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Cretan subspecies of
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Type material of Drouët's molluscan taxa described from French Guiana and Martinique

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Type material of taxa described by Henri Drouët in 1859 from French Guiana and Martinique has never been located. Correspondence between Drouët and Crosse reveals that this material came into the possession of Crosse in 1883. After his death in 1898 his collection was auctioned and this type material has been dispersed to unknown collections.

Key words: Gastropoda, history, historical collections, French Guiana, Martinique.

INTRODUCTION

Henri Drouët (1829–1900) was a French amateur malacologist who worked as a civil servant at different places in France and Algeria before settling after his retirement in Dijon. He was in close contact with Arthur Morelet with whom he visited the Azores in 1857. They published jointly on the snail fauna collected there, but Drouët is mainly known as a specialist in freshwater species, especially the Unionidae (Dautzenberg 1901). One of his lesser known publications appeared in 1859, entitled 'Essai sur les mollusques terrestres et fluviatiles de la Guyane Française'. The table of contents showed that, despite the title, in an appendix also molluscs from the Lesser Antillean island of Martinique were listed. The material that Drouët treated in his 'Essai' had been collected by his good friend Charles Eyriès, who was a

lieutenant in the French Army and stayed from 1852–1856 in French Guiana; he was also for a short time on Martinique. Drouët further included in his publication shells received from J.P.S. de Grateloup, who had been for a while in French Guiana, and from J.C.A. Eudes Deslongchamps some material collected by the navy surgeon Déplanche. In total Drouët treated 48 terrestrial and 21 freshwater species from French Guiana, 10 of which new to science, viz. *Succinea propinqua*, *Streptaxis deplanchei*, *Bulimus rufolineatus*, *B. orthodoxus*, *B. eyriesii*, *B. limpidus*, *Pupa eyriesii*, *Helicina sericea*, *Planorbis xerampelinus*, and *Ampullaria welwitschiana*. In the recent book on French Guianan molluscs by Massemin et al. (2009), all are accepted as valid species, except for *Bulimus orthodoxus*, *Planorbis xerampelinus* and *Ampullaria welwitschiana*. In the list of species from Martinique five new taxa were described, viz. *Cyclophorus liratus*, *C. acutiliratus*, *C. cinereus*, *Helicina pudica*, and *Ancylus parasitans*. In the recent book of Delannoye et al. (2015), none of these are accepted as valid species. Two taxa are mentioned as nomina inquirenda: *Cyclophorus cinereus* and *Helicina pudica*, but by lack of known type material these could not be identified by the authors with modern material. This highlights the search for the Drouët collection, of which the location has been unknown for many years. The Drouët collection is not listed in the guide to collections which gives the present locations for shell collections of scientific importance (Dance, 1966: 275–305). While working on a revision of Caribbean *Bulimulus* species during the beginning of the 1970s,

