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The type locality and the lectotype of *Strombus lambis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Caenogastropoda: Strombidae)

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Abstract. The lectotype for the nominal taxon *Strombus lambis* Linnaeus, 1758 was incorrectly designated twice. The shell G-M 0010148 present in the Linnean Society of London was designated as lectotype by Dekkers & Maxwell (2022). Four years later, Dekkers & Vink (2026) invalidly designated as lectotype the shell illustrated in Rumphius (1705) in plate 35, figure E. The type locality of *Strombus lambis* is "O[ceanus]. Asiae" (Linnaeus 1758), not Ambon.

Key words. Strombidae, *Lambis*, lectotype, Ambon, type locality

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Introduction

The nominal taxon *Strombus lambis* Linnaeus, 1758 is an iconic species first figured in one of the first natural history encyclopedias (Rondelet 1555: 79) and many subsequent books, both popular and scientific, as well as in many articles. *Strombus lambis* is the type species of the genus *Lambis* Röding, 1798 by tautonymy. Abbott (1961), who discussed this taxon at length, did not designate a lectotype from the syntype series. The first lectotype designation was only recently done by Dekkers & Maxwell (2022), but subsequently, another specimen (Dekkers & Vink 2026) was also selected as the lectotype. This paper addresses the possible confusion that may arise from these contradicting designations.

Linnaeus's Syntypes

Linnaeus described *Strombus lambis* in 1758 in the tenth edition of the *Systema Naturae* (species 425 on page 743) and gave the locality as "O[ceanus]. Asiae". He characterised this species in a single sentence and referred to figures published in six different books, including figures E and F on plate 35 of Rumphius (1705). The Linnaean collection (Burlington House, London) has four syntypes that were identified by S. Peter Dance in 1963 (Figs 1, 2).

In the accompanying note (Linnean Collections), Dance wrote:

> I have isolated two shells, each of them marked '493'. They are both (Box One) specimens of *Lambis lambis* of authors and, using the criteria laid down by Abbott (Indo-Pacific Moll. 1961 *Lambis*), both shells are the male form. In fact Abbott concludes that Linne's description was founded upon a male specimen. The smaller, more perfect shell could be made lectotype. I have isolated two other shells (Box Two) each marked '493'. One is the very young stage (body whorl only) of *Lambis lambis* and the other is the similar stage of *Lambis chiragra* (forma *rugosa*) i.e. male form.

Indeed, two of these specimens (Fig. 1) are adult shells, and two others (Fig. 2) are juveniles, one of them instead being a juvenile specimen of *Strombus chiragra* Linnaeus, 1758, currently *Harpago chiragra* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Fig. 2C).

The type series of *Strombus lambis* consists of the specimens that were available to Linnaeus in his private collection (now housed in London, UK), the shells figured in the books he referred to, and the Linnaean specimens now kept in the Museum of Evolution, Uppsala, Sweden. All these shells are to be considered syntypes. This is confirmed by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999),

