

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO GRANT PRECEDENCE TO THE FAMILY-GROUP NAME CUTHONIDAE OVER TERGIPEDIDAE AND TO STABILIZE SOME SPECIFIC NAMES IN THE GENUS KNOWN AS *EUBRANCHUS* FORBES, 1838 (CLASS GASTROPODA). Z.N.(S.) 1044

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the use of the plenary powers to grant precedence to the family name CUTHONIDAE over its senior synonym TERGIPEDIDAE which is based on an atypical genus. The Commission is also asked to use its plenary powers to suppress several *nomina dubia* in order to stabilize a number of specific names in the genus *Eubranchus*.

2. In 1775, Forskål (*Descr. Anim.* : 99) mentioned a new species of marine slugs, *Limax tergipes*, giving as its habitat "in fundo maris ad fretum Oeresund inter fucos". The description and the accompanying figure show beyond doubt that among the relatively few species of Aeolids found in the sound (Oeresund) between Denmark and Sweden, only one comes into consideration as the basis for Forskål's species, viz. the one now generally known as *Tergipes despectus* (*Eolidia despecta* Johnston, 1835, *Mag. nat. Hist.* (Lond.) 8 : 378; erroneously written *Aeolis neglecta* by Lovén, 1846, *Öfvers. K. svensk. Vetensk.-Akad. Förhandl.* 1846 : 7).

3. The generic name *Tergipes* was introduced by Cuvier, 1805 (*Ann. Mus. Hist. nat.*, Paris 6 : 433) based solely on the description given by Forskål, the type being by monotypy *Limax tergipes* Forskål. However, Sherborn and Neave give Risso (1818, *J. Phys.* 87 : 372) as the author. Sherborn states further that, according to Herrmannsen the nudibranch described under the name *Tergipes* by Cuvier is not the same as *Tergipes* Risso, and Cuvier's name is held not to have been properly published. Verifying these statements I found that in the first edition of his *Règne Animal* (1817) Cuvier uses the name in the vernacular form—or at least it is not possible to see whether it is more than the vernacular form. But, in 1805, Cuvier states about *Limax tergipes* Forskål "il faudroit un nouvel examen pour assigner la place de ce singulier et très petite mollusque qui doit probablement faire encore un genre à part, et qu'on pourrait nommer *tergipes*". Further (: 436) he enumerates the valid genera as follows "Les *doris*, les *tritones*, les *glaucus*, les *éolidés*, les *tergipes*, les *cavolines*" this time using the names in their vernacular forms by adding the article "les". The latter citation shows that Cuvier regards the "*tergipes*" as a genus, and the lack of the determinate article in the former place shows that he is giving the latin form of the name. As to Risso, he refers his genus to Cuvier, then adding (: 373) two new species. Such action however cannot be taken as constituting a new genus with only the cited species included. Thus, there is no *Tergipes* Risso, 1818, but only *Tergipes* Cuvier, 1805.

4. No doubt, the type-species—by tautonomy—of Cuvier's genus *Tergipes* is *Limax tergipes* Forskål. This specific name has almost never been used since its original publication (with the exception of Thiele, 1931), the name (*Eolidia*)

despecta Johnston, 1835 being used instead. It is a matter of opinion whether it is better to ask for the use of the plenary powers in order to preserve the specific name *despecta*—disregarding the tautonomy—or to accept the name *Tergipes tergipes* strictly under the Rules. As, however, the species is rather unimportant, and the tautonomy immediately leads any student on the right track, I am of the personal opinion that the change is harmless and the rules should be allowed to govern the case.

5. The genus *Tergipes* Fleming, 1828, is described with only one included species and with a generic diagnosis that does not conform to that of Cuvier's genus, to which no reference is made. Thus, *Tergipes* Fleming is to be taken as a nominal genus with type by monotypy, *Doris maculata* Montagu, 1804. This is the same nominal species as is the type of *Doto* Oken, 1815.¹ *Tergipes* Fleming is therefore invalid both as a junior objective synonym of *Doto* Oken, 1815, and as a junior homonym of *Tergipes* Cuvier, 1805. The name should now be placed on the Official Index.

