

The second edition of Schütt's book (1996; "Landschnecken der Türkei"): a declaration from the "Arbeitsgruppe Türkische Binnenmollusken"

Dr. Ruud A. Bank (Hoofddorp)
 Ing. Karl-Heinz Beckmann (Ascheberg-Herbern)
 Gerhard & Margrit Falkner (Hörlkofen)
 Prof. Dr. Edmund Gittenberger (Leiden)
 Dr. Bernhard Hausdorf (Hamburg)
 Wim J.M. Maassen (Duivendrecht)

Ir. Henk P.M.G. Menkhorst (Krimpen aan de IJssel) Dipl.-
 Dr. Eike Neubert (Frankfurt am Main)
 Hans-Jörg Niederhöfer (Stuttgart), OstR.
 Hartmut Nordsieck (Villingen-Schwenningen)
 Dr. Wolfgang Rähle (Tübingen)
 Peter Subai (Aachen)

In the middle of November 1996, Dr. H. Schütt published a second edition of his book on Turkish landsnails. Since this book contains obvious plagiarisms as well as violations with respect to the copyright, the "Arbeitsgruppe Türkische Binnenmollusken" (ATB) have decided to inform the scientific community with regard to the actions of Dr. Schütt.

For the last 6-8 years, several malacologists have collected and studied large amounts of continental molluscs in Turkey. Although this was known by Dr. Schütt, he never informed the scientists involved in these studies that he was preparing a book on Turkish landsnails. Therefore, the publication of his work (March 1993) was a surprise to the malacologists working in this field. Although they were happy that, because of this book, an interesting field had been widely disclosed now for a large audience, the feeling was ambivalent since unpublished information had been used without consent (e.g. with respect to *Orculidae* -see Arch. Moll., 125 (1996): 38, footnote). In addition, Dr. Schütt, who undoubtedly is aware of the existence of an International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), accidentally(?) made the manuscript name *Schileykula inversa* available, which had been confidentially communicated to him by Hausdorf. Furthermore, he described a new *Pagodulina* on the basis of a single shell, although he had been informed that another malacologist was preparing a revision of that genus on the basis of much more extensive material. According to the Code of Ethics of the ICZN, "a zoologist should not himself establish a new taxon if he has reason to believe that another zoologist has already recognized the same taxon and is on the point of establishing it". Clearly, Dr. Schütt's action was not in accordance with this Code of Ethics.

It turned out that the 1993 book contained a considerable amount of mistakes as well as omissions. It was felt by a number of people that a new, and above all a critical checklist should be compiled, including a complete bibliography of the Turkish malacofauna. A meeting was initiated and organized by H. Nordsieck under the auspices of the Friedrich-Held-Gesellschaft (FHG) on January 6-8, 1995, in the Löbbecke Museum at Düsseldorf. This international meeting (representations from Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland) was attended by the following malacologists: Bank, Beckmann, G. & M. Falkner, Gittenberger, Hausdorf, Liebegott, Maassen, Meier, Menkhurst, Neubert, Niederhöfer, H. & R. Nordsieck, Rähle, Riedel, Schütt, Subai and Wiktor. At this unique meeting, a very first draft of the checklist was presented by H. Nordsieck; taxonomic/systematic problems were discussed by the participants. During the meeting, a lot of unpublished material was presented in the form of presentations and copies of summaries of unpublished revisions. It turned out, that a number of specialists were in the course of preparing manuscripts concerning the malacofauna of Turkey. There was common consent that the authors should give priority to their manuscripts dealing with Turkey, and to publish them as soon as possible in order to avoid a delay in publication of the checklist. Before the meeting started, it was explicitly stated that "Es besteht kein Anlaß zur Befürchtung, daß bisher unpublizierte Ergebnisse ohne Kennzeichnung des Autors verwertet werden" (statement by the ATB in the invitation letter of 8-XII-1994).

