

# *Balea lucifuga* Gray, 1824, versus *Balea heydeni* Von Maltzan, 1881

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By designating a neotype for *Balea lucifuga* Gray, 1824, this nominal taxon is secured as a junior synonym of *Balea perversa* L., 1758, in conformity with Gray's original listing, and not a senior synonym of *Balea heydeni* Von Maltzan, 1881.

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Promoting stability is mentioned as its main object in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999: 2). To ensure the availability of the name *Balea heydeni* Von Maltzan, 1881, some nomenclatorial action seems to be advisable. The name was frequently used within a short period after Gittenberger et al. (2006) redescribed this common species, which is known now from the Azores and W. Europe.

Gray (1824: 61) published the name *Balea lucifuga* as a junior synonym for *Pupa fragilis* Draparnaud, 1801, which is the species now known as *Balea perversa* Linnaeus, 1758. By using *Balaea* [= *Balea*, see ICZN Art. 58.1] *lucifuga* for a species, Bourguignat (1857: 557) made that name available with Gray (1824) as its author (ICZN Art. 11.6.1). However, *Balaea lucifuga* sensu Bourguignat, 1857, most probably refers to a species which remained overlooked for a long time, to be re-established by Gittenberger et al. (2006) as *Balea heydeni*. Within a short period the latter name became well-known, whereas the former has not been used for about 150 years. To avoid confusion about the status of *Balea lucifuga*, this nominal taxon should be defined by a name-bearing type.

According to ICZN Article 72.4.3., "The type series of a nominal species-group taxon of which the name was first published as a junior synonym, but was made available before 1961 under the

provisions of Article 11.6, consists of the specimen (or specimens) cited with that name in the published synonymy, or, if none was cited there, denoted by that name when it was adopted as the name of a taxon." Obviously, "none was cited" is not applicable, since Gray (1824: 61) referred to one or more specimens as follows: "Great Britain, Mus. Brit. Sowerby". In the accompanying description of the shell "a small pleatlike tooth near the middle" is mentioned, what points to *Balea perversa*.

In the molluscan collection of the Natural History Museum, London, material from Sowerby labelled either *Balea perversa*, or *Balea fragilis*, or *Balea lucifuga*, was not found and may be considered lost (Jonathan Ablett, London, personal communication 2009). The ICZN does not clearly deal with this situation, but selecting a neotype may be considered the preferential option whenever a syntype is not available anymore. For that purpose, the shell of *Balea perversa* figured by Gittenberger et al. (2006: 147, fig. 2) from U.K., England, Cumbria, Shap Abbey c. 1 km W of Shap, A.D.J. Meeuse leg. 21.viii.1965 (RMNH MOL. 126874) is designated here as neotype for *Balea lucifuga* Gray, 1824.

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