

A new species of Miocene terrestrial gastropod *Gastrocopta* from Poland and the validity of “*Pupa (Vertigo) suevica*”

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We describe *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov. from the Miocene brown coal deposits of the open-cast mine Bełchatów (central Poland) and identify it as conspecific with *Pupa (Vertigo) suevica* Sandberger, 1875 (*nomen nudum*) from the Miocene of Steinheim. The new name “*sandbergeri*” has been introduced in substitution because Sandberger’s name “*suevica*” has been later proposed again for a valid species *Gastrocopta (Albinula) suevica* by Boettger (1889). We could not use the name “*minor*” proposed by Miller (1900) as form of *Pupa (Leucochilus) suevica* because it is preoccupied by another *Gastrocopta* species: *Bifidaria ashmuni* f. *minor* Sterki, 1898 [= *Gastrocopta ashmuni* (Sterki, 1898)]. In consequence Sandberger’s *Pupa (Vertigo) suevica* is recognized as the senior synonym of *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov. The new species is most similar to *Gastrocopta nouletiana* (Dupuy, 1850) but differs in having smaller and always slender shell, less convex whorls, much weaker crest on the body whorl (or even absent) and generally rather weakly developed teeth (6–7) in the aperture.

Key words: Gastropoda, Pupilloidea, *Pupa*, *Gastrocopta*, Neogene, Miocene, Bełchatów, Poland.

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Introduction

In Steinheim am Albuch, Sandberger (1875: 654) found a specimen similar but “not identical” (“... ist aber keinesfalls identisch.”) to those he described in the same paper as *Pupa gracilidens* (p. 600) and named it *Pupa (Vertigo) suevica*. Since the new name was accompanied neither by any description nor a figure so according to the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999) it has to be regarded as a *nomen nudum*. However, in some museum collections the name “*Pupa suevica*” (= *Gastrocopta suevica*) is applied to two different forms: one of them representing *Sinalbinula*, the other the *Albinula* group. The name was validated for a species of *Gastrocopta (Albinula)*, contrary to Sandberger’s original concept. Finding a series of specimens in the Miocene (MN5) deposits of Bełchatów (Central Poland), in our opinion conspecific with Sandberger’s “*Pupa (Vertigo) suevica*”, prompted us to discuss the previous opinions on the matter and recognize the latter name as the senior synonym of *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov.

Institutional abbreviations.—IGS, Institute of Geological Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, Kiev, Ukraine; ISEA, Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Cracow, Poland; MNHN, Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, France; MWNH, Museum

Wiesbaden, Germany; SMF, Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt a. M., Germany.

Other abbreviations.—MN, mammal zones; H, height of shell; h, height of aperture; W, width of shell; w, width of aperture.

Historical background

We attempted to locate Sandberger’s type of *Pupa (Vertigo) suevica* and were only partially successful. One specimen labelled “*Pupa suevica*” was traced in Sandberger’s collection at the Museum Wiesbaden by Michael Apel, the curator of the Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlung of the Museum (Fig. 1), but there is no evidence that it is original specimen mentioned by Sandberger (1875: 654).

It is not clear whether the Sandberger’s specimen was examined by Boettger (1877, 1889) who mentioned three specimens of *Pupa suevica* from Steinheim at his disposal. Initially Boettger (1877: 194–195) regarded this nominal taxon as an intermediate one between *Pupa (Leucochila) gracilidens* Sandberger, 1875 and *P. (L.) didymodus* Sandberger, 1858, or even being more similar to *P. (L.) didymodus* and recognized it as a member of *Leucochila* instead of *Vertigo*. Later Boettger (1889: 279) described this nominal taxon and

thus validated it according to ICZN rules, but classified it as one of the varieties of *Leucochilus quadriplicatum* (Braun, 1851). Specimens designated as *Leucochilus quadriplicatum* mut. *suevica* Boettger, 1889 are kept at the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt am Main. In fact, this sample (SMF 152387) contains specimens of two different species, representing two subgenera: *Albinula* (two specimens) and *Sinalbinula* (one specimen) (personal examination of ES, 1994; Manganelli and Giusti 2000).

