

Notes on Loricata
10. On the European Callochiton species

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There is only one species of *Callochiton* living in European seas. For many years it was generally called *Chiton laevis* Montagu (1803:2), until R. Winckworth (1932:218) restored the younger name *Callochiton achatinus* (Brown) (1823:402; 1827: pl. 35 figs. 4, 12, 13, 15), considering that Montagu's *Chiton laevis* was not the *C. laevis* of Pennant, 1777, which is probably conspecific with *Chiton ruber* Linnaeus, 1767, now *Tonicella rubra* (L.).

The name *laevis* thus being unavailable, the oldest available name is *Chiton septemvalvis* Montagu (1803:3), which was renamed *C. discors* by Maton & Rackett (1807:20): "A new and rare species discovered in Salcombe Bay, Devon, by Mr. Montagu, by whom it is described under the trivial name of *septemvalvis*, which appeared to us objectionable, as it conveys an idea that no other species of this genus has that number of valves". Obviously Maton & Rackett like Montagu took for granted that the species was normally seven-valved, just as *Chiton crinitus* Pennant, 1777.

Chiton septemvalvis Montagu, 1803, is the oldest available and thus the valid name for the species. *C. discors* Maton & Rackett, 1807, is a junior objective synonym having the same type specimen. *C. achatinus* Brown, 1823, *Lepidopleurus punctulatus* Leach, 1852, and ?*C. cranchianus* Leach, 1852, are junior synonyms.

Callochiton septemvalvis occurs in the Eastern Atlantic from Bodö, Norway, to Gibraltar, Spain, always solitary, rather uncommon in the tidal zone. In the Mediterranean it is represented by a form characterized by a few short longitudinal grooves on the pleural sides of the central areas of the intermediate valves. I never saw entirely smooth Mediterranean specimens, nor did I ever observe Atlantic specimens with longitudinal grooves on the central areas. The Mediterranean form was called *Chiton doriae* by Capellini (1859:325), but this name is a junior synonym of *Chiton euplaea* O.G. Costa (1829:V), the diagnosis of which reads: "Ch. octoclypeolatum fusco-testaceum subovalis, anterius angustatum; clypeolus omnibus laevibus, ligamento eleganter imbricato squamulis oblongis aurantius." (spacing by me!). And further: "...Lo scudetto che corrisponde al capo, essendo più piccolo di quello che spetta alla coda, e gli altri successivamente dilatandosi fino al 4 e 5 medio, gli conciliano una forma quasi cordata..."

From this it is quite clear that *Chiton euplaeae* is conspecific with *Chiton doriae* Capellini. So the Mediterranean form is to be called *Callochiton septemvalvis euplaeae* (O.G. Costa, 1829), whereas the smooth Atlantic form ought to be referred to as *Callochiton septemvalvis septemvalvis* (Montagu, 1803). The variety *navicula* Jeffreys (1865:227) is merely a small, narrow, higher elevated form, which has no taxonomic significance. *Chiton scytodesma* Scacchi (1836:9), a *nomen inquirendum*, is possibly another synonym of *Callochiton septemvalvis euplaeae*.

What *Callochiton achatinus euboecus* Kattoulas, Koukouras & Economides, 1973, is like, I still cannot decide as in spite of my efforts I have not been able to obtain the paper in which it was published.

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NOTE ADDED AFTER CORRECTION. The paper by Kattoulas et al., 1973, has been recently received and it appears that *Callochiton achatinus euboecus* is a synonym of *C. septemvalvis euplaeae*. The name of the third author should read Economidis and the paper should be correctly cited as: Sci. Ann. Fac. phys. math. Univ. Tessaloniki 13: 17-28.

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SAMENVATTING

Aangetoond wordt dat de Europese *Callochiton*-vormen tot dusverre ten onrechte met de namen *C. achatinus achatinus* (Brown, 1823) en *C. achatinus doriae* (Capellini, 1859) werden aangeduid, respectievelijk voor de Atlantische vorm met geheel gladde schelpstukjes en voor de vorm uit de Middellandse Zee met korte longitudinale groefjes op de zijden van de centrale velden der tussenplaten. Voor beide ondersoorten geldt dat er een oudere geldige naam bestaat, die dus prioriteit verdient. De Atlantische vorm moet derhalve *Callochiton septemvalvis septemvalvis* (Montagu, 1803) heten en die uit de Middellandse Zee *C. septemvalvis euplaeae* (O.G. Costa, 1829).