



GOSSEA SPENCE BATE & WESTWOOD, 1862 (AMPHIPODA) AND
GOSSEA AGASSIZ, 1862 (CNIDARIA, HYDROZOA): REVERSAL OF
PRESUMED PRECEDENCE AND REVIEW OF THE COMPLICATED
NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY

BY

CHRISTOPHER B. BOYKO^{1,2}) and SAMMY DE GRAVE^{3,4})

¹) Department of Biology, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549, U.S.A.

²) Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY 10024, U.S.A.

³) Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW, U.K.

ORCID iDs: Boyko: 0000-0002-2205-1488; De Grave: 0000-0002-2820-4158

ABSTRACT

Gossea Agassiz, 1862 (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) and *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 (Crustacea: Amphipoda) are homonyms and Agassiz's genus has long been considered the senior name. Discovery of copyright information for Agassiz's book shows that the presumed order of precedence is incorrect and that Spence Bate & Westwood's genus name is the senior homonym. A detailed history of both genera is given with the recognition that *Apherusa* Walker, 1891 is an unnecessary replacement name for *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 and that *Octobulbacea* Zamponi, 1983, as the only available junior synonym, is the name that should be used for *Gossea* Agassiz, 1862.

Key words. — Nomenclature, priority, Amphipoda, Cnidaria

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Gossea Agassiz, 1862 (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) und *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 (Crustacea: Amphipoda) sind Homonyme und die Gattung von Agassiz gilt seit langem als der älteste Name. Die Entdeckung von Urheberrechtsinformationen für das Buch von Agassiz zeigt jedoch, dass die vermutete Rangfolge nicht korrekt ist, und dass der Gattungsname von Spence Bate & Westwood das älteste Homonym ist. Eine detaillierte Geschichte beider Gattungen wird dargestellt, mit der Erkennung dass *Apherusa* Walker, 1891 ein unnötiger Ersatzname für *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 ist, und dass *Octobulbacea* Zamponi, 1983 als einziges verfügbares jüngeres Synonym für *Gossea* Agassiz, 1862 verwendet werden sollte.

Schlüsselwörter. — Nomenklatur, priorität, Amphipoda, Cnidaria

⁴) Corresponding author; e-mail: sammy.degrave@oum.ox.ac.uk

The generic name *Gossea* Agassiz, 1862 (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) has been considered a senior homonym of *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 (Crustacea: Amphipoda) since Walker (1892) recognized that *Gossea microdeutopa* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 was a junior subjective synonym of *Apherusa jurinii* [sic] (H. Milne Edwards, 1830). Walker (1892) noted that both *Gossea* names were published in the same year and stated that it was “obviously more convenient that Agassiz’s genus should be retained” which meant that *Apherusa* Walker, 1891b was, in Walker’s opinion, the correct name for the amphipod genus. It may have been more convenient for Walker to maintain the usage of his own name, but this contravenes the ICZN’s principle of priority (ICZN, 1999: Article 23). Walker (1892) did not determine the order in which Agassiz and Spence Bate & Westwood’s works were published within 1862. In the present contribution, we show that *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 is actually the senior homonym of *Gossea* Agassiz, 1862 and should be reinstated for the genus of amphipods currently called *Apherusa* Walker, 1891.

Spence Bate & Westwood (1862: 276) erected the genus *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862 (Crustacea: Amphipoda) for a single species *Gossea microdeutopa* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862, described on page 277 (type species by monotypy). Subsequently, Spence Bate (1863) also indicated the genus (p. 159) and species (p. 160, pl. 29 fig. 6) names as new, but used the spelling *microdentopa* on the plate, which is herein considered to be an incorrect subsequent spelling sensu ICZN (1999: Art. 33.3). *Gossea* and *G. microdeutopa* were thus both validly published in volume I, part 6 of “A History of British Sessile-Eyed Crustacea in Two Volumes” with part 6 published on 1 April 1862 fide Holthuis (1977).

Walker (1891a) discussed the confusion around the identity of *Pherusa fucicola* Leach, 1814 (currently *Gammarella fucicola* (Leach, 1814)) and synonymized *Pherusa* with *Gammarella* Spence Bate, 1857 but incorrectly continued to consider *Pherusa* as a valid genus credited to “Bate, 1862”. *Pherusa* Leach, 1814 is a junior homonym of *Pherusa* Oken, 1807 (Annelida: Polychaeta) but this was not recognized by Walker (1891a); *Gammarella* being an available junior synonym of *Pherusa* Leach, it is the name currently in use as valid.

