

Nomenclatural notes, 6<sup>1</sup>  
The generic name *Eulimella* (Gastropoda, Opisthobranchia, Pyramidellidae),  
authorship and type species

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A close scrutiny of the literature has shown that *Eulimella* should be cited as *Eulimella* Forbes & MacAndrew, 1846 [err. typ. *Erimella*], with type species *Eulima macandrei* Forbes, 1844, by original designation.

Key words: Gastropoda, Opisthobranchia, Pyramidellidae, *Eulimella*, nomenclature, Atlantic, Mediterranean.

Recently several annotated lists of marine Mollusca of W. European countries or the Mediterranean have been published (e.g. Janssen, 1975; Piani, 1980; Bruschi, 1985; Bäckeljau, 1986; Hoisaeter, 1986). Hoisaeter's list (1986: 98) contains the statement "genus *Eulimella* Jeffreys, 1847, type: *Eulimella gracilis* Jeffreys, but see Abbott (1974)." The reference to Abbott (1974: 291) reads "*Eulimella* Jeffreys, 1847. Type: *crassula* Forbes, 1843" with reference to Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. 19: 311, which is Jeffreys' 1847 paper. These citations caused some concern, because most hand-books and other easily available literature mention *Eulimella* Forbes, 1846, with type *Eulimella scillae* (Scacchi, 1835). As the species *Eulimella gracilis* Jeffreys, 1847, cannot be recognized with certainty from the original description and because no type specimen(s) have been found by Warén (1980: 38), the case is of interest.

In the following table a representative set of authors from Bucquoy, Dautzenberg & Dollfus (= BDD) onwards is given, together with the cited authorship for *Eulimella* as well as the cited type.

1883 BDD: 186	Forbes, 1846	<i>Eulimella scillae</i> Scacchi sp.
1884 Monterosato: 98	Forbes	<i>Turritella pyramidata</i> Desh., 1832 = <i>Melania scillae</i> Sc., 1836
1885 Fischer: 789	Forbes, 1846	<i>E. Scillae</i> Scacchi
1886 Tryon: 319, 339	Forbes, 1846	no type mentioned
1892 Sacco: 50	Forbes, 1846	no type mentioned
1903 Kobelt: 161	Forbes, 1846	no type mentioned, but cites Forbes' 1844 description of <i>Eulima macandrei</i>
1904 Dall & Bartsch: 5	Forbes, 1846	<i>Eulimella crassula</i> Forbes = <i>E. scillae</i> Scacchi

<sup>1</sup> 5: *Trivia pullicina* Locard, 1892: the name to be used for *Trivia pulex* (Gray, 1827) because of primary homonymy. - Basteria 51: 151-152, 1987.

1909 Dall & Bartsch: 10	Forbes, 1846	do., but citing Ann.Mag.nat. Hist. 14 (1846) p. 412
1921 Cossmann: 300, 301	Forbes, 1846	<i>Turbonilla scillai</i> Scacchi
1929 Thiele: 236	(Forbes) Gray, 1847	<i>E. (s.s.) scillae</i> Scacchi
1932 Winckworth: 226	Jeffreys, 1847	<i>E. gracilis</i> Jeffreys
1938 Laws: 52	Jeffreys, 1847	<i>E. macandrewi</i> Forbes
1940 Wenz: 864	Gray, 1847	<i>E. scillae</i> (Scacchi) [ <i>Turbonilla</i> ]
1955 Bartsch: 13	Forbes, 1846	<i>Eulimella crassula</i> Forbes = <i>E. scillae</i> Scacchi
1972 Nordsieck: 118	Gray, 1847	<i>scillae</i> (Scacchi)
1974 Abbott: 291	Jeffreys, 1847	<i>crassula</i> Forbes, 1843
1980 Piani: 164	Gray, 1847	<i>E. (E.) scillae</i> (Scacchi, 1835)
1985 Bruschi et al.: 37	Gray, 1847	<i>E. (E.) scillae</i> (Scacchi, 1835)

N.B.: Not one of these authors cites an article by Forbes from 1846 in which year *Eulimella* allegedly has been published.

From this bewildering list it is difficult to come to any conclusion. Already in 1910 a discussion of the problem was given by Iredale (1910: 52, 53) who concluded that the genus *Eulimella* should be ascribed to Jeffreys, 1847, although the name probably had been suggested, but not published, by Forbes. The genus *Eulimella* Gray, 1847, with type species *Melania scillae* was published later in the same year, see Gray (1847: 160). Iredale does not, however, cite a type for *Eulimella* Jeffreys, 1847. In Jeffreys' publication (1847: 311) two species are cited to belong to *Eulimella*, viz. *Eulima crassula* Jeffreys, 1839, which is a nomen nudum, with its synonym *Eulima macandrei* Forbes, 1844, and a new species *Eulimella gracilis*.

Although it is almost universally accepted that *Eulima macandrei* Forbes, 1844, is synonymous with *Melania scillae* Scacchi, 1835, the last taxon in itself cannot be accepted as type for the genus *Eulimella* Jeffreys, 1847, as the species *scillae* was not originally included in this genus. For this reason the entry of Herrmannsen (1852: 52) cannot be regarded as a type designation, even apart from the errors contained in it. Most unfortunately it seems therefore that Winckworth (1932: 226) was the first to make a valid type designation by taking *Eulimella gracilis* Jeffreys, 1847, as the type of the genus *Eulimella* Jeffreys, 1847. This is contrary to the stability of nomenclature and should be strongly discouraged.

A further search through the literature revealed that both Schulze et al. (1929: 1235) and Neave (1939: 331) cite "*Eulimella* (pro *Erilimella* Forbes & McAndrew, 1846) Jeffreys, 1847, Ann.Mag.nat.Hist. 19, 311".

Forbes & MacAndrew (1846: 1027) first described the results of some dredgings around the northwest of Scotland where "*Eulima M'Andrei*" was found and a little further one reads that "They procured two, if not three, new species of *Chemnitzia*, a new form of *Erilimella* (the proposed genus of which *E.M'Andrei* is the type), several...". As there are other printing errors in this paper and in view of the use of *Eulimella* by Forbes himself in Forbes & Hanley (1850: 308), I disagree with Schulze et al. and with Neave, and I propose that *Erilimella* should be regarded as a printing error for *Eulimella* rather than the other way round. This is all the more likely if one considers the fact that *Eulimella* is apparently derived from *Eulima*, the genus in which the type species,

*macandrei*, was originally placed. Moreover, not a single author has used the name *Erimella* after Forbes & MacAndrew (1846), as cited above. Also significant is the fact that all older authors cite the genus *Eulimella* as of Forbes, 1846.

The genus should therefore be cited as *Eulimella* Forbes & MacAndrew, 1846 [by err. typ. *Erimella*], with type species *Eulima macandrei* Forbes, 1844, by original designation.

As regards the synonymy of the Recent *Eulimella macandrei* (Forbes, 1844) and the fossil *Eulimella scillae* (Scacchi, 1835), I have no opinion, but I am inclined to follow the majority of authors in regarding both species to be identical. It is the Recent species, however, which is the type of the genus.

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