, 1968 (*Between Pacific Tides*, Stanford: 46); Test, 1945 (*Ecol.* vol. 26: 397); Test, 1946 (*Univ. Michigan Contrib. Lab. Vert. Biol.* vol. 31: 13). References to the species have also been made in over 35 additional publications.

5. During the 98 years that secondary homonymy existed between *Acmaea mammillata* Rathke, 1833, and *Patella mamillata* Reeve, 1855, the species-group name *mamillata* Reeve was never rejected as a homonym and was also never used as a valid name of a taxon. I submit that this is a *prima facie* case of an unused senior synonym threatening a name in current general usage according to Article 79b and subsections (i) and (ii) (*Bull. Zool. Nom.* vol. 31: 87–88). Therefore the Commission is requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *mamillata* Reeve, 1855, as published in the binomen *Patella mamillata*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the specific name *limatula* Carpenter, 1864, as published in the binomen *Acmaea limatula*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *mamillata* Reeve, 1855, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.



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