

## ON THE NOMENCLATURAL STATUS OF *NASSA ELABRATA* DODERLEIN 1864 (MOLLUSCA, GASTROPODA, NASSARIIDAE)

In their last contribution on the Pliocene molluscs of Estepona (Spain), Landau *et al.* (2009) surveyed the nassariid gastropods revising many long-established nominal taxa. Among them, they synonymised four species included by Bellardi in his 52<sup>nd</sup> series of the genus *Nassa*: *Nassa crebricostulata* Bellardi 1882; *Nassa elabrata* Doderlein 1864; *Nassa subcostata* Bellardi 1882; and *Nassa nova* Bellardi 1882. *Nassa elabrata* Doderlein 1864, was selected as a valid name.

Actually, *Nassa elabrata* is not available from Doderlein (1864), but only from Bellardi (1882). Indeed, this nominal taxon was included as a nomen nudum in a checklist of Miocene molluscs of central Italy, read to the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of Italian Scientists held in Siena in September 1862 and published two years later (Doderlein, 1864).

*N. crebricostulata*, *N. elabrata*, *N. subcostata* and *N. nova* are therefore four simultaneously established nominal species and their relative precedence can be only determined by the first revisor (ICZN, 1999: Art. 24). Acting as first revisors, we determine that *N. elabrata* Bellardi 1882 has precedence over the others. Although we would have preferred *N. crebricostulata* as the valid name because this species was recently reported (Ferrero Mortara *et al.*, 1984; Cavallo & Repetto, 1992; Chirli, 2000), this would cause confusion because the monographs on Estepona by Landau and co-workers are a milestone on Pliocene molluscs of the Euro-Mediterranean area and will become a standard reference.

*Nassa elabrata* may nevertheless be conspecific with the older *Buccinum karreri* Hoernes & Auinger 1882, a species recently revised by Harzhauser & Kowalke (2004), in which case the latter is the valid name. Although the exact date of publication of Hoernes & Auinger's third contribution on fossil gastropods of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is unknown, the fact that Bellardi quoted it demonstrates that it was published before his monography.

*Nassa elabrata* is very similar to the Recent *Nassarius heynemanni* (von Maltzan 1884). The latter was synonymized with the Pliocene *Nassa pyrenaica* Fontennes 1879, by Landau *et al.* (2009). However, there could be an older available name

for this species as well: *Nassa atlantica* Bronn in Reuss 1862.

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