



## A new name for the deep-sea chiton *Leptochiton clarki* Sigwart & Sirenko non Berry (Lepidopleurida: Leptochitonidae)

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**Key words:** Solomon Islands; sunken wood; *Leptochiton clarki*; *Leptochiton rogeri* n. sp.

### Introduction

Recently we described several new species of chitons living in deep water deposits of sunken wood in the southwest Pacific (Sigwart & Sirenko 2012). Among these, one species, *Leptochiton clarki* Sigwart & Sirenko, 2012, is homonymous with a fossil taxon of the same genus: *Leptochiton clarki* Berry, 1922. Herein, we replace this homonym with a new name according to International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999: Art. 57.2).

### Systematic taxonomy

#### Class Polyplacophora Gray, 1821

#### Order Lepidopleurida Thiele, 1910

#### Leptochitonidae Dall, 1889

#### *Leptochiton* Gray, 1847

*Leptochiton rogeri* nom. nov. pro *Leptochiton clarki* Sigwart & Sirenko non Berry

*Leptochiton clarki* Sigwart & Sirenko, 2012: 22–23, figures 4F, 15, 16, table 2, table 3. [Recent, Solomon Islands, 399–700 m.]

non *Leptochiton clarki* Berry, 1922: 427–430, figures 1–4, 10; Squires and Goeddert 1995: 51; Dell'Angelo et al 2011: 939. [Pleistocene, Monterey, California.]

**Type material.** Holotype (MNHN 23701) disarticulated, consisting of mounts of shell, perinotum and radula, 5 paratypes (MNHN 23702) and 1 paratype (ZISP).

**Distribution.** Off Solomon Islands, 305 m and 708–1135 m. Found living and feeding on sunken terrestrial plant remains.

**Etymology.** The species is named after Roger Clark of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, USA, who is a specialist on eastern Pacific chitons.

**Remarks.** As previously outlined by Sigwart & Sirenko (2012), this species is a small chiton with white valves, similar in appearance to several other species inhabiting tropical Pacific sunken wood communities. The distinctive features of this species are the valves with distinctive granules (51 µm) forming widely separated radiating rows, with four micraesthetes in each aesthete group. *Leptochiton rogeri* has distinctive intersegmental bristles (450 µm) and long marginal fringe. There are four gills per side. *Leptochiton clarki* Berry, 1922 is known only from the Pleistocene of California (type locality, Upper San Pedro Pleistocene of Long Wharf Canyon, Santa Monica, California), and there is no evidence of any association with sunken wood.