Despite the fact that Dr. Schütt was present at the 1995 meeting (see above), he did not mention that a manuscript, with the description of five new enid species, had been sent to the "Malakologische Abhandlungen staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden" a few days before the meeting started. We learned about this publication only after it had been printed. A second paper by Dr. Schütt, a revision of the genus *Liodmilena* in Turkey, appeared in the journal *Zoology in the Middle East*. Although it was known to the individual members of our working group that a complete revision of the *Buliminidae* is under preparation by one of the ATB participants, the revisor was not informed by Schütt. According to this revisor, four of the five "new" species are synonyms of known species, whereas the only true new species (which was also present in the collections of the other participants) had been assigned by Schütt to a wrong genus.

In November 1995 Bank, Neubert, Niederhöfer and Nordsieck met in Freiburg to discuss the organization of the second meeting of the ATB. The meeting was held, again under the auspices of the FHG, in the "Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde" in Stuttgart (January 5-7, 1996). Participants were: Bank, Beckmann, G & M Falkner, Hausdorf, Liebegott, Menkhurst, Neubert, Niederhöfer, Nordsieck and Rähle. Material concerning Turkish landsnails was sent to us before the start of the meeting by Subai, Welter-Schultes and Wiktor. Although Schütt was again invited, he wrote to us in December 1995 that he was not able to attend. The basis of this meeting was a large manuscript (approx. 100 pages) prepared by Bank on behalf of the participants of ATB. Results of new revisions (*Helix*, *Monacha*, *Buliminidae*), carried out for the checklist, were presented as well. It was agreed that the final preparation should be in the hands of Bank & Neubert, that a new list would be sent to the participants at the end of that year, and that a final version should be published in 1997, preferably before the start of the International Congress on Palaearctic Mollusca 1997 (to be held in Munich, September 1-4, 1997 on behalf of

Unitas Malacologica). The checklist is actually a subproject of the CLECOM project. (CheckList European Continental Molluscs) and will be made accessible on the Internet as well (comparable with the well-known CLEMAM project). The CLECOM project was scheduled as a separate workshop of the above mentioned congress to inform the community and to call for help with new subprojects; it was believed that the approach of the ATB could serve as an example.

From all that has been said above, it is clear that ATB participants communicated in an open way with each other and with other investigators as well. Therefore, it came as a shock in the beginning of December 1996 to learn about the existence of a second edition of Dr. Schütt's book. This book is a highly revised and extended version of the first edition. Although it has been published by a different company, the lay-out is the same. Again, figures were copied on a very large scale without permission of the authors. Without exception, none of us were informed by Schütt in the period 1993-1994-1995-1996 that he was working on a second edition. Although the work of Schütt still contains a lot of errors, many other mistakes have now been corrected and in addition the amount of information has been highly enlarged. We are dealing here with (1) information that was published by individual members to make the ATB checklist possible, (2) information that was collected by us independently (e.g. searching for missing references and citations which apparently Schütt did as well, but without notifying us), and (3) confidential information presented at the Düsseldorf meeting. It is clear that we have fruitlessly spent a lot of time (as well as money, for instance in the organizing of meetings), since it is obvious that the voluminous ATB checklist cannot be published anymore in the intended form, although it has not become completely superfluous.

Apart from the fact that Dr. Schütt never informed the ATB about his intentions, which is in sharp contrast to the open communication between all other members of the ATB, he took over unpublished information with regard to *Metafruticicola* and certain *Eninae* species presented at the Düsseldorf meeting, again without the permission of the individual investigators. We consider both facts as very serious points. Also unacceptable is the fact that in the introduction nothing is said about the existence of an "Arbeitsgruppe Türkische Binnenmollusken". It is also very strange that several persons are acknowledged in the introduction for "konstruktive Beiträge und Kritik zur Gestaltung dieser Ausgabe" (e.g. Bank, Nordsieck, Riedel, Subai) although they had never been contacted by Dr. Schütt.

It is clear to us that Dr. Schütt deliberately did not inform us about his intentions and that he made use of the efforts made by others in 1994-1995-1996 for the ATB solely for his personal profit. In making this declaration we would like to warn the scientific community against the actions of Dr. Schütt. According to the ICZN, "editors and others responsible for the publication of zoological papers should avoid publishing any paper that seems to contain a breach of the ... [Code of Ethics]". We recommend editors not to accept papers by the person under consideration without thoroughly investigating the background of the publication or consulting a specialist in the field.