Miller (1900) examined Sandberger's specimen of *P. suevica* and mentioned that further forty specimens were present in the collection of Naturalien Kabinet (nowadays Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart). The author (Miller 1900: 398–399, pl. 7: 16) supplied the first figure of this species supplemented by detailed description including variation of its apertural barriers and described a new form *Pupa suevica* var. *minor*. According to Michael Rasser (personal communication 2005), the curator of the invertebrate paleontological collections in the Museum, material preserved there possibly belongs to the collection mentioned by Miller (1900), and consists of *P. suevica* var. *minor* specimens only. Later Wenz (1923) proposed the latter taxon to be a synonym of *Pupa suevica* sensu Sandberger (1875). Miller (1900: 399, pl. 7: 17) also examined the specimens of *Pupa* (*L.*) *quadridentata* Klein, 1853 stating that Boettger's *Pupa* (*L.*) *quadriplicatum* mut. *suevica* lies within the variability range of *Pupa* (*L.*) *quadridentata* Klein, 1853 [= *Gastrocopta acuminata* (Klein, 1846)]. Moreover Miller (1900) pointed out that the *P. quadriplicatum* mut. *suevica* of Boettger (1889) is not conspecific with *P. suevica* of Sandberger (1875).

Gottschick and Wenz (1916: 65), disregarded Miller's (1900) paper and interpreted *Leucochilus suevica* sensu Sandberger as a species of the *L. obstructa* (Sandberger, 1874) group. In the subsequent papers Gottschick, Wenz, and Edlauer (Gottschick and Wenz 1919: 13; Wenz and Edlauer 1942: 92) noted that shells of *L. suevica* varied in size and shape, being elongated to a different degree.

Schütt (1967: 208, fig. 13) identified *Gastrocopta suevica* (Sandberger, 1875) as an elongate, turreted shell with a forked parietoangular tooth though it appears to be *G. fissidens* (Sandberger, 1858), and later he repeated this misinterpretation (Schütt, 1985: 190, fig. 1). Papp (1974: 385, pl. 17: 9) followed Schütt (1967), hence his *G. suevica* (Sandberger, 1875) is similar to that recorded by Schütt from Hollabrunn. Schlickum (1979: 408, pl. 23: 5) presented a specimen of *Sinalbinula* from Öcs as *G. suevica* sensu Boettger, 1889, and said it was similar to *G. fissidens infrapontica* Wenz, 1927. Lueger (1981: 27, pl. 2: 23, 24) synonymized *G. suevica* sensu Sandberger with *G. serotina* Ložek, 1964.

Zilch (1984: 159, pl. 1: 2) designated one of the Boettger's specimens of *Albinula* as the lectotype of *G. suevica* (Boettger, 1889) (see Manganelli and Giusti 2000).

Finally, Finger (1998: 19, pl. 8: D–F) quite rightly classified elongate, large specimens (judging from his figures D,

E, F and scale bars H = 2.7, 2.0 and 2.2 mm, respectively) from “der *kleini*-Schichten des Steinheimer Beckens”—type locality of Sandberger's “*Pupa* (*Vertigo*) *suevica*”—under the name *G. suevica* (Sandberger, 1874[sic!]). Finger (1998), like the other authors until review by Manganelli and Giusti (2000), was apparently unaware that *G. suevica* (Sandberger, 1875) is a *nomen nudum* and did not address the problem of its taxonomical status.

