

On the identity of *Helix montiscarmeli* Tristram, 1884

Henk K. MIEIJS

Zoological Museum, Mollusc Collection,
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

In his report on the terrestrial and fluviatile Mollusca of Palestine Tristram (1865: 532) described an alleged new species from Mount Carmel as *Helix carmelita*. He did not figure it and its true identity remained rather doubtful (Germain, 1921: 155). Recently Forcart (1976: 78) pointed out correctly that Tristram's taxon is a junior synonym of *Monacha (Monacha) crispulata* (Mousson, 1861).

Forcart (1976: 78) also pointed out that *Helix carmelita* Tristram, 1865, is in fact a junior homonym of *Helix (Helicigona) carmelita* Férussac, 1821 = *Pleurodonte carmelita* (Férussac, 1821). Most probably Tristram was already aware of this homonymy because in his "Survey of Western Palestine" he did not mention a *Helix carmelita*, but instead of that he (Tristram, 1884: 182) gave the following entry under number 25:

"25. *Helix montis-carmeli*. Tristram. P.Z.S., 1865, p. 532.

Diam. maj. 8, min. 7, alt. 4 mill.

Two adult and several young specimens of this very distinct and pretty little shell were collected by us on Mount Carmel. It seems to bear no affinity of any other species in the country but it is somewhat like *H. partita*, Pfr., from Ceylon, which, however, is umbilicated."

Although Tristram did not refer explicitly to *Helix carmelita*, the text is an exact copy of the major part of the original description of *H. carmelita*. *Helix montiscarmeli* Tristram, 1884 has therefore to be considered an objective junior synonym of *Helix carmelita* Tristram, 1865, and consequently a subjective junior synonym of *Monacha (Monacha) crispulata* (Mousson, 1861).

REFERENCES

- FORCART, L., 1976. *Monacha (Monacha) crispulata* (Mousson, 1861) und *Monacha (Monacha) merssinae* (Mousson, 1874). — *Basteria* 40: 77-83.
- GERMAIN, L., 1921. Mollusques terrestres et fluviatiles de Syrie. I. Introduction et Gastéropodes. Voyage Henri Gadeau de Kerville en Syrie (Avril-Juin 1908) 2: 5-523. Paris.
- TRISTRAM, H.B., 1865. Report on the terrestrial and fluviatile mollusca of Palestine. — *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1865: 530-545.
- , 1884. The survey of Western Palestine. The fauna and flora of Palestine: V-XXII, 1-455. London.

SAMENVATTING

Helix montiscarmeli Tristram, 1884, kan opgevat worden als een nieuwe naam voor *Helix carmelita* Tristram, 1865 (niet Férussac, 1821). Beide namen horen in de synonymie van *Monacha (M.) crispulata* (Mousson, 1861).