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Items of interest to shell collectors are solicited for publication in the *Shell News*. Deadline is 10th of month preceding publication.

Suppression Of Dubious Names In The Genus *Conus*

by ALAN J. KOHN*

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has recently made a significant contribution to the stability of names in the genus *Conus*. Following a proposal I had submitted, the Commission voted to suppress as *nomina dubia* (dubious names) four specific names proposed by Linnaeus in 1758, which have troubled malacologists ever since. The Commission's decision has been published as its Opinion 753 in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, vol. 22, pp. 226-227, November, 1965.

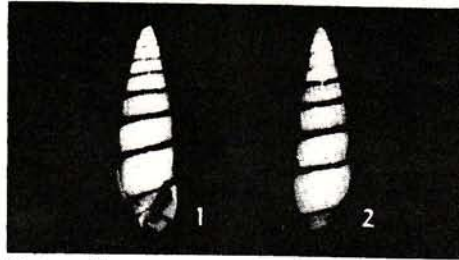
The specific names in question are *Conus clavus*, *C. minimus*, *C. rusticus*, and *C. senator*. The Commission's decision means that these names can no longer be applied to real species, and they cannot be considered to have priority over any later names. They have been placed on the "Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology." (They are the 833rd to 836th names on this list.) Although as I have noted these names are now rejected for purposes of priority, they are not rejected for purposes of homonymy. This means that any of these names, if used by a later author to indicate a different species, would be a homonym of Linnaeus's name and would be invalid. In other words, no species of *Conus* may properly be identified by any of these names, regardless of author.

The reasons for suppression of these names have been set out in detail in my 1963 paper on the Type Specimens and Identity of the species of *Conus* described by Linnaeus (*Journal of the Linnean Society of London*, vol. 44, pp. 740-768) and in the

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SMALL TEREBRID SPECIES FOUND IN HAWAII

by CLIFF WEAVER



Photos - Weaver
Figs. 1 and 2 show a specimen of *Hastula pygmaea* (Hinds, 1844) collected by the author on June 14, 1958 in 60 feet of water near Moko-lea Rock, Kailua Bay, Oahu. Length, 9.5 mm.

Between 1958 and 1965 I collected three live specimens of *H. pygmaea* at Moko-lea Rock by fanning patches of coarse sand over-laying a hard substratum of coral. I had no idea what species of shell they were so I sent them to Dr. Harald Rehder at the Smithsonian Institution for his determination. The following excerpt is reprinted from his letter of reply: "I feel quite certain that these 3 specimens represent *Terenolla pygmaea* (Hinds, 1844). This species was originally described from the Strait of Malacca as a *Terebra*, and in 1929 Iredale erected the genus *Terenolla* after questioning its position in the Terebridae. We have one specimen each of this rather rare species, from the Mentawai Islands off the west coast of Sumatra, and from the Palau Islands. The 3 specimens from Kailua are not only somewhat larger than the two shells in our collection, but also form an interesting range extension.

"I hope that sometime specimens with the soft parts in them will be preserved so that we may learn what the radula of this species looks like. For the present my colleagues and I believe that it should remain in the Terebridae, near *Hastula*."

The shell is white in color with a narrow black band encircling each whorl just below the suture. On the anterior portion of the last whorl below the periphery there is a broad pink band bordered by black lines finer than the encircling bands.

Sculpturally the shell bears low longitudinal plications (folds), about 21 on the penultimate (next to last) whorl. No other sculpturing is present. The columella is twisted anteriorly to form a weak fold. The aperture is typical of the genus *Hastula*. An operculum is present.

Literature Cited:

Hinds, R. B. June, 1844. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 11:130, p. 158.

PTEROPODS (Cont'd from page 1)

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Tesch, J. J. 1948. *Dana Report No. 30*.



"A man of true science uses but few hard words, and those only when none other will answer his purpose; whereas the smatterer in science . . . thinks that by mouthing hard words he proves that he understands hard things."

The above words were spoken by "Dr. Cuticle" in Herman Melville's book *White Jacket*. After reading these words your editor began to wonder if perhaps he had been guilty of "mouthing hard words" at times. If he has, he asks the reader forgiveness and will endeavor in the future to use simple substitutes which mean the same thing. It is easy to become addicted to this bad habit.

We plan to reprint newspaper stories concerning "SHARK ATTACKS" whenever we read about them. These grim occurrences concern all of us who swim and dive in salt water. Shell collectors are no exception. To be alert, is to stay alive.

Reprinted below is such an article.

AUSTRALIAN SHARK ATTACK (It Takes 5 To Save Boy)

From the Honolulu Advertiser
February 28, 1966

SYDNEY, Australia (UPI)--Five lifeguards risked their lives yesterday to rescue a 13-year-old boy attacked by a ferocious "Bluepointer" shark near here.

Witnesses said Raymond Short was swimming in four feet of water only 30 yards from the beach at Coledale south of here when the eight-foot shark attacked him and held his legs in its jaws.

The five lifeguards raced into the surf, grabbed the shark and dragged it to the beach where they beat it to death and released the boy.

Raymond, whose family was on vacation, was in critical condition in a hospital but doctors were hopeful of saving his legs.

Experts said Bluepointers were considered among the most dangerous sharks and were responsible for 17 attacks on humans on beaches in South Africa, California and Australia.