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The nudibranch names mentioned as n.sp. in Bergh (1861) are almost all *nomina nuda* (Gastropoda: Heterobranchia: Nudibranchia)

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Abstract

In a publication in Danish from 1861, Bergh described the nematocysts found in a number of nudibranch species. Many of the species had been described previously, but a number were new and given names, but without a description. These species are *nomina nuda*. We have translated the “descriptions”, including the foot-notes, and reproduced the original plate to show that only the nematocysts (real or assumed) were described. The only species given a short description fulfilling the requirements of the ICZN is *Pleurophyllidia quadrilateralis*, which was described as the only species in the new genus *Sancara*. This in turn was shown to be a junior synonym of *Linguella* de Blainville, 1823. All the species were subsequently described anatomically in detail and made valid in a number of papers, and most of the type material is located in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen (Natural History Museum of Denmark). The names in current use have been given.

Key words: Nomenclature, *Armina*, *Cratena*, *Cuthona*, *Glaucilla*, *Glaucus*, *Histiomena*, *Spurilla*

Introduction

The prolific Danish physician and malacologist Rudolph Bergh (1824–1909) had a special interest in opisthobranchs and dissected and described more than 600 species level taxa between 1853 and 1908. In several publications Bergh gave lists of species names labeled n.sp. although the species were not described in that publication. These names are clearly *nomina nuda*. However, one publication (R. Bergh 1861. Om Forekomsten af Neldefiim hos Mollusker. Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den naturhistoriske Forening i Kjøbenhavn for Aaret 1860: 309–331, plate VIII) has caused considerable confusion because it appears to contain descriptions, in Danish, and illustrations (see Fig. 1). We have therefore decided to clarify the contents of this particular publication. Bergh observed nematocysts (Da: neldefiim) in the cnidosacs of several species and described a series of these findings with introduction of a number of new names of nudibranchs belonging to his supra-familial groups ‘Aeolidiader’ and ‘Pleurophyllider’. However, except for a short description of the shape of the cnidosacs, no description was given of the slug species. We therefore consider almost all the names introduced in this publication as *nomina nuda*. The species were described by Bergh in later publications, the aeolidiids in Bergh (1864 and 1871) and the pleurophyllidiids in Bergh (1863 and 1866). We have traced the valid names given subsequently to the species, and tried to identify the current names of the species. Entries in WoRMS (2013) are listed when different from our results.

Bergh (1861) pages 309–314 contain general descriptions of the occurrence of nematocysts in various groups of animals, and on pages 314–319 descriptions of cnidosacs and nematocysts in the Aeolidida are given. Descriptions of nematocysts in individual species of this group are found on pages 319–326. This is where several species names are mentioned as new species, and these are the texts we have translated below. On pages 326–328, Bergh described the position and morphology of what he considered nematocysts (presently called marginal sacs) in pleurophyllidiids (now Arminida), and on pages 328–330 nematocysts in individual species are described. This again is where species names are introduced as new, and these texts are translated below.

poor that the identity remained undecided. He subsequently described the species further (Bergh 1866, p. 60). During a visit to the British Museum in 1873 he found de Blainville's specimen and concluded (Bergh 1874, p. 248, footnote) that the original specimens of the two species are conspecific. This implies that the valid name should be *Linguella elfortiana* de Blainville, 1823. *Linguella* de Blainville, 1823 (with *elfortiana* as the type species) has been used by a number of authors, so it must be considered valid. However, neither *elfortiana* de Blainville, 1823 nor *elfortii* de Blainville, 1825 has to our knowledge been used after 1899, whereas *quadrilateralis* Bergh, 1861 has been in general use, so the two de Blainville names must be considered *nomina oblita* (ICZN 1999, Article 23.9.1). *Linguella* has in some papers been referred to de Férussac (1822), but the publication is a list without descriptions. *Linguella* is considered a junior synonym of *Armina* by most modern specialists (Kolb, 1998; Gosliner & Fahey, 2011).

Current name: *Armina quadrilateralis* (Bergh, 1861). Not in WoRMS.

Pl. marginata, Örsted. n. sp.

Translation of the description: In this giant species which has been collected by Prof. Örsted in the tropical Pacific Ocean at Realejo [Panama], I have not been able to find traces of the presence of nematocysts. However, it must be remembered that the three specimens of this species, which I have been able to examine through the generosity of Prof. Örsted, had been partly dried out (due to damage of the jar during transportation), and that it was possible that this explained the apparent absence, although it must be admitted that the edge was fairly well preserved.

Comments: The species was already described by Mörch (1859, p. 124), as *Pleurophyllidia (Histiomena) marginata* on the basis of a colored drawing by A.S. Örsted (see Bergh, 1866, p. 70 and Figure 2), so the name is *Pleurophyllidia (Histiomena) marginata* Örsted & Mörch in Mörch, 1859.

Later description of the same material: Bergh (1864, p. 70)

Current name: *Histiomena marginata* (Örsted & Mörch in Mörch, 1859). WoRMS: (Örsted in Mörch, 1859).

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