

**On the authorship and date of publication of *Lepton subtrigonum* and  
*Lepton lacerum* (Bivalvia, Veneroida, Leptonidae)**

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The authorship and dates of publication of *Lepton subtrigonum* and *Lepton lacerum* are determined and new distributional data for the former species are added.

Key words: Bivalvia, Veneroida, Leptonidae, *Lepton*, *Potidoma*, nomenclature.

Recently Giunchi et al. (2007) reported some interesting facts about an uncommon species, referred to as "*Lepton subtrigonum* Fischer, de Folin & Périer ex Jeffreys ms., 1873". They correctly reported that in Fischer, de Folin & Périer (1873: 80, 84) only the names of both this species and *Lepton lacerum* are mentioned, which should be regarded as nomina nuda therefore. Giunchi et al. (2007: 86) consider both names formally introduced with plate 2 of volume 2 of Fischer, de Folin & Périer's 'Les Fonds de la Mer' and assume that this plate was published in 1873. However, this is not the case.

The rare publication 'Les Fonds de la Mer' was issued in 81 parts (livraisons) between 1867 and 1887. Both Winckworth (1941) and Rehder (1946) give details on the dates of publication of the text. Winckworth (1941: 151) concluded that "There is no information available on the dates of the plates", but additional information by Rehder (1946) makes clear that the plates were issued (far) later than the text. For example, the plates belonging to volume 1 were published in 1873 (but already mentioned in the text of 1869). The plates of volume 2 were published only in 1876 (Rehder, 1946: 75) although these were already mentioned by Fischer, in Fischer, de Folin & Périer (1873: 80). Both species are mentioned by Fischer (1874: 218), who added several characteristics, which implies that the formal introduction of the two names dates from that publication, and not from Fischer, de Folin & Périer (1876). As Jeffreys did no more than suggesting the names, without being involved in either the figures or the descriptions, his name should not be cited here.

As the dentition of *Lepton subtrigonum* is far different from that of *Lepton squamosum* (Montagu, 1803), the type species of *Lepton* Turton, 1822, it should be placed in its own genus *Potidoma* Deroux, 1961, of which it is the type species. It should thus be cited as *Potidoma subtrigonum* (Fischer, 1874), as already mentioned by Van Aartsen (1996: 47).

The characteristics indicated for *Lepton lacerum* Fischer, 1874, by Fischer (1874: 218) suggest that this species may not be conspecific with the one figured under that name by Fischer, de Folin & Périer (1876: pl. 2 fig. 11). As no type material of either species could be found, we leave this point for further research.

*Potidoma subtrigonum* is apparently less rare than Giunchi et al. (2007) suppose. Loose valves from France (between Sete and Agde), Spain (Calpe), Corsica (Calvi) and Tunisia (Nabeul) are present in the collection of the first author, thus extending the known range of the species.

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