

WHAT IS *ANODONTA (EUPHRATA) BAHLIKIANA* PALLARY?

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In 1933 Pallary (Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris (2), 5, p. 150) proposed a new section of *Anodonta*, *Euphrata*, for an assumedly new species from Nahr Bâhlik, a left tributary of the Euphrates in Syria. When in 1940 I published my tentative classification of Palearctic Unionids (Zool. Ser. Field Mus., 24, p. 115-141; 1940), no more detailed description of this new *Anodonta* from Syria had come to my knowledge and so, familiar with Pallary's tendency toward splitting up old and known species, I tentatively added his "species" of *Anodonta* to the synonymy of *Anodonta cygnea* Linne. Very shortly after the above-mentioned classification had been published, Pallary's "Deuxième Addition à la Faune Malacologique de la Syrie" (Mém. Inst. Egypt., 39, p. 1-141, pls. 1-7, 1939) was received and an adequate description and figure of *Anodonta (Euphrata) bahlikiana* was found in it; and this additional information made it obvious that the species in question can by no means be separated from *Anodonta vescoiana* Bourguignat, 1857. If I had been mistaken in combining *bahlikiana* with *cygnea*, I had been right in so far as *bahlikiana* was no new species, and owed its creation only to too fine a discrimination.

The exact systematical position of *Anodonta (Euphrata) bahlikiana* now being suggested, a word or two may be said about the section *Euphrata* created for *Anodonta bahlikiana*. As I have tried to point out in 1940, *Anodonta vescoiana*, now including *A. bahlikiana*, does not belong to the Palearctic group of *A. cygnea*, but to the same group as *A. woodiana* Lea, widely spread in East Asia and even represented in the North American fauna by the species grouping themselves around *A. grandis* Say. To my judgment, this group belongs to typical *Anodonta*, and cannot be separated into a special subgenus or section. This has been tried by P. Fischer, who (Man. Coneh., 1886, p. 1003) proposed the subgeneric name of *Pteranodon* for *Anodonta magnifica* Lea, now considered a synonym of *Anodonta woodiana* Lea. Logically, *Euphrata* Pallary thus becomes a synonym of *Pteranodon* Fischer.

Quite recently, Shadin (Faune de l'URSS., Mollusques, 4, No. 1, Unionidae, p. 117, 140; 1938) has tried to reinforce the separation of the *woodiana* group as a distinct subgenus, *Pteranodon*, from *Anodonta* proper; but the distinctive features offered, *i.e.*, shape of the shell and of the glochidium, do not seem convincing to me.