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PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE
DAVENPORT 8-0298

20 March 1957

Mr. Francis Hemming,
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature,
28 Park Village East,
Regent's Park,
London, N. W. 1,
England.

Dear Mr. Hemmings:

Re: Cardita Bruguiere

This is in reply to your letter of 8 March 1957.

As stated in my previous letter, this case has been presented adequately by A. Chavan (Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., vol. 42, No. 4, p. 116-117, April 15, 1952).

I submitted the problem to Dr. Ralph B. Stewart in a letter dated May 21, 1956. He and Dr. Harold A. Rehder, U. S. National Museum, reviewed it and on May 31, 1956, Dr. Rehder wrote me to the effect that Cardita Bruguiere (1792) must be used for the genus, with the type species Chama calyculata Linnaeus. Dr. Rehder signed the letter but stated that Dr. Stewart agreed with this decision.

If Chama calyculata Linnaeus is the type species of Cardita Bruguiere and Lamarck's Cardita cannot be accepted, then the first available generic name for Chama antiquata Linnaeus is Cardites Link according to Chavan (op. cit., p. 117), with type by monotypy Chama antiquata Linnaeus.

If the decision should be that Lamarck's generic name is valid and Chama antiquata Linnaeus is the type species, then Arcinella Oken, 1815, is available (type: Chama calyculata Linnaeus), again following Chavan (supra cit.)

Aside from Chavan, Lamy (Jour. Conchyliologie, 1921) used calyculata as the type species of Cardita. This seems to be in harmony with the intention of the ICZN ruling of 1948.

However, as Dr. Keen has pointed out to me, the ICZN ruling contravenes accepted practice of considering that selection of a type species refers to the earliest usage of the name, whether of the author cited or of a predecessor.

(The reason)

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The reason why I believe that stability in nomenclature would result from the use of Chama antiquata Linnaeus as the type species of Cardita is that certain fossil species have become important in zonal paleontology. For example, specimens identified as Cardita beaumonti have been widely used in paleontology and paleogeography; the correct generic nomenclature, I hasten to add, should be Venericardia, according to Rutsch, Schenck and others who used the combination Venericardia beaumonti. Other workers in paleontology have accepted Stewart's 1930 arrangement of the Carditidae and the adoption of Chama calyculata Linnaeus as the type of Cardita would be disruptive, in my opinion.

I am sending copies of this letter to interested specialists who may wish to write to you directly:

Dr. H. B. Stenzel, 3726 Colquitt, Houston 6, Texas
Dr. R. F. Rutsch, Melchenbühlweg 75, Berne, Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,

HUBERT G. SCHENCK

Hubert G. Schenck

c/c Keen
Rutsch
Stenzel ✓