In conclusion: the lectotype of *Gastrocopta suevica* designated by Zilch (SMF 152387) is not conspecific with the specimen named by Sandberger (1875: 654) “*Pupa* (*Vertigo*) *suevica*”, and examined by Miller (1900). Boettger (1889: 279) most probably misinterpreted *P. suevica* as a mutation of *Leucochilus quadriplicatum* (Braun, 1851), as argued by Miller (1900), and subsequent authors repeated this mistake. Finally, Manganelli and Giusti (2000: 78, pl. 6: 17) separated from among three Boettger's specimens housed at the Senckenberg Museum (SMF 152387/3) one paralectotype as *Gastrocopta* sp. which in our opinion is conspecific with Sandberger's “*Pupa* (*Vertigo*) *suevica*” as closely corresponding to the specimen from Sandberger's collection (Fig. 1, MWNH-22-2) and description by Miller (1900). Another specimen (MNHN 10815) of “*Pupa suevica*” sensu Sandberger, 1875 from Steinheim was discovered and examined by the senior author at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris), in Cossmann's collection. We failed to find out if that specimen was published or illustrated by Cossmann.

The name *Gastrocopta* (*Albinula*) *suevica* (Boettger, 1889) is supported by a sufficient description to fulfil the requirements of Art. 12 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999), albeit the description concerns a form quite different from “*Pupa suevica*” Sandberger, 1875 *nomen nudum*. In such a situation the Sandberger's “*Pupa suevica*” should obtain a new name. We decided to erect a new species, which in our opinion is conspecific with “*Pupa* (*Vertigo*) *suevica*” sensu Sandberger (1875), basing on the specimens found in the Miocene deposits of Bełchatów (Stworzewicz 1999) as the repository of the Sandberger's type is unknown. The new specimens from Bełchatów are described here as *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov. making Sandberger's “*Pupa* (*Vertigo*) *suevica*” a senior synonym of this new species.

Systematic paleontology

Superfamily Pupilloidea Turton, 1831

Family Chondrinidae Steenberg, 1925

Subfamily Gastrocoptinae Pilsbry, 1916

Genus *Gastrocopta* Wollaston, 1878

Diagnosis (after Pilsbry 1916).—The shell is rimate or perforate, cylindrical or ovate-conic, having angular and parietal lamellae more or less completely united into one biramosely bifid, lobed or sinuous lamella (or rarely the angular lamella

is wanting). Columellar lamella present; palatal folds developed (except in *B. corticaria*). Lip well expanded.

Subgenus *Sinalbinula* Pilsbry, 1916

Diagnosis (after Pilsbry 1916).—Whitish, with plicae on a palatal callus. Parietal lamella straight inside, or curving towards the columella, its anterior end usually free, but sometimes the angular and parietal lamellae are concrescent into a single sinuous lamella. Columellar lamella horizontal, or with the inner end curved downward.

Remarks.—Although the subgeneric division of *Gastrocopta* is questioned by Solem (1988) and Pokryszko (1996), it is currently accepted by most authors (cf. Manganelli and Giusti 2000).

Gastrocopta (Sinalbinula) sandbergeri sp. nov.

Figs. 1, 2A–E.

1875 *Pupa (Vertigo) suevica* sp. nov.; Sandberger 1875: 654 (*nomen nudum*).

1877 *Pupa suevica* Sandberger; Boettger 1877: 194, 195 (*nomen nudum*); non *Leucochilus quadriplicatum* mut. *suevica* Sandberger; Boettger 1889: 279 [= *Gastrocopta suevica* (Boettger, 1889)].

1900 *Pupa (Leucochilus) suevica* Sandberger, 1875; Miller 1900: 398, pl. 7: 16.

1900 *Pupa (Leucochilus) suevica* var. *minor*; Miller 1900: 398.

1919 *Leucochila suevica* (Sandberger, 1875); Gottschick and Wenz 1919: 13, pl. 1: 24–25.

1998 *Gastrocopta suevica* (Sandberger, 1874); Finger 1998: 19, pl. 8: D?, E, F.

1999 *Gastrocopta suevica* (Sandberger, 1875); Stworzewicz 1999: 164, fig. 62.

2000 *Gastrocopta* sp.; Manganelli and Giusti 2000: pl. 6: 17.



