

Comment on the southern African limpets described from the Demidoff collection by Fischer von Waldheim (1807).

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ABSTRACT. *Patella bifida* and *P. spinosa* Fischer, 1807, are confirmed as junior synonyms of *P. barbara* Linnaeus, 1758, and *P. digitata* Fischer, 1807, as a senior synonym of *P. longicosta* Lamarck, 1819. *P. septemradiata* Fischer, 1807, is a synonym of *P. granatina* Linnaeus, 1758 (not of *P. longicosta* as suggested by IVANOV *et al.*, 1993). *P. rubrocostata* Fischer, 1807, is not a synonym of *Cellana capensis* (Gmelin, 1791), and is not a South African species. *P. serrata* Fischer, 1807, as defined by the lectotype, is a senior synonym of *Siphonaria aspera* Krauss, 1848.

In 1807 Fischer von Waldheim published the third volume of his catalogue of the 'Museum Demidoff' in which he described more than 100 new molluscan taxa (FISCHER, 1807). No illustrations were provided, locality data were rarely given and the majority of the names introduced have not been used by subsequent authors. IVANOV, KANTOR, SYSOEV & EGOROV (1993) have recently published a paper detailing the history of the Demidoff collections and discussing and illustrating the types remaining extant in the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University. In several instances the Demidoff material is clearly referable to species known from South Africa and IVANOV *et al.* (1993) made a number of suggestions concerning synonymy, some rather tentative. The purpose of this note is to clarify the position with respect to the limpet fauna of South Africa.

Patella bifida Fischer, 1807

IVANOV *et al.* (1993) stated "seems to be a junior synonym of *Patella barbara* L., 1758 (D. LINDBERG personal communication)". There can be no doubt that this is correct; the holotype is simply an example with well developed radial ribs which project strongly at the ventral margin.

Patella digitata Fischer, 1807

IVANOV *et al.* (1993) stated "probably a senior synonym of *Patella longicosta* Lamarck, 1819", which is undoubtedly correct. As a senior synonym, the name *P. digitata*, by the Principle of Priority, ought to be used in preference to *P. longicosta*. However, the younger name has been used extensively in both

the scientific and popular literature, and its replacement with the earlier name would threaten the stability of a long established nomenclature. Accordingly, an application to suppress the name *Patella digitata* Fischer, 1807, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority, has been made to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

Patella rubrocostata Fischer, 1807

IVANOV *et al.* (1993) made no firm statement regarding this taxon, but the possibility that it represented a junior synonym of *Cellana capensis* (Gmelin, 1791) was raised. This is here rejected; both the lectotype and paralectotype (IVANOV *et al.* 1993, pl. 1, figs 4, 5) have much coarser radial ribs than occur in *C. capensis*. *P. rubrocostata* is not part of the southern African fauna.

Patella septemradiata Fischer, 1807

IVANOV *et al.* (1993) considered the holotype of this taxon to be a specimen of *Patella longicosta* Lamarck, 1819, and thus that *P. septemradiata* was a further senior synonym thereof. The holotype (examined on loan), however, is in reality a specimen of *Patella granatina* Linnaeus, 1758, having the typical tortoise-shell colour pattern and dark brown apical blotch on the interior. *P. septemradiata* must therefore be placed in the synonymy of *P. granatina*.

Patella spinosa Fischer, 1807 [non Gmelin, 1791]

IVANOV *et al.* (1993) were not able to arrive at a definite conclusion regarding this taxon. Examination of the holotype indicates that, like

P. bifida, it is simply a strongly stellate example of *P. barbara* Linnaeus, 1758, and must be placed in the synonym thereof.

***Patella serrata* Fischer, 1807**

The two specimens mentioned by Fischer were both illustrated by IVANOV *et al.* (1993); they almost certainly represent different species. The specimen designated lectotype by IVANOV *et al.* (1993) is, as suggested, a species of *Siphonaria* Sowerby, 1824, and is clearly conspecific with the southern African species currently known as *Siphonaria aspera* Krauss, 1848 (lectotype in Stuttgart Museum, illustrated by JANUS, 1961). The paralectotype of *P. serrata* is almost certainly a specimen of *Trimusculus costatus* (Krauss, 1848).

As in the case of *P. longicosta* Lamarck, 1819 (= *P. digitata*), the Fischer name is the senior synonym. In this instance, however, the species is not well known and *Siphonaria aspera*, though the long accepted name for the species, has not been used extensively in the literature; since a well established nomenclature is not threatened, application to the ICZN for the suppression of *Patella serrata* would serve little purpose. The older name has already been reintroduced into the literature (CHAMBERS & MCQUAID, 1994).

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