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Type specimens of Fusininae (p.57)

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Notes on the systematics, morphology and biostratigraphy of holoplanktic Mollusca, 25[1]. Once more: the correct name for the type species of the genus *Creseis* Rang, 1828 (Pteropoda, Euthecosomata, Creseidae)

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'It is better to destroy one's own errors than those of others'
Democritus

Two simultaneously introduced pteropod taxa, *Creseis clava* Rang, 1828 and *C. acicula* Rang, 1828 are considered synonyms. The latter is the type species of the genus *Creseis*. Contrary to Janssen (2007) the ICZN Code offers no formal basis for the priority of the name *Creseis clava*, but rules that the choice of the First Reviser has to be followed. D'Orbigny (1834) considered both taxa synonyms and chose *Creseis acicula,* which consequently is the valid name of the species.

Key words: *Creseis acicula, Creseis clava,* synonymy, First Reviser.

Case history

The name *Creseis* Rang, 1828, was proposed as a subgenus of *Cleodora* Péron & Lesueur, 1810, and is currently considered an independent genus. The pteropod species *Creseis clava* Rang, 1828 and *C. acicula* Rang, 1828, both introduced by Rang in the same 1828 paper under the genus name *Creseis* but not *Cleodora* (see page 309), were considered synonyms by most subsequent authors. The type species of the genus *Creseis* is *C. acicula,* by subsequent designation of Pelseneer (1888: 45). Some workers, however, like Tesch (1913) or van der Spoel (1967), found sufficient characteristics in the descriptions and illustrations of Rang to maintain these nominal taxa as different, either as subspecies or as formae. Still, the features they applied to distinguish the two are merely intraspecific variability. As demonstrated by the lectotypes (designated by van der Spoel, 1976: 189; subsequently illustrated by Janssen, 2007: 69, fig. 7) and by collected specimens, the two names should be considered synonyms. Most workers have accepted *Creseis acicula* Rang, 1828 as the valid name of the type species of *Creseis*, but Rang's text suggests that he perceived it as being possibly a variety of *C. clava* Rang, 1828.

Rang described the shell of these two taxa as follows, in the genus *Creseis*:
Creseis clava, Rang (1828: 317, pl. 17 fig. 5): *Coquille peu transparente hors de l'eau, fort allongée, quelquefois irrégulièrement flexueuse, aiguë postérieurement, à ouverture petite et ronde, et à surface unie. Longueur 0,022'* [Shell little transparent when out of the water, strongly elongated, sometimes irregularly flexuous, posteriorly acuminated, with a small, round aperture and a smooth surface].
Creseis acicula, Rang (1828: 318, pl. 17 fig. 6): *Coquille plus transparente en forme d'aiguille, plus grêle à propor-*

[1] For nr 24 in this series see Basteria 80 (1-3): 59-63 (2016).

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tion que la précédente, toujours flexueuse, à ouverture très-petite, à surface unie. Longueur 0,012' [Shell more transparent and needle-shaped, of more slender proportions than the foregoing, always flexuous, with a very small aperture, surface smooth. Length 0.012].

To his description of *Creseis acicula*, Rang (1828: 318) added: '*Je ne pense pas que cette espèce soit un jeune individu de la précédente, elle en serait plutôt une variété*' [I do not think that this species is a juvenile of the foregoing one [= *C. clava* AWJ], it more likely is a variety].

Janssen (2007), in a paper on Pliocene holoplanktic molluscs of the Philippines, decided that the correct name for the type species of the genus *Creseis* is *Creseis clava* Rang, 1828, rather than *C. acicula* Rang, 1828, as it had been accepted by most authors before 2007. This opinion was based on the page priority of *C. clava*, on a comparison of the lectotypes, and, especially, on Rang's admittedly rather ambiguous taxonomic treatment.

Although there can be no doubt that Rang introduced two separate taxa of the species group, his text on *Creseis acicula* explains that he himself did not believe that *C. acicula* is a juvenile of *C. clava*, but that it more likely is a variety of that species. Janssen (2007) interpreted that as the introduction of the species *C. clava* and its variety *acicula*, and concluded on the priority of the name *C. clava*. This concept was subsequently followed by several authors and was (and still is) also recorded in WoRMS.

However, Rampal, (2017: 23, online paper), rejected *C. clava* as the correct name, declared my 2007 decision invalid, and in later discussions insisted on *C. acicula* to be the correct name and *C. clava* to be a nomen oblitum, basing her opinion on the choice of the First Reviser, Souleyet (in Rang & Souleyet, 1852). *Creseis clava*, however, cannot be considered a nomen oblitum, as it has been used as a valid taxon repeatedly after 1899 (ICZN Art. 29.9.1.1).

Recent discussions

Having read Rampal's (2017) opinion, I had again explained my 2007 decision in a small manuscript (AWJ, unpublished), admitting that 'page priority' is not a valid reason, but applying ICZN (1999) art. 24.1 ('Automatic determination of precedence of names') and I invited Rebeca Gasca to be co-author, as we had earlier published a joint paper on the Creseidae (Gasca & Janssen, 2013). She wisely sent that manuscript to an ICZN commissioner (Mark J. Grygier) for his opinion. His view was straight to the point: there is no valid reason in the Code for the priority of *C. clava*, but he also suggested to ask other ICZN commissioners for their opinion, admitting that Rang's text is ambiguous. Thereafter I asked the same question to (former) commissioners Philippe Bouchet and Jan van Tol, who both agreed with Mark Grygier that there is no formal basis for the priority of *C. clava*.

Given the fact that Rang definitely had simultaneously introduced two taxa of the species group, that these are considered synonyms 'by all authors', it is the choice of the First Reviser (ICZN, 1999, art. 24.2) that has to be followed. It was found that Souleyet (in Rang & Souleyet, 1852) was not First Reviser, but that there are two earlier authors to be considered, namely Cantraine (1840: 32) and d'Orbigny (1834: 123). Cantraine chose *C. clava* as the valid name, but d'Orbigny, although changing the name *acicula* to *aciculata*, took that name as valid. This change of the name, however, is just an incorrect subsequent spelling, with no status in nomenclature, not a reason to reject d'Orbigny as First Reviser. ICZN Art. 23.3.7. states that "An available name valid according to the Principle of Priority is not to be rejected, even by its author(s), for a reason such as (...) incorrect spelling (such a name remains valid, but in its correct form)".

Conclusion

It has to be accepted that formally the correct name for the *Creseis* type species is *Creseis acicula*, and not *C. clava*, although I still feel that this is against the original meaning of Sander Rang. However, ICZN ruling is decisive here.

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