Fig. 1. *Pupa suevica* sensu Sandberger (= *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov.) from the Sandberger's collection (MWNH-22-2), Miocene (Astaracian, MN7), Steinheim. Photograph by Fritz Geller-Grimm.

Type material: Holotype: ISEA MI/1033/98a and 19 paratypes ISEA MI/1033/98b.

Type locality: The brown coal mine in Belchatów (51°15'N, 19°20'E).

Type horizon: Bel-B horizon, Miocene, MN5.

Derivation of name: The species is named in honour of C.L. Fridolin Sandberger.

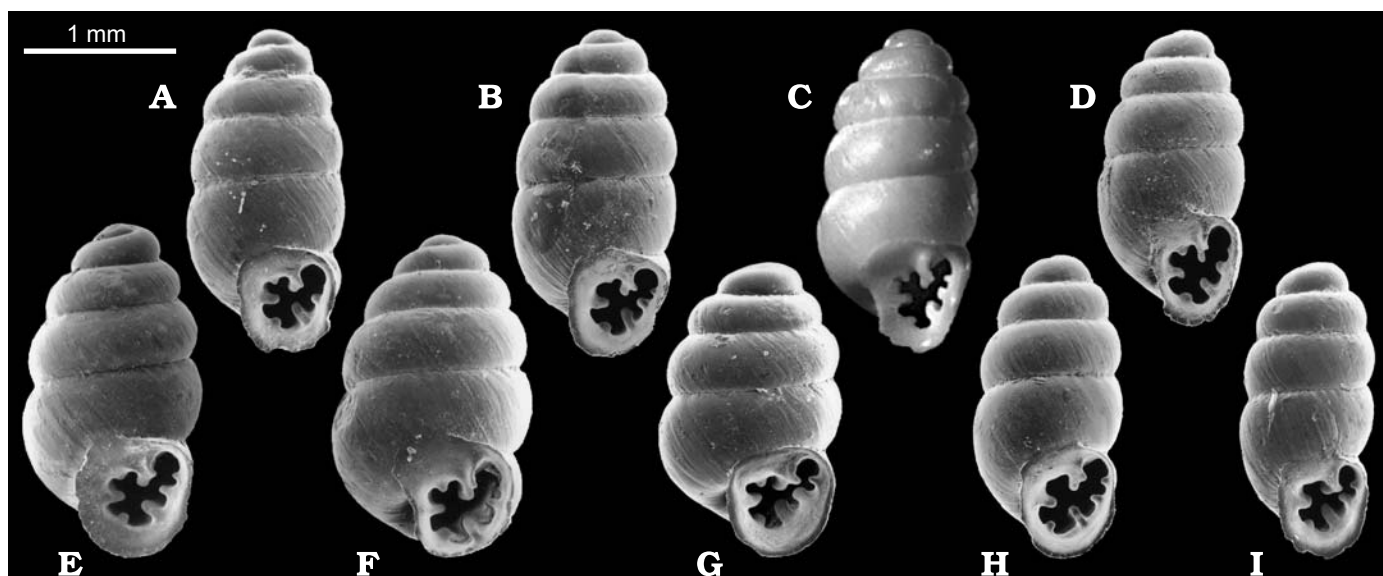


Fig. 2. A, B. *Pupa suevica* sensu Sandberger (= *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov.) from Steinheim, Germany, Miocene, H = 2.06 (A) and 2.11 mm (B); IGS. C. *Pupa suevica* sensu Sandberger 1875, *nomen nudum* (= *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov.) from Steinheim, Germany, Miocene, H = 2.05 mm; MNHN. D, E. *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* sp. nov. from Belchatów, Miocene, H = 1.90 (D, MI/1033/98b) and 2.14 (E, holotype, MI/1033/98a); ISEA. F. *Gastrocopta nouletiana* (Dupuy, 1850) from Belchatów, Miocene, MI/1031/98, H = 2.23 mm; ISEA. G. *Gastrocopta serotina* Ložek, 1964 from Ctíněves-Hýkovina, Czech Republic, Early Pleistocene, ML/567/75, H = 2.00 mm; ISEA ex coll. Ložek. H. *Gastrocopta theeli* (Westerlund, 1877) from Northern Caucasus, Recent, H = 1.92 mm; IGS. I. *Gastrocopta pseudotheeli* Steklov, 1966 from Fars, Northern Caucasus, Miocene, 3842/50, H = 1.85 mm; IGS.