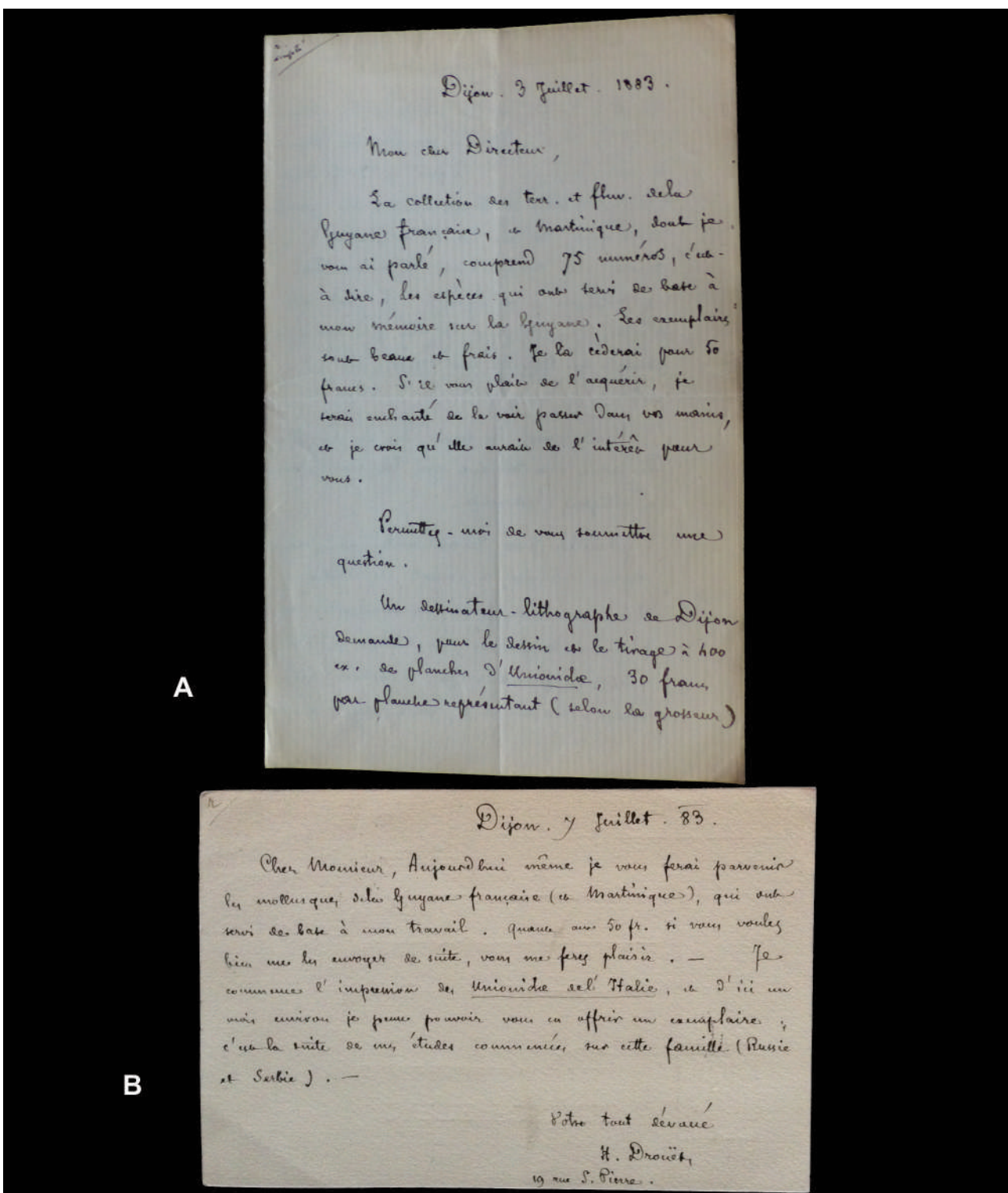


Fig. 1. A. Excerpt of a letter from H. Drouët to H. Crosse, 3 July 1883 (21 x 13.2 cm). B. Postcard from Drouët to Crosse, 7 July 1883 (14 x 9.2 cm).

the first author tried to find the type material of Drouët during a visit to the museum in Dijon, the place where Drouët died. However, he could not find any material that belonged to the Drouët collection. Recently Audibert (2010) located the marine material of Drouët in the collection of the Université de Bour-

gogne, and part of the terrestrial and fluviatile material turned up in the paleontological collection of E. Marion that is kept in the Dijon museum (Audibert, 2011). No trace, however, of the material from French Guiana and Martinique.

While studying the correspondence of the *Journal de Conchyliologie*, in the possession of the second author, we came across two letters from Drouët to Hippolyte Crosse. The first is of July 3rd 1883, in which he offered him the shells used for his 1859 publication for the price of 50 francs. In the left-upper corner of the letter, Crosse wrote "accepté" (Fig. 1A). On a card dated July 7th, Drouët informed him that he had shipped these shells (Fig. 1B). We may safely assume that these shells have been integrated in the private collection of Crosse. After Crosse's death in 1898, his private collection and library were auctioned by Deyrolle in Paris on 28–30 November 1899 (Deyrolle, 1899). The lot descriptions are, as usual, very superficial, and the Drouët material is not recognizable among them. But no doubt, the material originating from Eyriès was dispersed among unknown buyers and has ended up in several unknown collections. Therefore, the type specimens of the Drouët taxa mentioned above should be considered lost.

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