

The use of both *Proptera* and *Potamilus* for the same genus has led to confusion among non-specialists and will continue to do so. For example, one species of *Proptera* (*capax* Green, 1833) is included on our federal *List of Endangered and Threatened Species*, and disagreements among specialists about its correct name have weakened the perceived credibility of malacologists in contested cases involving the conservation of that species. Other examples could also have been cited but the point is that stable nomenclature is more than an academic convenience. The lack of stability hinders our ability to get on with much more serious biological issues, issues such as ensuring the very survival of species.

(2) Arthur E. Bogan

Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and the Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, U.S.A.

James D. Williams

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fishery Research Laboratory, 7920 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, Florida 32606, U.S.A.

Samuel L.H. Fuller

Florida State Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.

We consider that simple priority should govern the choice of generic names in this case, and recommend against the proposed conservation of *Proptera* Rafinesque, 1819 by the suppression of *Potamilus* Rafinesque, 1818.

The generic concept for the species variously grouped with *Unio alatus* Say, 1817 has changed continuously over the last 170 years. This is a problem in unionid systematics. It is only in the past 20 years that some sort of stability in North American unionid nomenclature has arisen. This stability is based on re-examination of the types and taking the earliest available name regardless of what names may have been used for the last 30 years. Gordon (BZN 47: 20, para. 6) remarked that Morrison's 1969 action was 'solely to reintroduce an unused Rafinesque name'. What would replacing one Rafinesque name with another accomplish? Morrison was working to bring about stability in the nomenclature by trying to recognize the earliest available names, especially those overlooked or ignored but validly proposed and with priority.

A survey of the use of *Potamilus* in the recent unionid literature was made. The molluscan section of the *Zoological Record* from 1969 to 1989 was examined for articles using *Potamilus*. Only one citation was found. This paucity of citations is not truly indicative of the use of *Potamilus* in the published literature. A sample of the extensive use of *Potamilus* in this period has been given to the Commission Secretariat, consisting of 104 citations by 84 authors from the United States, Canada and Great Britain. These consist of (i) state and federal agency surveys and reports (23 references); (ii) workshops and published symposia (6 papers); (iii) reports listing state or federal endangered or threatened species in *Potamilus* (22 references); (iv) reports of unionids in archaeological contexts (11 references); (v) journal papers using *Potamilus* (31 references); (vi) unionid surveys of river basins or states (4 books); (vii) checklists, dissertations, etc. (7 references).

*Potamilus* has been used in the American Malacological Union Program since 1974. Not on our endangered species list but in the IUCN Red List. Since *Potamilus* is listed on the IUCN Red List it has been picked up by the IUCN (IUCN, 1986).

The American Malacological Union is working with the American Malacological Union to revise the American fauna of North America not to include several preliminary lists with the American Malacological Union considered. The first edition of the American Fisheries Society (1986).

This survey illustrates that the use of *Potamilus* is widespread. This is in direct contrast to the IUCN (para. 8).

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

(1) not to use its plenary power

(2) to place on the Official List of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

Rafinesque, 1818 (generic name)

Morrison (1969) *Unionid Mollusks of North America*

(3) to place on the Official List of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

1817, as published in the *International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry*

of *Potamilus* Rafinesque

#### Additional References

American Malacological Union

occurring from America

International Union for Conservation of Nature

*List of Threatened Animals*

Natural Resources, Glarus

Turgeon, D.D., Bogan, A.E.,

C.F.E., Scheltema, A., *The*

*Unionid Mollusks of North America*

Society Special Publication

#### Comments on the proposed

Linnaeus, 1767 (currently

currently *Pholoe minuta*)

(Case 2452; see BZN 46: 2)

(1) Mary E. Petersen

Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen

Copenhagen 0, Denmark

Chambers & Heppell

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*Potamilus* has been used in the United States Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program since 1974. Not only is it used for two species of *Potamilus* on the federal endangered species list but is used in a number of state endangered species lists as well. Since *Potamilus* is listed on the United States federal list of endangered species it has been picked up by the IUCN Red Data Book on endangered invertebrate species (IUCN, 1986).

The American Malacological Union and the Council of Systematic Malacologists working with the American Fisheries Society produced a checklist of the molluscan fauna of North America north of Mexico based on all available published literature. Several preliminary lists were widely circulated and a draft version published (American Malacological Union, 1985). All submitted comments were carefully considered. The first edition of this checklist was published as a special publication of the American Fisheries Society (Turgeon et al., 1988). This checklist uses *Potamilus*.

This survey illustrates that the use of *Potamilus* in the published literature is in fact widespread. This is in direct contrast to the impression given by Gordon (BZN 47: 20, para. 8).

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) not to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *Potamilus* Rafinesque, 1818;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Potamilus* Rafinesque, 1818 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Morrison (1969) *Unio alatus* Say, 1817;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *alatus* Say, 1817, as published in the binomen *Unio alatus* (specific name of the type species of *Potamilus* Rafinesque, 1818).

#### Additional References

- American Malacological Union. 1985. Suggested draft list of common names for mollusks occurring from America north of Mexico. *Shells and Seafife*, 17(2): 45-85.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. 1986. *1986 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*. 105 pp. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, U.K.
- Turgeon, D.D., Bogan, A.E., Coan, E.V., Emerson, W.K., Lyons, W.G., Pratt, W.L., Roper, C.F.E., Scheltema, A., Thompson, F.G. & Williams, J.D. 1988. *Common and scientific names of aquatic invertebrates from the United States and Canada: Mollusks*. American Fisheries Society Special Publication no. 16. vii, 277 pp., 12 pls. Bethesda.

**Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific names of *Aphrodita imbricata* Linnaeus, 1767 (currently *Harmothoe imbricata*) and *Aphrodita minuta* Fabricius, 1780 (currently *Pholoe minuta*) (Annelida, Polychaeta)**  
(Case 2452; see BZN 46: 22-24)

(1) Mary E. Petersen  
Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2100  
Copenhagen ø, Denmark

Chambers & Heppell have pointed out that the specific name *imbricata* is threatened by the senior subjective synonym *Aphrodita lepidota* Pallas, 1766, and that *A. minuta*