

What is *Zonites micula* Mousson?

by

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There seems to be some misunderstanding on the conception of Mousson's species *Zonites micula* (Journ. de Conch., vol. 6, p. 158, 1857) from Bali, collected by Zollinger in 1856.

In 1867 Martens (Ostas. Landschn., p. 258) mentioned the species, verbally quoting Mousson's diagnosis, and recording specimens from Buitenzorg, West Java, collected by Teysmann (see also Zollinger in: Natuurk. Tijdschr. Ned. Ind., vol. 18, p. 424, 1859).

In 1914 Leschke placed it in the genus *Sitala* (Mitt. naturh. Mus. Hamburg, vol. 31, p. 229) and I followed him in 1929 in this respect (Van Benthem Jutting, Treubia, vol. 11, p. 78).

A few years later (1931, Zool. Jahrb. (Syst.), vol. 61, p. 70) Rensch, when describing an immature *Durgellina* from Bali and Flores added: „Ich möchte annehmen, dass es sich hier um eine „*Zonites micula*“ Mousson handelt... Allerdings stimmt dazu die Angabe „apertura rotundato semilunaris“ nicht“. (I am inclined to suppose that we have to do here with „*Zonites micula*“ Mousson, although the indication „apertura rotundato semilunaris“ does not agree).

For my revision of the non-marine Mollusca of Java I had to treat this problematical species also.

The only way of forming a definite opinion was to study Mousson's original lot. By the courtesy of the authorities of the Zoological Museum of the University of Zürich I received on loan Mousson's 5 specimens from Bali. They proved to be the same species as Möllendorff in 1897 described from Java under the name *Kaliella ambliata* (Nachr. Blatt, vol. 29, p. 60) or *Liardetia ambliata* (Möllendorff) (Van Benthem Jutting, Treubia, vol. 21, 1950).

If the specimens from Buitenzorg, mentioned by Von Martens (l.c.) are identical with Mousson's shells — a fact which I cannot check because I have not seen Martens' material, nor do I know where it is housed (not in the Berlin Museum or in the Leiden Museum) — then the Buitenzorg shells collected by Teysmann equally belong to *Liardetia ambliata*.

At any rate *Zonites micula* is not identical with the shells which Rensch (l.c.) associated with it and which he figured on pl. 3, fig. 39.

Summarizing it can be stated that *Zonites micula* Mousson, 1857, and *Kaliella ambliata* Möllendorff, 1897, are synonymous and that for the sake of priority the species ought to bear the first specific name. On account of modern research it must be placed in the genus *Liardetia*, the full name now being *Liardetia micula* (Mousson, 1857).