Walker (1891b) subsequently concluded that he could not use “Bate’s genus *Pherusa*, 1862” because it was not identical with that of Leach, 1814, that it was not “Bate’s genus” but rather *Pherusa* sensu Spence Bate, “1862” (actually 1863, see below). Walker then introduced the name *Apherusa* for *Pherusa* sensu Spence Bate, “1862” non Leach, 1814. The type species of *Apherusa* is *Ampithoe jurinei* H. Milne Edwards, 1830 by monotypy as only a single species was included by Walker (1891a) in his concept of *Pherusa* sensu Bate non Leach, 1814 and this

was the concept alluded to in Walker (1891a) when he replaced *Pherusa* sensu Bate with *Apherusa* as a new name.

Walker (1892) re-examined three type specimens of *Gossea microdeutopa* (all in poor condition) and concluded that they represented the same species identified by Spence Bate (1863) as both *Pherusa fucicola* (pp. 145-146; misidentification) and *Gossea microdeutopa* (pp. 159-160; listed as new genus and species) and that both were synonyms of *Apherusa jurinii* [sic]. Walker (1892) cited Spence Bate (1863) as the source of these names although they were first published in Spence Bate & Westwood (1862: 255 and 276-278, respectively). Other than that Walker may have been unaware that “A History of British Sessile-Eyed Crustacea in Two Volumes” was published in parts (see Holthuis, 1977), *Gossea microdeutopa* was labeled as being a new genus and species only in Spence Bate (1863), which was clearly intended to come out before Spence Bate & Westwood (1862) as the relevant page numbers in the 1862 paper were cited in the 1863 work (see De Grave & Boyko, unpubl. data). Walker (1892) retained *Apherusa* as the name for the amphipod genus because he thought that Spence Bate (1863; see Sherborn, 1934) was published first in 1862 in advance of Spence Bate & Westwood’s work and that *Gossea* Spence Bate was a junior homonym of *Gossea* Agassiz (see below).

Agassiz (1862) erected *Gossea* as a new genus for “*Thaumantias? Corynetes*” Gosse, 1853, this being type species by monotypy. No characters were given for the genus but as it is a pre-1931 name, this is permissible (ICZN, 1999: Article 12.2) and the name is available. The date of copyright of Agassiz’s book was 28 May 1862 and a copy of the book was not deposited in the District Clerk’s of Massachusetts office until 13 August 1862 (fig. 1). The book, therefore, cannot have been published before 28 May 1862 and most likely was published closer to 13 August 1862.

Recognizing that Spence Bate & Westwood’s (1862) publication predates Spence Bate (1863) makes no functional difference as *Gossea* was indeed used as a new genus name twice in 1862 and the publication date of 1 April 1862 for the amphipod genus name predates the 28 May 1862 copyright date (and likely much later publication date) for the cnidarian. Therefore, *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood (1862) is the senior homonym of *Gossea* Agassiz (1862) rather than the reverse, and the latter name needs to be replaced.

A new name for *Gossea* Agassiz is not needed as *Octobulbacea* Zamponi, 1983 is currently considered a junior synonym of *Gossea* Agassiz. The type species is *Octobulbacea montehermosensis* Zamponi, 1983 by monotypy and is currently considered to be a junior subjective synonym of *Gossea brachymera* Bigelow, 1909 fide Noguiera (2012). *Octobulbacea* is therefore an available name to replace *Gossea* Agassiz.

