

Nomenclature and type material of the marine gastropod *Euplica scripta* (Lamarck, 1822) (Sorbeoconcha: Buccinoidea: Columbellidae)

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Abstract

This contribution stabilises the species-level nomenclature of a very common and widespread Indo-Pacific species of dove snail (Columbellidae). This species has had a confused nomenclature through uncertainty over secondary homonymy. Despite bearing the same epithet, the scientific names *Murex scriptus* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Colombella* (sic) *scripta* Lamarck, 1822 are not, and never have been, secondary homonyms because the species they represent are located in separate genera (and subfamilies) in the Columbellidae (i.e., presently in *Mitrella* (Pyreninae) and *Euplica* (Columbellinae), respectively) and the Lamarckian epithet has never been formally or intentionally replaced on the grounds of homonymy. A case of secondary homonymy would only arise in the future if an author considered them congeneric which, given the current trend for greater generic splitting in the family to accommodate monophyletic clades, appears highly unlikely. In order to settle the nomenclature unambiguously and avoid possible future taxonomic difficulties with species related to *E. scripta* i.e., *E. varians* (G.B. Sowerby 1, 1822), *E. bidentata* (Menke, 1843) and *E. borealis* (Pilsbry, 1904), a specimen from the Philippine Islands is herein selected as neotype for **both** *Columbella scripta* and *C. versicolor* G.B. Sowerby 1, 1832, the most frequently used junior synonym, in the absence of any definite syntypes. In other words, the names *Colombella scripta* Lamarck and *Columbella versicolor* G.B. Sowerby 1 are henceforth objective synonyms.

Key words: Gastropoda, Columbellidae, *Columbella*, *Euplica*, *Mitrella*, *scripta*, nomenclature, type material

Introduction

The need for a contribution to stabilise the nomenclatural status of one specific name in the gastropod family Columbellidae became evident upon reading a recently published, short contribution (deMaintenon 2004) demonstrating dimorphic radular morphology in two Indo-Pacific species of the genus *Euplica*, both facultative herbivores. The author had