6. Bergh (in Carus, 1889—*Prodr. Faun. Medit.* 2 : 209) established two subfamilies of aeolids under the names CRATENINAE and TERGIPEDINAE. Thiele (1931—*Handb. Syst. Weichtierk.* 1 : 454), uniting these two family groups, followed the rule of using the oldest generic name as the basis for the family name, thus accepting TERGIPEDIDAE. This action, however, meant that the most aberrant and specialized genus in the whole family was made the type of the group. The viewpoint behind this action has never been accepted by the Commission nor by any Congress. Macnae (1954, *Ann. Natal Mus.* 13 : 3) protested directly against using the family name based on *Tergipes* because this genus "does not, from a taxonomic point of view, occupy a central position in the family". He refers to Odhner, the leading specialist at present in this group, who has continued consistently to call the family CUTHONIDAE because the genus *Cuthona* Alder and Hancock, 1855 (*Mon. brit. Nud. Moll.* App. : xxii) is a typical and centrally placed form. I am myself of the same opinion and, when the name CRATENIDAE is—as I hope—definitely rejected (see application Z.N.(S.) 1105 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 50-51)) I am strongly in favour of placing the name CUTHONIDAE Odhner, 1934 (*Brit. Antarct. (Terra Nova) Exp.*, Nat. Hist. Rept., Zool. 7 : 278) on the Official List with an endorsement that this name is to be given precedence over the family name TERGIPEDIDAE. The family CUTHONIDAE is at present regarded as comprising two subfamilies, the typical CUTHONINAE and the atypical TERGIPEDINAE. Both these names should be allowed to stand. The type-species, by monotypy, of *Cuthona* Alder & Hancock, 1855, is *Eolis nana* Alder & Hancock, 1842 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* 9 : 36).

7. In 1776, Müller (*Zool. dan. Prodr.* : 229) gave the following diagnosis of his species no. 2279 *Doris lacinulata*, "oblonga alba, lobis dorsi ampullaceis". Müller's diagnosis may cover either the species now generally called *Tergipes despectus* (Johnston) or the species *Eolis pallida* Alder & Hancock, 1842, now referred to the genus *Eubranchus*. Müller's diagnosis "lobis dorsi ampullaceis" fits with *pallida* better than with *Tergipes despectus*.

¹ An application to validate the generic name *Doto* Oken, 1815, was approved by the Commission. The decision will be published as Opinion 697.

8. Gmelin (1791, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1 : 3105) gives the name (*Doris lacinulata* with the reference "Forsk. Fn. Arab. p. 99 n. 4 Anim. t. 26 f. 4 *Limax tergipes*. Habitat in fundo maris ad fretum Oeresund inter fucos —" thus repeating the faunistical remarks of Forskål for his *Limax tergipes*. There can be no doubt, therefore, that Gmelin's *lacinulata* is a junior synonym of *tergipes* Forskål, and a junior homonym of *Doris lacinulata* Müller. Again, "*Tergipes lacinulatus* Delle Chiaje" is said by Verany 1854 (*J. Conchyl.* 4 : 385) to be *Doto coronata* Gmelin, 1791, and *Tergipes lacinulatus* Lovén, 1846 (*Öfvers K.svensk. Vetensk.-Akad. Förhandl.* 1846 : 7) is a composite of *Tergipes tergipes* Forskål and one of the brown species of *Eubranchus*, as shown by the drawing published by Odhner (1907 *K.svensk. Vetensk.-Akad. Handl.* 41 (4) : pl. 3, fig. 21).

9. These examples of the confusion attached to the use of the name *lacinulata* in the genera *Tergipes* and *Eubranchus* may suffice to show that it would be most undesirable to revive this name. As, however, it has clear priority over most of the names in common use, it is a potential threat to these and is hereby proposed for suppression under the plenary powers.

10. At the same time, the opportunity should be taken to place on the Official List of Specific Names the oldest names of two of the species to which the name *lacinulata* has been attributed—the small *Eolis exigua* Alder & Hancock, 1848 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (2) 1 : 192) and *Eolis pallida* Alder & Hancock, 1842 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* 9 : 35) which latter name was changed by the same authors to *picta* in 1847 (*Mon. brit. Nud. Moll.* (3), fam. 3, pl. 33) because of its normal colour being brighter reddish than in the specimens used for their first description. The name *picta*, being a junior objective synonym of *pallida* and rejected by most modern authors, should now be placed on the Official Index.