Additional material.—Steinheim, Miocene (MN7+8), 1 specimen MW, ex coll. Sandberger; 6 specimens IGS, Steklov's material ex coll. Schlickum; 1 specimen SMF 152387/3 ex coll. Boettger; 1 specimen MNHN 10815 ex coll. Cossmann.

Diagnosis.—The new species differs from all the remaining species of the subgenus *Sinalbinula* in having ovate-conical but always slender shell, a weak crest on the body whorl (with tendency to reduce) and generally weak apertural barriers. Specimens with somewhat larger apertural barriers show some similarity to *G. nouletiana* (Dupuy, 1850), but the elongate shell shape, smaller size, less convex whorls and distinctly weaker crest on the body whorl in *G. sandbergeri* easily separate the two species. The new species differs from the group of very slender species, such as *G. didymodus* (Sandberger, 1858), *G. fissidens* (Sandberger, 1858), and *G. obstructa* (Sandberger, 1874), in that the parietal and angular portion of parietoangular tooth are partly fused (three latter species have a cylindrical shells with angular more or less distinctly separated from parietal). Compared to *G. pseudotheeli* Steklov, 1966 the new species has somewhat similar parietoangular tooth but the former species is distinguished immediately in having a solid crest on the body whorl.

Description.—Shell ovate-conical, usually slender, of 4.8–5.5 moderately convex or somewhat flattened whorls. Surface irregularly, weakly striated or nearly smooth; striae sometimes more regular and more visible on the body whorl. Suture rather shallow. Body whorl equal to or slightly exceeding half shell height; last part of body whorl slightly ascending just before aperture, at the base somewhat narrowed, provided with a weak ridge situated a short distance behind the peristome (crest), rarely vestigial to absent. Umbilicus narrow, deep, open or partly covered with the body whorl. Aperture rounded triangular to almost circular, lip reflected. Parietal callus usually thinner than the rest of the lip. In aperture 7 teeth (rarely 6): parietoangular, infraparietal, columellar, basal and 3 (rarely 2) palatal. Parietoangular tooth: parietal portion short lamellate, subvertical, sometimes with thickened edge; angular portion somewhat shorter than parietal, thin and low, its inner end with slightly thickened tip, in front view bent palatalwards. Most specimens have a slight convexity situated on the left side of the middle part of parietoangular to make the angular portion triangular in outline. Infraparietal tooth as an elongate tubercle, situated half way between the parietoangular and parietal/columellar corners. Columellar tooth well developed, short lamellate, subhorizontal in front view, relatively deep-situated. Basal tooth knob-shaped, in basal or columellar/basal position. Among palatal teeth the lower is the biggest; upper very short; suprapalatal vestigial or absent. Callus at the base of palatal teeth developed to varying degrees; from nearly invisible in specimens from Steinheim to more or less distinct in specimens from Bełchatów.

Dimensions.—Measurements (see Table 1 for individual measurements and those of comparative material) of 20

Table 1. Measurements of some specimens from Bełchatów and Steinheim (in mm, holotype in bold).

