



Auriculinea bidentata (Montagu, 1808): a name to be preserved

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RIASSUNTO: SABELLI *et al.* (1990-92) hanno scoperto che *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, è un più giovane omonimo primario di *Voluta bidentata* Schröter, 1804, e hanno, quindi, proposto di sostituirlo con *Auricula erosa* Jeffreys, 1830. Poiché *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, è un nome ben conosciuto ed estesamente usato, mentre *Voluta bidentata* Schröter, 1804, non è mai stato usato come valido ed è applicato a un taxon di incerta identità, è stata presentata all'International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) una "application" al fine di preservare in uso il nome di Montagu (1808): "Case 3000. *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808 (currently *Auriculinea bidentata*; Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation of the specific name"; vedi: Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature, 53 p. 1; 29 Marzo 1996). La pubblicazione per esteso della applicazione è stata, per il momento, sospesa, poiché l'entrata in vigore del nuovo Codice (attualmente in preparazione), prevista per il 1 gennaio 2000, renderà non più necessaria l'istruzione del caso e la sua conclusione tramite una specifica Opinione. Infatti, per il presente, *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, è mantenuto in uso poiché sotto considerazione da parte della Commissione (ICZN, 1985: Art. 80) e, quando il nuovo Codice entrerà in vigore, sarà automaticamente conservato in accordo con gli articoli 23.9 e 57.2, dal momento che è un nome molto usato, mentre il suo omonimo più vecchio (*Voluta bidentata* Schröter, 1804) non è stato mai utilizzato come valido dal 31 Dicembre 1899.

ABSTRACT: SABELLI *et al.* (1990-92) discovered that *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, is a junior primary homonym of *Voluta bidentata* Schröter, 1804, and proposed to use the name *Auricula erosa* Jeffreys, 1830, instead. As *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, is well-known and extensively used, an application to preserve it was submitted to the ICZN. The application (Case 3000) was announced in the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature but not published, it being possible to conserve *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, without a ruling Opinion. In fact, *Voluta bidentata* remains in use for the time being because it is under consideration by the Commission (ICZN, 1985: Art. 80) and when the new Code (in preparation) comes into force (probably 1 January 2000), it will be automatically conserved under Articles 23.9 and 57.2, by virtue of long use and because the senior homonym has not been used as valid name since 31 December 1899.

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INTRODUCTION

Some years ago, SABELLI *et al.* (1990-92) discovered that *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, is a junior primary homonym of *Voluta bidentata* Schröter, 1804, and proposed to replace *Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808, with its junior synonym *Auricula erosa* Jeffreys, 1830. Some non-Italian authors (e.g. DE BRUYNE *et al.* 1998) have recently begun to adopt Jeffreys's name for the species. Because this is incorrect, we decided to explain and publicize the case so that the practice does not spread.

SCHRÖTER (1804, pp. 36-37) described the new species *Voluta bidentata*, without any indication of locality. The identity of this nominal taxon is questionable because the description does not enable certain identification. Schröter called his *Voluta bidentata* "Das kleine queergeribte Midasohr" and this suggests the species may be related to *Ellobium aurismidae* (Linnaeus, 1758). However no classical (e.g. KÜSTER, 1841; PFEIFFER, 1856, etc.); or recent author (CERNOHORSKY, 1972; SMITH, 1992; etc.) concerned with the taxonomy of the latter species has cited *Voluta bidentata* Schröter, 1804, as its junior synonym. Only PFEIFFER (1856, p. 125, imitated by TAPPARONE CANEFRI (1883, p. 216) subsequently mentioned a name "bidentata", but as one of the words used by MARTINI (1773, p. 119) for the diagnosis of the species *Auris midae* and, hence, unrelated to Schröter's (1804) species. Irrespective of the uncertainty of the taxonomic status of *Voluta bidentata* Schröter, 1804, this name is overlooked by all subsequent authors.

A few years later, MONTAGU (1808: pp. 100-101, pl. 29,

fig. 3) described the new species *Voluta bidentata* from Great Britain. The specific name *bidentata*, now placed in *Auriculinea* Tausch, 1886, and formerly in *Leucophytia* Winckworth, 1945, is well-known and extensively and consistently used to denote this species. In the last 50 years, at least fifty different authors have used it in authoritative, well-known regional faunal reports (see for example: GERMAIN, 1931; ADAM, 1960; BACHKHUYS, 1976; KERNEY, 1976; BECH, 1990; KILLEEN, 1992; GIUSTI *et al.*, 1995), handbooks (ZILCH, 1959), guides (ELLIS, 1969; TORELLI, 1982; KERNEY *et al.*, 1983; RIEDL, 1991) and checklists (KENNARD, 1941; McMILLAN, 1975; PIANI, 1980; BRUSCHI *et al.*, 1985; HOIUSAETER, 1986; VAN GOETHEM, 1988; SMITH & HEPPEL, 1991; MANGANELLI *et al.*, 1995).

The replacement of a name well-known and extensively used for a valid taxon, such as *Auriculinea bidentata* (Montagu, 1808), with a disused name because of primary homonymy, seemed to us inopportune and contrary to nomenclature stability. In 1995, we therefore submitted an application to the ICZN to preserve this specific name: "*Voluta bidentata* Montagu, 1808 (currently *Auriculinea bidentata*; Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation of the specific name". The application (Case 3000) was announced in the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (53, part 1: p. 1) on 29 March 1996.

Under Article 80 of the current Code (published in 1985) the existing usage of the specific name *bidentata* Montagu, 1808, is to be maintained, because the case is formally "under consideration" by the International Commission on Zoological



Nomenclature; the recent abandonment of Montagu's name by De Bruyne et al. (1998) is thus contrary to the Code. The case will not in fact require a ruling by the Commission, because under Articles 23.9 and 57.2 of the forthcoming Code edition (to come into effect on 1 January 2000) Montagu's name, being in prevailing usage, will be given precedence over *Voluta bidentata* Schroter, 1804, since the latter name has not been correctly used as valid during the 20th century."

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