



Article

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Illustrations and taxonomic placement of the Recent *Fusus* and *Fasciolaria* in the Lamarck collection of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva (Caenogastropoda, Buccinoidea, Gastropoda)

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ABSTRACT

This paper illustrates and discusses shells from the Lamarck collection held by the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, and placed by Lamarck in the gastropod genera *Fasciolaria* and *Fusus* in the family Fascioliidae. Many are type specimens. *Fusus rubens* Lamarck, 1822 is rediscovered and is the senior name for the species known as *Peristernia zealandica* (Küster and Kobelt, 1876).

Key words: *Fasciolaria*, *Fusus*, *Fusinus*, Fascioliidae, Lamarck, Museum of Geneva

INTRODUCTION

History of the Lamarck and Delessert Collections

Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoine De Monet, Comte de Lamarck (to give him his full title) was appointed Professor of Zoology at the Natural History Museum in Paris. His personal collection of shells was renowned but when he was approaching the end of his life the Paris Museum declined to purchase it. We know he tried to sell it to the Museum, as his daughter Rosalie de Lamarck prepared the collection for sale, using Lamarck's own volumes of *Animaux sans Vertèbres* as a sale catalogue. Her handwritten marginal annotations detailed the quantity of specimens present in the collection for each species listed; some of this material is now held by the Geneva Museum. Personal and political problems and antagonisms, like the one between Lamarck and Cuvier, prevented the Paris Museum from buying the collection. Cuvier embraced a creationist view while Lamarck proposed a form of evolution. After Lamarck's death the collection was sold to Prince Masséna and L.C. Kiener became its scientific curator. In 1840 it was acquired by Baron Jules Paul Benjamin Delessert (Dance 1986, Cailliez 1995, Cailliez & Finet 1997), who incorporated it into his own collection which already held material from several other collections. Jean-Charles Chenu (a medical practitioner) later replaced Kiener as curator of the Delessert malacological collections. Chenu became a well-known malacologist who edited the famous *Illustrations conchyliologiques ou description et figures de toutes les coquilles connues, vivantes et fossiles* (1843–1853) among other publications. Many shells from the Delessert collection were eventually described as new species by Chenu, and figured by him in these volumes. The collection of Benjamin Delessert was at that time the largest private collection of molluscs in the world, even outnumbering the malacological collection of the Paris Museum!

Delessert illustrated many specimens from the Lamarck collection in his *Recueil de coquilles décrites par Lamarck dans son Histoire naturelle des Animaux sans Vertèbres, et non encore figurées* (1841). When he died in 1847 the collection became the property of his brother François Delessert, who retained it for twenty years until his death in 1868. There was then another attempt to have the collection go to the Paris Museum, however we