Locality and institutional abbreviation	Shell		Aperture		H/W ratio
	height	width	height	width	
Bełchatów sample Beł-B	1.90	1.02	0.71	0.66	1.86
	1.99	1.05	0.75	0.70	1.89
	2.05	1.06	0.75	0.72	1.93
	2.11	1.08	0.74	0.67	1.95
	2.14	1.09	0.80	0.77	1.96
	2.17	1.09	0.71	0.68	1.99
Steinheim, IGS	1.87	0.98	0.70	0.63	1.90
	2.05	1.05	0.65	0.67	1.95
	2.06	1.08	0.72	0.68	1.90
	2.11	1.07	0.64	0.60	1.97
	2.15	1.04	0.68	0.63	2.06
	2.17	1.13	0.75	0.72	1.92
Steinheim, MNHN	2.05	1.10	0.70	0.66	1.86
Steinheim, according to Finger (1998)	2.70	1.25	–	–	2.16
	2.00	1.00	–	–	2.00
	2.20	1.05	–	–	2.09
Steinheim, after Giusti and Manganelli (2000)	2.35	1.30	0.85	0.80	1.80

specimens from Bełchatów (in mm); shell: H = 1.90–2.17, W = 1.02–1.09; aperture: h = 0.71–0.80, w = 0.66–0.77; H of body whorl = 1.08–1.25; number of whorls: 4.8–5.5.

Variability and comparative remarks.—Shell measurements indicate that *Gastrocopta sandbergeri* is rather variable in shell height, but the shell is always elongate. A weak crest is always visible in specimens from Steinheim but rarely in specimens from Bełchatów. Shells from Bełchatów have more convex whorls and somewhat more robust apertural barriers than those from Steinheim. Only one of the 20 specimens from Bełchatów lacks an infraparietal tooth. By contrast, in specimens from Steinheim it is the suprapalatal tooth that tends to get reduced. The Bełchatów specimens also have a distinct callus at the base of palatal teeth, particularly of the upper one.

Gastrocopta sandbergeri differs from *G. nouletiana* (Dupuy, 1850)—even from small specimens and also those previously regarded as a slimmer form *gracilidens*—in the following characters: (1) more slender shell (H/W ratio in 20 *nouletiana* specimens = 1.55–1.88, mean 1.73; in 20 *sandbergeri* specimens = 1.80–2.16, mean 1.95); (2) distinctly weaker crest on the body whorl; (3) apertural barriers generally weaker developed. In some specimens of *G. nouletiana* from various localities the parietoangular tooth may be rather weakly developed, as in *G. sandbergeri*, but the shell shape and size easily separate the two species (Fig. 2F). The new species can not also be confused with *Gastrocopta serotina* Ložek, 1964 (Fig. 2G) as the latter species is most similar to *G. nouletiana*.

Compared to the group of species with very slender and cylindrical shells, such as *G. didymodus* (Sandberger, 1858), *G. fissidens* (Sandberger, 1858) and *G. pseudotheeli* Steklov, 1966 (Fig. 2I), as well as *G. theeli* (Westerlund, 1877) (Fig. 2H) – *G. sandbergeri* differs rather clearly in having a less slender, ovate shell, less convex whorls, a distinctly shallow suture and an infraparietal tooth present (cf. Prisyazhnyuk 1977). In addition, *G. fissidens* and *G. pseudotheeli* both have a very distinct crest. The parietal and angular portions of the parietoangular tooth in *G. fissidens* are partly separated, with the angular portion distinctly bent towards the palatal wall.

Another very slender species—*G. obstructa* (Sandberger, 1874)—differs from *G. sandbergeri* for the slender shell, the whorls which are fairly convex and distinctly oblique, and for the reduced apertural barriers (suprapalatal and infraparietal teeth absent). The columellar wall in *G. obstructa* is distinctly oblique, so that its upper section is deflected from the shell axis towards the parietoangular tooth, resulting in a very much narrowed parietal margin between the tooth and the columellar/parietal junction; the space is too narrow for an infraparietal tooth.

Gastrocopta sandbergeri sp. nov. is a rare species in Miocene deposits. It was hitherto known only from Steinheim am Albuch (as *Pupa suevica* Sandberger, 1875) dated from the Mid Miocene (Astaracian, MN7+8), hence its occurrence in Bełchatów (Beł-B horizon, Orleanian, MN5) shifted its stratigraphic range to the Lower/Mid Miocene limit.

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