

## BOOK REVIEW

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FRANCISCO W. WELTER-SCHULTES, 2012. European non-marine molluscs, a guide for species identification, 674 pp; very many photographs and distribution maps. Planet Posters Editions, Göttingen. ISBN-10 3-933922-75-5. Price € 154.

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This book contains an enormous amount of information on the one hand and a comparably large number of shortcomings on the other hand. It is difficult to decide where to start a review and it is impossible to strive for completeness. Welter-Schultes gives his own views, often without a thorough analysis and without much bothering about current views and the main principle of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature: promoting stability in nomenclature. Here we only give three examples of incorrect views in addition to the long lists of more obvious errors that are already available on the internet:

<http://www.planetposter.de/molluscs/eu-molluscs-corrections.htm>

<http://hnords.de/535642a125135e10d/index.html>

Vallot's rare 1801 article is regarded by Welter-Schultes (p. 210) as "not correctly published under Art. 8.1.1 and 8.1.2", despite the fact that it was not only printed but definitely also sent to (at least) various public libraries, for example in Dijon (see Fig. 1) and Lyon (checked by Bank). For additional data on teaching and publishing on natural history by Vallot and others, we refer to Duris (1996). Evidently, we still consider Vallot the legitimate author of *Pyramidula pusilla* and not ourselves.

A more complicated case concerns the well-known generic name *Cylindrus* Fitzinger, 1833 (Helicidae), which is preoccu-

pied by *Cylindrus* Batsch, 1789 (Conidae) and *Cylindrus* Deshayes, 1824 (Conidae) (see Dubois & Bour, 2010: 171-172). However, since *Cylindrus* Batsch has never been used after 1899, this name can be suppressed by Article 23.9. By doing so, it becomes a nomen oblitum. According to the glossary of the Code (p. 111) a nomen oblitum "does not take precedence over a younger synonym or homonym in prevailing usage". The younger synonym is in this case *Cylinder* Montfort, 1810, the younger homonym *Cylindrus* Fitzinger. More problematic is *Cylindrus* Deshayes. This is an unjustified emendation for *Cylinder* Montfort, and thus becomes a junior objective synonym of *Cylinder*. According to Article 33.2.3 *Cylindrus* Deshayes is an available name, and *Cylindrus* Fitzinger is thus preoccupied. However, since *Cylindrus* Deshayes is a synonym of *Cylinder*, we prefer to continue the use of the name *Cylindrus* Fitzinger, as *Cylindrus obtusus* is invariably used for > 150 years. The malacological community has the opportunity (Article 23.9.3) to refer the matter to the Commission for a ruling under the plenary power. While the case is under consideration, the use of the junior name is to be maintained. We should take advantage of Article 23.9.3, because that fits the preamble of the Code (p. 2), namely "The objects of the Code are to promote stability and universality in the scientific names". Welter-Schultes suggestion to use *Cochlopupa* contradicts the Code. Whenever possible, established names should be protected.

*Chondrina gerhardi* Gittenberger, 2002, and *C. falkneri* Gittenberger, 2002, are considered synonyms of *C. ascendens* (Westerlund, 1878) by Welter-Schultes (p. 160), allegedly following Bourguignat 1864, who never ever could give his opinion on these taxa 138 years before they were published. The statement "No difference was given to distinguish the two taxa" is equally surprising, since it suggests that differences in the genital tract of gastropods are considered invalid, at least in this case.

There are very many photographs in this book, most of which are superfluous. Juvenile specimens without any diagnostic characters (e.g. *Pupilla sterrii*), heavily damaged shells (e.g. *Klemmia magnicosta*), dirty specimens (e.g. *Abida pyrenaearia*), were all thrown on a (usually) black back-

ground and higgledy-piggledy photographed. The author should have spent much less time in making such photographs. The spare time could have been used then by cleaning the shells properly and placing them in the right position, so that the diagnostic characters can be seen best.

Subspecies are not recognized, so that polytypic species like e.g. *Clausilia dubia* cannot be recognized. Several species have apparently been overlooked, whereas other ones (e.g. *Scio-cochlea collasi*) are synonymized without much argumentation.

The specialist will certainly use this book again and again, and learn from it, albeit with mixed feelings and repeated annoyance. The less experienced user can easily be lead astray. We hope that this book will not be trend-setting.

#### REFERENCES

- DUBOIS, A. & BOUR, R., 2010. The distinction between family-series and class-series nomina in zoological nomenclature, with emphasis on the nomina created by Batsch (1788, 1789) and on the higher nomenclature of turtles. – Bonn Zoological Bulletin 57 (2):149-171.
- DURIS, P., 1996. L'enseignement de l'histoire naturelle dans les écoles centrales (1795-1802)/The teaching of natural history in the écoles centrales (1795-1802). – Revue d'Histoire des Sciences 49 (1): 23-52.

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H. VALLOT TAP- 6031

ÉCOLE CENTRALE DU DÉPARTEMENT DE LA CÔTE-D'OR.

## EXERCICE SUR L'HISTOIRE NATURELLE.



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( 5 )

10. *H. mignone*. *H. pusilla*. Nob. Coquille globuleuse, légèrement conique, à quatre spires, lèvres sans rebord.
11. *H. chartreuse*. *H. carthusiana*. Mull. Coquille peu élevée à six spires, lèvre épaisse, renflée, réfléchie.
12. *H. velue*. *H. hispida*. Lin. Coquille convexe à cinq spires velues, poils caducs.

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A DIJON DE L'IMPRIMERIE DE L. N. FRANTIN. AN 9.

Fig. 1. Heading (A) of Vallot's "An 9" (1801) article after an original copy in the public library of Dijon, with (B) the description of "*H. pusilla*. Nob.", and (C) the name of the printing firm in Dijon.