

**On the status of *Heteroruga* Coen, 1925 (Bivalvia: Donacidae)**

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*Heteroruga* Coen, 1925 (Bivalvia: Donacidae), type species *Donax exaratus* Krauss, 1848, is a junior synonym of *Grammatodonax* Dall, 1900.

Key words: Bivalvia, Donacidae, synonymy, South Africa.

In 1925 Coen (1925: 45) introduced a new subgenus, *Heteroruga*, for *Donax exaratus* Krauss, 1848. Although his paper is listed in the Zoological Record (Mollusca) for the year 1926 (Preston, 1927), the sub-generic name is not mentioned in the systematic part. This is probably the reason why it has been overlooked by Thiele (1934) and more recently also by both Vokes (1980) and Vaught (1989).

*Donax exaratus*, a junior synonym of *Donax madagascariensis* Wood, 1828 (fide Barnard, 1974: 774), is a South African species characterized by a sculpture consisting of numerous raised oblique ridges. *D. madagascariensis* is the type species of *Grammatodonax* Dall, 1900. Therefore, *Heteroruga* Coen, 1925, has to be considered a junior synonym of *Grammatodonax*.

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