

Notes on the systematics, morphology and biostratigraphy of fossil holoplanktonic Mollusca, 11. *Limacina* Bosc, 1817: precedence over *Spiratella* Blainville, 1817 (Mollusca, Gastropoda: Euthecosomata) ¹

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Spiratella Blainville, 1817, should be considered a junior objective synonym of *Limacina* Bosc, 1817.

Key words: Gastropoda, Euthecosomata, *Limacina*, *Spiratella*, nomenclature.

The nominal taxa *Limacina* Bosc, 1817, and *Spiratella* Blainville, 1817, are objective synonyms, both published in December 1817 and with the same type species. For *Limacina*, see Bosc (1817: 42), indicating 'le *Clio hélicine*' and the subsequent designation of *Limacina helicalis* = *Clio helicina* Phipps, 1774, as the type species by Lamarck (1819: 291). For *Spiratella*, see Blainville (1817: 407), referring to '*clio helicina*'. The latter author introduced the name *Spiratella* in an announcement of a future description, which came out in 1824 (Blainville, 1824: 284). Some authors (e.g. Collins, 1934: 176; Pruvot-Fol, 1954: 114) are of the opinion that it was Cuvier (1817: 380) who introduced the name *Limacina*, but he exclusively used the vernacular name 'Les Limacines'.

Bosc's 1817 paper went virtually unnoted among contemporaneous workers and the genus *Limacina* was generally attributed to Lamarck, 1819. Blainville's announcement of a future description of *Spiratella*, although a valid introduction by reference to a type species, was rarely referred to as well. Tesch (1904: 11; 1913: 16), as well as Vayssière (1915: 122), still referred to Blainville, 1824, as the author of *Spiratella*. Apart from various papers by Blainville himself the name may also be found in Deshayes (1829: 576). Subsequently, the name *Spiratella* became popular especially among palaeontologists (who frequently also used its junior synonym *Spirialis* Eydoux & Souleyet, 1840), whereas most biologists used the name *Limacina*. Zilch (1959: 48) knew Blainville's 1817 paper and used *Spiratella*, but overlooked Bosc's (1817) introduction of *Limacina*, a name which he considered to have been introduced by Lamarck (1819).

¹ For No. 10 in this series see *Basteria* 65: 47-50, 2001.

Curry (1981) came to the conclusion that both '*Spiratella* Blainville' and '*Limacina* Bosc' were published in December 1817 and in fact were based on the same type species. After having consulted the archives of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Paris), in which Blainville's paper was registered as no. 4044 and Bosc's as no. 4329, Curry noted that *Spiratella* de Blainville, 1817, thus had priority over *Limacina* Bosc, 1817. This, however, to us is not enough to definitely demonstrate which of these papers was published earlier. We prefer to apply ICZN Art. 21.3.1 indicating that when month and year, but not day of publication are specified or demonstrated the date of publication to be adopted is the last day of the month. In this case, 31 December 1817 for both papers.

In these circumstances the name priority is fixed by action of the First Reviser (ICZN Art. 24). As far as we can determine, van der Spoel (1967) was the first to refer to both *Limacina* Bosc, 1817, and *Spiratella* Blainville, 1817, accepting the former as valid. Therefore, *Spiratella* Blainville, 1817, should be considered a junior objective synonym of *Limacina* Bosc, 1817.

Acceptance of the name *Limacina* as the valid taxon is in agreement with the valid family name Limacinidae (Gray, 1840: 144, 151), which has priority over Spiratellidae (Dall, 1921: 58).

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