11. *Doris fasciculata* Müller, 1776 (*Zool. dan. Prodr.* : 229) with the diagnosis "oblonga, alba fasciculis marginalibus, fuscis" is a name which must refer to some species of one or other of the genera treated in the present proposals, probably of *Eubranchus*, but which is entirely unrecognizable on the specific level. It appears suitable to suppress this name in order to prevent any confusion arising from the possible application of this name to any of the later described and more well known Aeolidacea from Northern Atlantic seas. The species *fasciculata* Müller is not the same as *Doris fasciculata* Gmelin, 1791 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1 : 3105) which is identical with *Limax marinus* Forskål, 1775 and falls into the synonymy of this older species.

12. *Limax minimus* Forskål, 1775 (*Descr. Anim.* : 100) is a Mediterranean species, the diagnosis and figure of which tell us that its anterior corners of the foot are rounded, the row of the ovate-oblong cerata evenly distributed over the back, with a rather wide open space in the middle of the back, with simple rhinophores, and with well developed anterior tentacles. This description fits in with the genus *Eubranchus*, but the species is unrecognizable, and it seems better to suppress the name in order to avoid the confusion arising if that name should be applied to now one and now another of the well known species of *Eubranchus*.

13. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers:
 - (a) to grant precedence to the family name CUTHONIDAE Odhner, 1934 over the family name TERGIPEDIDAE Bergh, in Carus, 1889;
 - (b) to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:
 - (i) *lacinulata* Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Doris lacinulata*;
 - (ii) *fasciculata* Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Doris fasciculata*;
 - (iii) *minimus* Forskål, 1775, as published in the binomen *Limax minimus*;
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Tergipes* Cuvier, 1805 (gender: masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Limax tergipes* Forskål, 1775;
 - (b) *Cuthona* Alder & Hancock, 1855 (gender: feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Eolis nana* Alder & Hancock, 1842;
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *tergipes* Forskål, 1775, as published in the binomen *Limax tergipes* (type-species of *Tergipes* Cuvier, 1805);
 - (b) *nana* Alder & Hancock, 1842, as published in the binomen *Eolis nana* (type-species of *Cuthona* Alder & Hancock, 1855);
 - (c) *pallida* Alder & Hancock, 1842, as published in the binomen *Eolis pallida*;
 - (d) *exigua* Alder & Hancock, 1848, as published in the binomen *Eolis exigua*;
- (4) to place the generic name *Tergipes* Fleming, 1828, a junior homonym of *Tergipes* Cuvier, 1805, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology;
- (5) to place the following specific names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) the following names suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above:
 - (i) *lacinulata* Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Doris lacinulata*;
 - (ii) *fasciculata* Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Doris fasciculata*;
 - (iii) *minimus* Forskål, 1775, as published in the binomen *Limax minimus*;
 - (b) *neglecta* Lovén, 1846, as published in the binomen *Aeolis neglecta* (an error for *Eolidia despecta* Johnston, 1835);
 - (c) *lacinulata* Gmelin, 1791, as published in the binomen *Doris lacinulata* (a junior homonym of *Doris lacinulata* Müller, 1776);
 - (d) *picta* Alder & Hancock, 1847, as published in the binomen *Eolis picta* (a junior objective synonym of *Eolis pallida* Alder & Hancock 1842);

- (e) *fasciculata* Gmelin, 1791, as published in the binomen *Doris fasciculata* (a junior homonym of *Doris fasciculata* Müller, 1776);
- (6) to place the following family-group names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) CUTHONIDAE Odhner, 1934 (type-genus *Cuthona* Alder & Hancock, 1855) (by direction under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above to be given precedence over the name TERGIPEDIDAE Bergh, in Carus, 1889, by any zoologist who considers *Cuthona* and *Tergipes* to belong to the same family-group taxon);
 - (b) TERGIPEDINAE Bergh, in Carus, 1889 (type-genus *Tergipes* Cuvier, 1805).