

What is the correct name for the most-cited West Indian *Drymaeus* (Gastropoda: Bulimulidae)?

ABRAHAM S.H. BREURE

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Vautierstraat 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K.
Naturalis Biodiversity Center, P.O. Box 9517, NL-2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands
ashbreure@protonmail.com



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Abstract

A well-known *Drymaeus* species occurring on several West Indian islands is known in the recent literature under three different names, which causes some confusion. After analysis it is concluded that the correct name should be *Drymaeus virgulatus* (A. Férussac, 1821).

Key words. Homonyms, principle of priority, synonyms, Bulimulidae, Enidae.

Introduction

The Principle of Priority is at the heart of modern nomenclature (Rookmaker, 2011; Sclater, 1878) and is regulated in Article 23 of the Code (ICZN, 1999). This has relevance for a frequently cited West Indian *Drymaeus* species from Hispaniola (Espinosa & Robinson, 2021), Puerto Rico (Van der Schalie, 1948), the British and American Virgin Islands (Pilsbry, 1899), the islands of Anguilla Bank (Hovestadt & Neckheim, 2020), St. Eustatius (van Leeuwen & Hewitt, 2015), Antigua (Pilsbry & Brown, 1914), and the ABC Islands (Hovestadt & van Leeuwen, 2017). This species has been cited by these and previous authors under the names of *Drymaeus elongatus* (Röding, 1798) or *D. virgulatus* (Férussac, 1821), while Richardson (1995: 165) has argued that the correct name should be *Drymaeus radiatus* (Bruguière, 1789).

The aim of this paper is to end the confusion about these names, which have partly been incorrectly applied to this species.

The Correct Name

Richardson (1995) considered *Drymaeus radiatus* (Bruguière, 1789) the correct name, as “both *elongatus* and *radiatus* are based on the same Chemnitz figure [Chemnitz, 1786: pl. 134 fig. 1225a] and *radiatus* has priority”. However,

Richardson overlooked that *Bulimus radiatus*, described by Bruguière (1789 [1789–1792]: 312), was a European shell from “la province du Dauphiné aux environs de Montbrun, de Gap & de Montelimar”. This taxon is considered a junior synonym of *Helix detrita* O.F. Müller, 1774, currently *Zebrina detrita* (O.F. Müller, 1774), Enidae (MolluscaBase, 2022).

The earliest available name for this West Indian species is *Helix elongata* Röding, 1798 (: 107), under which name 44 citations by later authors can be found in Richardson (1995). Röding gave a reference to a figure in Chemnitz (1786: pl. 134 fig. 1225a), which shows an elongate shell. This species was incorrectly mentioned in the synonymy of *Helix polygyrata* Born, 1778, which is a discoid shell, by Salvador & Cavalleri (2020: 92). However, browsing in Sherborn (1902: 325), two earlier occurrences of *Helix elongata* were found, one by Razoumowsky (1789: 277) and the other by Studer (in Coxe, 1789: 376); the latter is a *nomen nudum*. Razoumowsky (1789: 277–278) described *Helix elongata* from “Pays de Vaud” (p. 257), Switzerland; this is an unrecognised species by later authors. Although the name *Helix elongata* Razoumowsky, 1789 qualifies as *nomen oblitum* under Art. 23.9.1.1 ICZN, the name *Helix elongata* Röding, 1798 cannot be declared a *nomen protectum* under Art. 23.9.1.2 ICZN. Even though Röding’s name has been used as a valid name by at least 10 authors during the last 50 years, we have been unable, however, to find the qualifying 25 published works to fulfil all requirements of Art. 23.9.1.2 ICZN. Therefore *Helix elongata* Röding, 1798 is invalid as it is a junior homonym of *Helix elongata* Razoumowsky, 1789.

Férussac (1821 [1821–1822]: 54) introduced *Helix (Cochlogena) virgulata* with a reference to a figure in Lister (1770: pl. 8 fig. 2), and indicated four varieties with α – δ , the first referring to the same figures of Chemnitz (1786: pl. 134 figs 1225a, b). The locality is given as “Le Brésil? les Antilles, Porto-Rico ; β) γ) l’île Saint-Bartlémy, sur les arbustes dans les parties les plus élevés ; Comm. Lesueur. δ) Saint-Domingue”. The reference by Férussac to Chemnitz’ figures (1786: pl. 134 figs 1225a, b) as his variety α exclude these specimens from the type series (Art. 72.4.1 ICZN).

The correct name for the species under discussion is

thus *Drymaeus virgulatus* (A. Férussac, 1821) and the type locality is herein restricted to “Saint Bartlémy”.

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