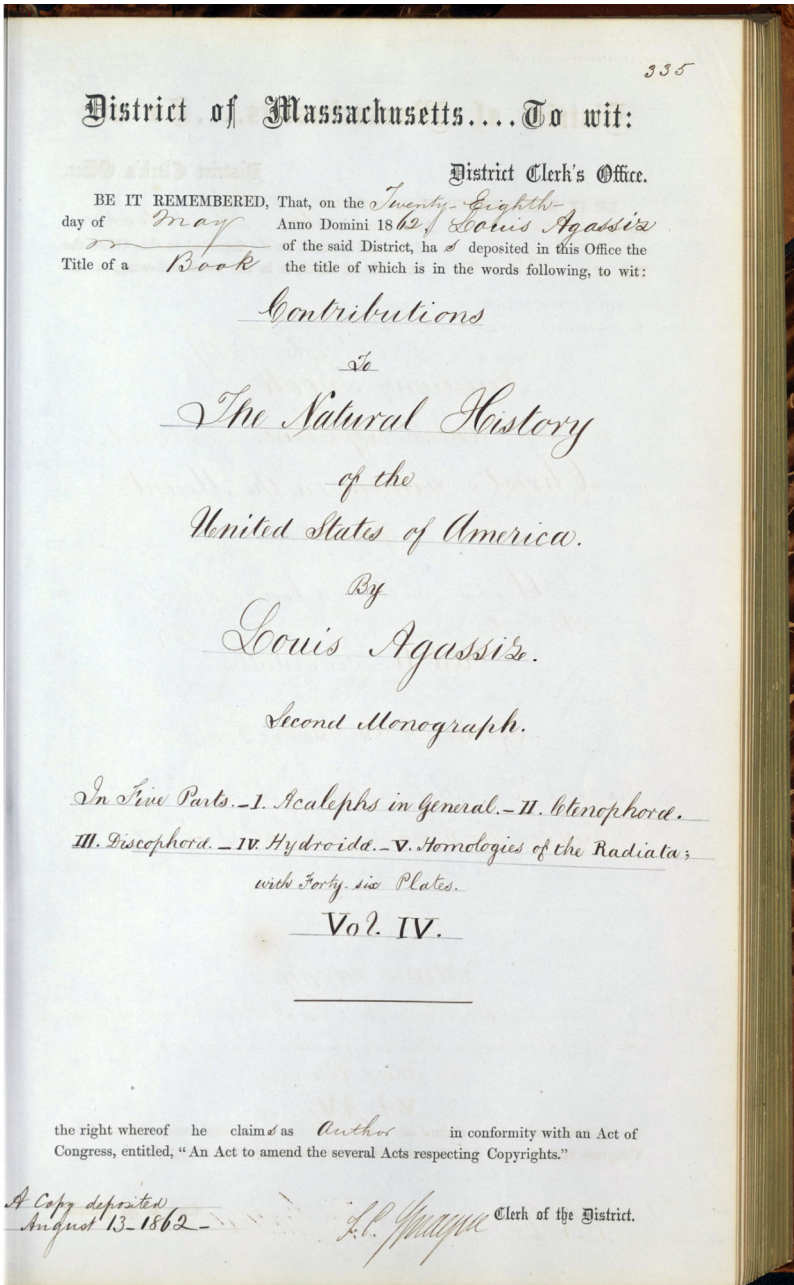


Fig. 1. District of Massachusetts District Clerk's Office ledger page 335 listing volume 4 of "Contributions to the Natural History of the United States of America" by Louis Agassiz, showing that the book was copyrighted 28 May 1862 and that a copy of the book was deposited 13 August 1862 (Early Copyright Records Collection, Copyright ledgers, Massachusetts. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/2020729694/).

The following 20 amphipod species were previously described or placed in *Apherusa* Walker, 1891b (see Horton et al., 2023) and are now transferred to *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood, 1862, the senior synonym of *Apherusa* and senior homonym of *Gossea* Agassiz: to wit *Gossea alacris* (Krapp-Schickel, 1969) n. comb.; *Gossea bispinosa* (Spence Bate, 1857) n. comb.; *Gossea chiereghinii* (Giordani-Soika, 1949) n. comb.; *Gossea cirrus* (Spence Bate, 1863) n. comb.; *Gossea clevei* (G.O. Sars, 1904) n. comb.; *Gossea corbeli* (Lagardère, 1968) n. comb.; *Gossea delicata* (Krapp-Schickel & Sorbe, 2006) n. comb.; *Gossea glacialis* (Hansen, 1888) n. comb.; *Gossea henneguyi* (Chevreux & Fage, 1925) n. comb.; *Gossea jurinei* (H. Milne Edwards, 1830) n. comb.; *Gossea macrocephala* (M. Sars, 1858) n. comb.; *Gossea mediterranea* (Chevreux, 1911) n. comb.; *Gossea megalops* (Buchholz, 1874) n. comb.; *Gossea ovalipes* (Norman & Scott, 1906) n. comb.; *Gossea retovskii* (Gurjanova, 1934) n. comb.; *Gossea ruffoi* (Krapp-Schickel, 1969) n. comb.; *Gossea sarsii* (Shoemaker, 1930) n. comb.; *Gossea stuxbergi* (Oldevig, 1959) n. comb.; *Gossea tridentata* (Bruzellius, 1859) n. comb.; and *Gossea vexatrix* (Krapp-Schickel, 1979) n. comb.

The following four hydrozoan species were previously described or placed in *Gossea* Agassiz, 1862 (see Schuchert, 2023) and are now transferred to *Octobulbacea* Zamponi, 1983, the next available junior synonym of *Gossea* Agassiz, that being the junior homonym of *Gossea* Spence Bate & Westwood: to wit *Octobulbacea brachymera* (Bigelow, 1909) n. comb.; *Octobulbacea corynetes* (Gosse, 1853) n. comb.; *Octobulbacea faureae* (Picard, 1952) n. comb.; and *Octobulbacea indica* (Bouillon, 1978) n. comb.

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