Comment on the proposed conservation of Laeocochlis Dunker & Metzger, 1874 (Mollusca, Gastropoda) as the correct spelling
(Case 2769; see BZN 48: 27–30)

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As noted by Mr Heppell (BZN 48: 28, para. 5) Laeocochlis (or Laeocochlis) pommeraniae Dunker & Metzger, 1874 has been considered a synonym and often been cited in the literature on Recent molluscs as L. granosa (Wood, 1848), an upper Pliocene fossil, and a junior primary homonym of Cerithium granosum Borson. [1822]. In our comments below we show that the valid name of this species is L. sinistrata (Nyst, 1835) and not, as stated in the application, L. macandraeae (A. Adams, 1856), and we defend the view that the spelling Laeocochlis is the one that should be ruled to be correct.

Altena (1954, p. 47) introduced Laiochochlis (sic) woodi as a replacement name for the preoccupied Cerithium granosum Wood, 1848. Glibert (1958a, p. 9) separated Laeocochlis (sic) sinistrata (Nyst, 1835), with a teleoconch sculpture of only spiral cords, from L. woodi Altena, 1954, with a teleoconch sculpture of both spiral cords and axial riblets forming almost square reticulation. He also compared two Recent Norwegian shells and found them to be identical with L. sinistrata. Glibert listed L. sinistrata from the Luchtbal, Kattendyk and Austruweel sands, all of ‘Plio-Pleistocene’ (‘Scaldisien’) age. The faunal assemblages of these sands (Glibert, 1957, 1958b) appear to indicate reworked deposits but they do contain cold water species now living in northern Europe; Calliochina occidentalis is listed as common. Glibert (1958a) designated a neotype of Cerithium sinistratum Nyst, 1835 (p. 28) in the collection of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique.

We have examined Plio-Pleistocene Laeocochlis from British as well as Belgian deposits, and about 200 Recent specimens from the Northeast Atlantic. We are not certain if the British (L. woodi, i.e. C. granosum Wood) and Belgian (L. sinistrata) fossils are specifically distinct, but the Recent material is certainly conspecific with Belgian fossil L. sinistrata. Triforis macandraeae A. Adams, 1856 and T. nivea M. Sars, 1859 are junior subjective synonyms, as is L. pommeraniae Dunker & Metzger, 1874. Griineld (1980, fig. 34) figured one of two syntypes of L. pommeraniae in the collection of the Zoologisches Museum, Berlin.

Kuroda (1943, p. 6) named a second species from the North Pacific as Laiocochlis sasamorii. It is cited with this spelling by Kuroda & Habe (1952, p. 61), Habe (1962, p. 28), Habe & Ito (1965, p. 26), Golikov & Gulbin (1978, p. 218), contrary to the statement in BZN 48: 28, para. 4, and with the spelling Laeocochlis by Golikov (1988, p. 502). No other spelling has been used by Japanese or Russian authors. Laiocochlis (sic) sasamorii is the type species of Sasamocochlis Griineld, 1980.

In addition to the usages listed by Heppell (para. 4), the spelling Laiocochlis has been used for the European species by Beets (1946, p. 47), Glibert (1958a, p. 9; 1958b, p. 11) and Griineld (1980, pp. 249–255). The spelling Laiocochlis was used by Altena (1954, p. 47) and Altena, Bloklander & Pouderoyen (1955, p. 31).
Article 32c(ii) of the Code states that ‘incorrect transliteration or latinization ... are not to be considered inadvertent errors’. Consequently, we would rather follow Kobelt’s 1875 statement (see BZN 48: 27, para. 3) that the spelling Laiocochlis was intended by Dunker & Metzger. In view of the usage of Laiocochlis or Laiochochlis by many modern European, Japanese and Russian authors, we conclude that stabilizing the spelling Laiocochlis would serve best the interest of nomenclatural stability. We believe that the Commission should not be concerned with the valid name of the type species of the genus but in any case proposal (3) on BZN 48: 28 should be dropped.

Additional references


Golikov, A.N. 1988. Gastropods of the order Cerithiiformes in the Arctic Ocean and in the temperate waters of the north-west Pacific. Zoologicheskii Zhurnal, 67(4): 495–505. [In Russian.]


Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of Mitobates conspersus (Perty, 1833) (Arachnida, Opiliones) (Case 2759; see BZN 48: 105–106)

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The specific name triangulus Sundevall, 1833 (April) is that of the type species of Mitobates, described in the same paper, and it has priority over conspersum Perty, 1833 (December). The only reason to conserve conspersum is that since 1879 it has wrongly been considered to be the senior synonym, and there is no indication that the application of priority will cause confusion, unless there are further arguments.