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A note on the revision of the genus Cymbium Röding, 1798, by J.K. Bruynseels, 1975

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In his introduction to the above-mentioned publication (Bruynseels, 1975), J.K. Bruynseels expresses his special gratitude to me for my "multiple advice and help". The author forgets, however, to add that he did not follow my principal advice: to study more material and not to publish his new species *Cymbium caputvelatum.* Although the author asked me to be his mentor, he never submitted any manuscript of his text to me.

After having read Bruynseels's article, I believe it necessary to give some rectification in order to avoid possible confusion caused by this revision.

Having had the opportunity of examining the holotype of *C. caputvelatum* (together with three paratypes and three other specimens), I ascertained that the description of the holotype (p.16:4) is wrong in various respects:

The rounded apex of the spire (called protoconch by Bruynseels) is covered with a thin callus. The shoulder ridge of the spire and body whorl (1.5 whorls) slightly overhangs the apex (as described by Broderip, 1830: 5, fig. 3b, for *C. tritonis*), and is somewhat reflected outwards over half a whorl; over the last half whorl its upper border is

Characters	*Cymbium pepo*	*Cymbium tritonis*	*Cymbium caputvelatum*
Apex of the spire (called protoconch by Bruynseels)	wide, rounded, sunken or ± raised; generally concealed by a heavy callus; sometimes clearly visible, and even in adult shells only concealed by thin callus layers	wide, rounded, sunken or ± raised; concealed by thin callus layers	as in *C. tritonis*
Shoulder ridge of adult body whorl	overhangs the spire and the apex; upper border reflected outwards and more or less upwards	more or less overhangs the spire and the apex; upper border more or less reflected outwards and even upwards (posterior end of the outer lip)	as in *C. tritonis* (but not always upwards)
Excavated channel (called depression by Bruynseels)	generally concealed by a heavy callus, sometimes more or less exposed	narrow to wide; concealed by thin callus layers (heavier callus on the youngest formed part)	as in *C. tritonis*
Parietal callus	orange, yellowish, pink, white	white, ivory, pink	ivory, white, pink, yellowish
Aperture	orange, yellowish, pink, whitish, siphonal notch with or without a brown margin; without an oblique brown band above the siphonal notch	white, whitish, pink; siphonal notch without (sometimes with) a brown margin; without or with an oblique brown band above the siphonal notch	whitish, ivory, pink, yellowish; siphonal notch without a brown margin; with or without an oblique brown band above the siphonal notch
Shape	generally globose, sometimes less globose	less globose, sometimes slender	less globose or slender

damaged. The excavated channel (called depression by Bruynseels) presents thin callus layers and over the youngest 25 mm a distinctly thickened callus. About a quarter of the brownish periostracum is covered by a thin enamel-like callus. The heavy parietal callus is pink-white and yellow. Dimensions of the shell: length—270 mm; width—156 mm.

This description corresponds closely to that of *C. tritonis* (see Broderip, 1830: 5, figs. 3, 3a-b).

Concerning the differential diagnosis given by Bruynseels (p. 15:8, p. 17:8), three remarks can be made: (1) some of the characters mentioned in the table are erroneous; (2) intra-specific variability of these is not considered; (3) the Dutch text does not correspond with the English text regarding the "depression" of *C. caputvelatum*: "niet onder callus" (= not under callus) versus "concealed by callus".

I therefore propose a rectified version of this table based chiefly on the study of 55 specimens from the collections of the Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen. These belong to three forms: *C. pepo* (Lightfoot, 1786), *C. tritonis* (Broderip, 1830) and *C. caputvelatum* (Bruynseels, 1975).

Since, on the basis of the present material, any serious argument for separating *C. tritonis* and *C. caputvelatum* on a specific level is lacking, I consider *C. caputvelatum* Bruynseels, 1975, to be a junior subjective synonym of *C. tritonis* (Broderip, 1830).

According to his letter to me dated 5 November, 1975, J.K. Bruynseels obtained most of his *Cymbium* material from fishermen of different countries. In view of the many taxonomic problems in the genus *Cymbium*, it is regrettable that the author described a new species basing himself only on specimens with vague and doubtful indications of origin and depth.

REFERENCES

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