

BELLARDIELLA KOVACSI VARGA & PÁLL-GERGELY, 2017 IS A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *B. ABBASI* THACH, 2017 (GASTROPODA: CAENOGASTROPODA: PUPINIDAE)

Dr. Thach, while preparing his book, asked the first author for advice regarding a few pupinid species including a *Bellardiella* Tapparone-Canefri, 1883¹ species. To support his work, we sent our manuscript to him in September, 2016, which contained photos of types all *Bellardiella* species. Our manuscript was that time already submitted to the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology.

The book of Thach², with the description of *Bellardiella abbasi* Thach, 2017, was published in

June 2017, and contained photos of the holotype of *Bellardiella kovacsi* Varga & Páll-Gergely, 2017 from our still unpublished manuscript. Thach² compared his new species *Bellardiella abbasi*, with *Bellardiella kovacsi*, which was a nomen nudum until it was finally described in our paper on the 17th of August, 2017³.

Examination of the holotypes of both species (Fig. 1) confirmed that they are conspecific, and all differences between the two species



Figure 1 Shells of *Bellardiella abbasi* Thach, 2017. A, D, F, I, K: holotype of *Bellardiella abbasi* Thach, 2017 (NHMUK 20170282); B, paratype of *Bellardiella kovacsi* Varga & Páll-Gergely, 2017 (MMGY 74594); C, E, G, H, J: holotype of *Bellardiella kovacsi* (MMGY 74592). Scale represents 5mm. Photos: A. Varga (B, C, E, G, H, J) and Kevin Webb, NHMUK (A, D, F, I, K).

mentioned by Thach (2017) are not true or not relevant. Consequently, *Bellardiella kovacsi* is a junior synonym of *Bellardiella abbasi*. The type locality of *B. kovacsi* is the island of Batanta, West Papua, Indonesia, whereas that of *B. abbasi* is the neighbouring island Salawati (Selawati in Thach²). Thus, *Bellardiella abbasi* Thach, 2017 inhabits both islands.

Abbreviations used: MMGY: Mátra Museum of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (Gyöngyös, Hungary), NHM: The Natural History Museum (London, UK), NHMUK: When citing NHM registered specimens.

We are grateful to Jonathan D. Ablett and Kevin Webb (The Natural History Museum, London) for the photographs of *Bellardiella abbasi* and to an anonymous reviewers for his/her comments on the manuscript. This study was supported by the Hungarian Research Fund (OTKA FK 135262) and the Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to BPG.

¹ TAPPARONE-CANEFRI C 1883 Fauna malacologica della Nuova Guinea e delle isole adiacenti. *Annali del Museo civico di storia naturale di Genova* **19**: 5–313.

² THACH NN 2017 *New shells of Southeast Asia. Sea shells & Land snails*. 48HrBooks Company, Akron, USA, 128 pp.

³ VARGA A & PÁLL-GERGELY B 2017 A review of *Bellardiella* Tapparone-Canefri, 1883, with descriptions of a new subgenus and two new species (Gastropoda: Cyclophoroidea: Pupinidae). *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* **65**: 386–394.

Barna Páll-Gergely
Plant Protection Institute,
Centre for Agricultural Research,
ELKH,
1022 Budapest,
Herman Ottó út 15.,
Hungary
pallgergely2@gmail.com

András Varga
Mátra Museum of the Hungarian Natural
History Museum,
3212 Gyöngyös,
Kossuth út 40,
Hungary