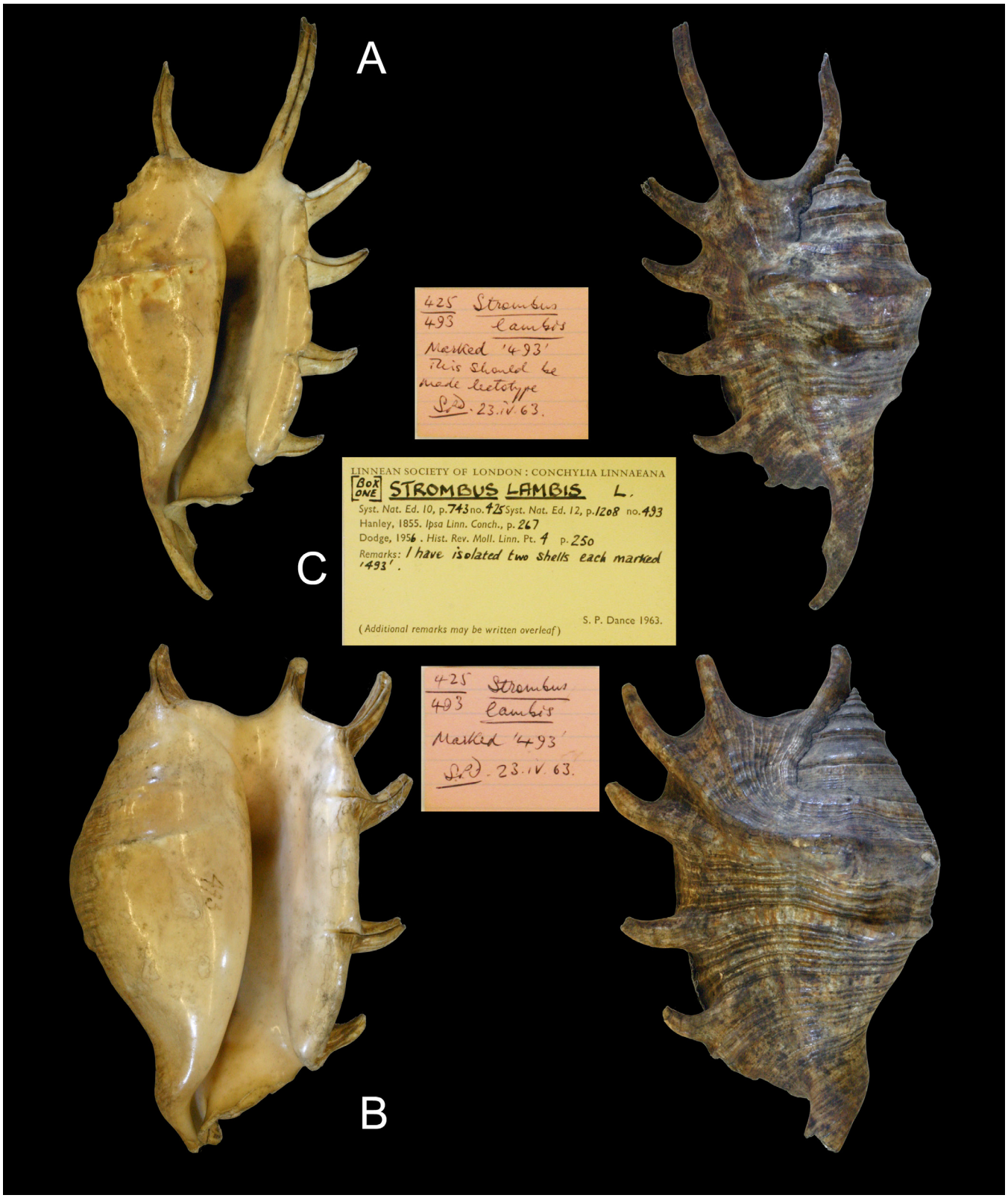

Figure 1. *Lambis* spp. **A**, *Lambis lambis* (Linnaeus, 1758), lectotype of *Strombus lambis*, designated by Dekkers & Maxwell (2022), actual size (measured from the tip of the first digit to tip of anterior canal) *c.* 115 mm. **B**, *Lambis* sp., paralectotype of *S. lambis*, actual size (measured from the tip of the first short digit to tip of broken off anterior canal) *c.* 100 mm. **C**, accompanying labels written by S. Peter Dance in 1963. Photographs © Ulrich Wieneke.

