George Perry’s molluscan taxa and notes on the editions of his *Conchology* of 1811

RICHARD E. PETIT
RICHARD E. PETIT

George Perry’s molluscan taxa and notes on the editions of his Conchology of 1811
(Zootaxa 377)
72 pp.; 30 cm.
8 December 2003
ISBN 1-877354-22-8 (Paperback)
ISBN 1-877354-23-6 (Online edition)

PUBLISHED BY
Magnolia Press
P.O. Box 41383 St. Lukes
Auckland 1030
New Zealand
e-mail: zootaxa@mapress.com
http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

© 2003 Magnolia Press
All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, transmitted or disseminated, in any form, or by any means, without prior written permission from the publisher, to whom all requests to reproduce copyright material should be directed in writing.
This authorization does not extend to any other kind of copying, by any means, in any form, and for any purpose other than private research use.

ISSN 1175-5326 (Print edition)
ISSN 1175-5334 (Online edition)
George Perry’s molluscan taxa and notes on the editions of his
Conchology of 1811

RICHARD E. PETIT
806 St. Charles Road, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582-2846, USA; email: r.e.petit@att.net

Table of contents

Abstract ................................................................. 3
George Perry ............................................................ 4
The Conchology ......................................................... 5
Plates–Artists–Engraver ............................................... 5
Printings–Editions–Watermarks ..................................... 7
Index ................................................................. 9
Treatment ............................................................ 9
Sources of material .................................................. 16
Sources of names ....................................................... 17
Perry’s taxa ........................................................... 18
Genus-group names .................................................. 20
Species-group names ................................................ 23
Acknowledgements .................................................... 57
Literature cited ......................................................... 58
Plate ................................................................. 70

Abstract

The molluscan taxa named by George Perry in his two publications, the Arcana; or the museum of
natural history; etc., published in 1810–1811, and the Conchology of 1811 are listed with notations
on their current status, some figures being identified to the species level for the first time, some
being placed in the synonymy of earlier names and others declared nomina dubia. Five species that
are identified as previously unused senior subjective synonyms of names in current usage and one
unused senior primary homonym are declared nomina oblita. Those declared herein to be nomina
oblita are: Triplex cornuta Perry, 1811; Buccinella quadrata Perry, 1811; Cassis rotundata Perry,
1811; Aranea tentacula Perry, 1811; Buccinella tuberculata Perry, 1811; and Solen viride [sic; cor-
crectly viridis]. The names conserved are, respectively: Murex brevifrons Lamarck, 1822; Cancel-
laria spengleriana Deshayes, 1830; Cassis madagascariensis Lamarck, 1822; Murex cabritii
Bernardi, 1859; Turbinella [now Vasm] globulus Lamarck, 1816; and Solen viridis Say, 1822.
Three Perry species are shown to be senior synonyms of names in current use but do not qualify for *nomen oblitum* status under the Code. They are: *Tellina aurea* Perry, 1811; *Triplex rosaria* Perry, 1811; and *Voluta pattersonia* Perry, 1811. Junior subjective synonyms affected by these three are, respectively: *Tellina vulsella* Hanley, 1845; *Chicoreus palmarosae* (Lamarck, 1822); and *Lyria nucleus* (Lamarck, 1811). Type species designations for Perry’s genera are listed and type species are designated for *Columna* and *Strigula*. The treatment of Perry’s *Conchology* by other authors is discussed. Three distinct editions of the *Conchology* are identified. Perry’s *Arcana* is the subject of another paper now in preparation but its mollusks are treated herein.

**Key words.** Mollusca, Perry, *Arcana, Conchology*, validity of taxa, type species designations, *nomina oblitata*

**George Perry**

Almost nothing is known about George Perry except that he published two natural history works. The first of these (Perry, 1810–1811) is the *Arcana; or the museum of natural history;* etc., a monthly publication issued from January 1810 through September 1811 that included birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, insects, and other animals. This rare serial is the subject of a paper now in preparation but its mollusks are treated herein. His other, better known, work (Perry, 1811) is the *Conchology, or the natural history of shells: containing a new arrangement of the genera and species, illustrated by coloured engravings executed from the natural specimens, and including the latest discoveries*. It is this latter work that is the primary subject of this paper. All of Perry’s molluscan taxa are listed showing their present status. Many of his taxa are placed in synonymy of other taxa for the first time and others are declared to be either *nomina dubia* or *nomina oblitata*.

Unfortunately, not even birth and death dates are known for Perry although he must have lived in, or close to, London. The only record found of any George Perry who might be the same is in the Membership Lists of the Palaeontographical Society, founded in 1847 in London. These lists show that George Perry, Esq., was an early member. He was not in the first list for 1848 but was in the second list published that year with his address given as 39 Spencer-street, Northampton-square, a listing repeated in the 1851 list. In the 1853 list his address was changed to Croydon, and in 1856 it was emended to Croydon and Charterhouse. The 1859 list is the last in which he appears (the next list was not published until 1865). In 1848 James de C. Sowerby and G. B. Sowerby, Jr., were both members, the former remaining a member until his death in 1871. The last list on which G. B. Sowerby, Jr., appears is for 1853. G. B. Sowerby, Sr. was never a member. Whether or not this is the George Perry who wrote the works in question has not been determined. The improbability of Perry and G. B. Sowerby, Sr. being members of the same scientific society will become obvious in the following discussion.