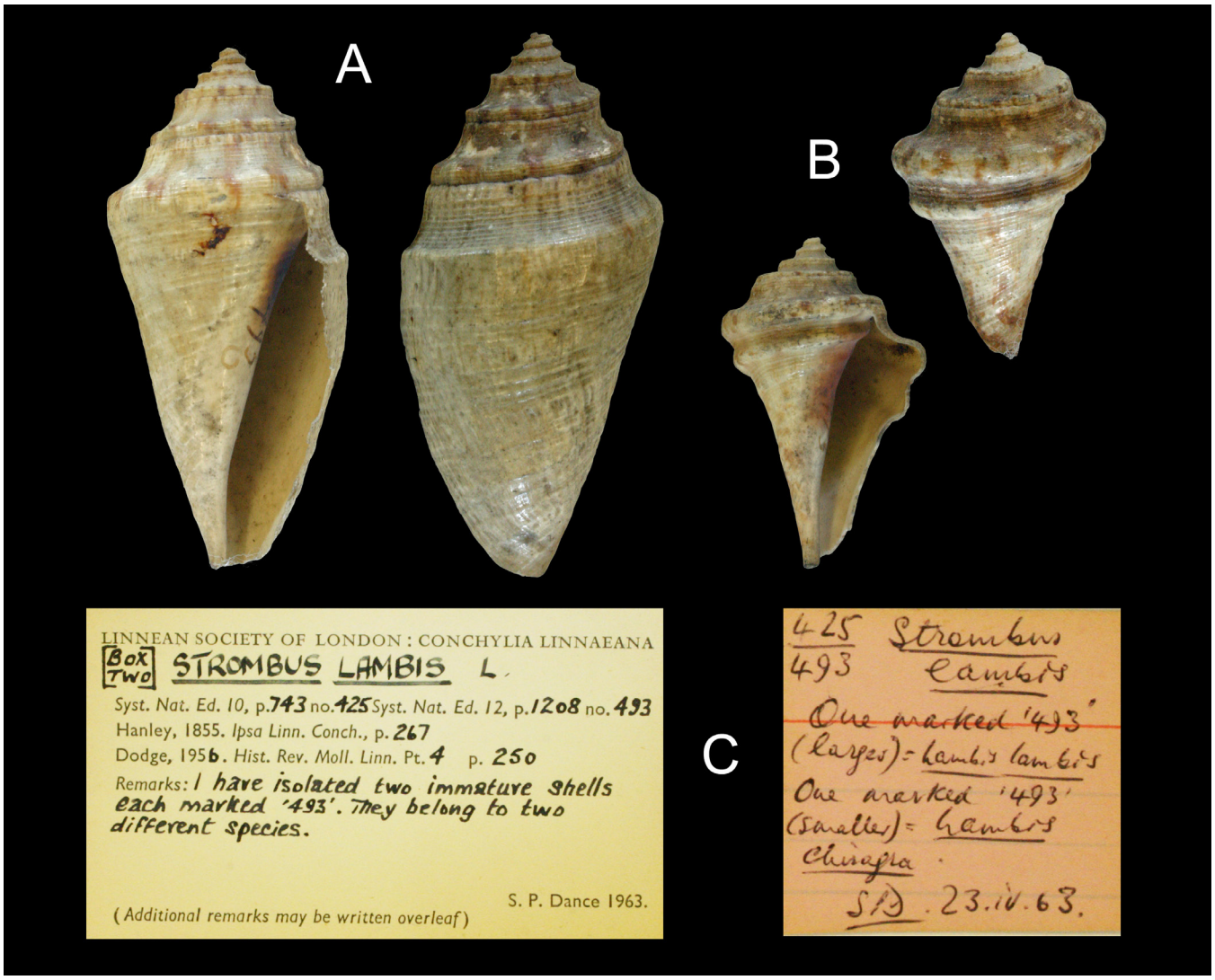

Figure 2. A, *Lambis* sp., juvenile, paralectotype of *S. lambis*, actual size 68 mm. **B**, *Harpago chiragra* (Linnaeus, 1758), juvenile, paralectotype of *S. lambis*, actual size 44.7 mm. **C**, accompanying labels written by S. Peter Dance in 1963. Photographs © Ulrich Wieneke.

Article 72.4.1, "The type series of a nominal species-group consists of all the specimens included by the author in the new nominal taxon (whether directly or by bibliographic reference)". The concept of selecting a holotype from among multiple specimens in the original publication was unknown in the time of Linnaeus (and long thereafter), and holotypes only existed where the original description made clear that it was based on a single specimen. To unambiguously fix the identity of a nominal taxon, a lectotype can be selected from the syntypes. This is governed by Article 74.1.1, "The valid designation of a lectotype fixes the status of the specimen as the sole name-bearing type of that nominal taxon; no later designation of a lectotype has any validity". It should further be noted that "the type locality is the place of origin of the lectotype" (Article 73.2.3) and that "The place of origin of the lectotype becomes the type locality of the nominal species-group taxon, despite any previously published statement of the type locality" (Article 76.2).

Type Locality

Abbott (1961: 153), in his monograph of the genus *Lambis* in the Indo-Pacific, mentioned under the heading "Types" the following:

> Hanley (1855, p. 267) states that a specimen like that figured in Sowerby's Thesaurus Conch., vol. 1, pl. 1, fig. 5 is marked as *lambis* in the Linnaean collection in London. From that figure and from Linné's description it appears that this species was founded

upon a male specimen. We restrict the type locality to Amboina, Indonesia.

Dodge (1956: 251) mentioned that "A specimen of *lambis* is found properly marked in the Linnaean collection in London". Unfortunately, neither Hanley, nor Abbott, nor Dodge selected a lectotype for *Strombus lambis* from the potential syntypes. Therefore, the restriction of Ambon as type locality for *Strombus lambis* by Abbott is invalid, as it is not in compliance with Article 73.2.3.

Lectotype Designations

Dekkers & Maxwell (2022: 394) designated a lectotype for *Strombus lambis*, a specimen present in the Linnean collection in London:

> … the material was compared with the syntypes of *Lambis lambis* (G-M 0010148 *Strombus lambis*, figure 1 [A], here refigured Fig. 1) and *Lambis millepeda* (G-M 0010272 *Strombus millepeda*, figure 1 [B]) from the Linnean Collection, London, and the illustrated examples of each species (figure 1) are selected from the collection's syntypes and herein designated as the lectotypes for each species.

The caption of figure 1 in the 2022 paper is as follows:

> Figure 1: Lectotypes from the Linnean Collection, London: A) *Lambis lambis* (Linné, 1758) (G-M 0010148 *Strombus lambis*); B) *Lambis millepeda* (Linné, 1758) (G-M 0010272 *Strombus millepeda*) (https://www.linnean.org/research-collections/linnaean-collections).

Unfortunately, a locality is not mentioned on the label that is associated with the selected lectotype. Linnaeus (1758: 743) reported the species from "O[ceanus]. Asiæ".

Subsequently, Dekkers & Vink (2026: 247) again designated a lectotype for *Strombus lambis*, *i.e.*, the specimen illustrated in Rumphius (1705: pl. 35 fig. E). As the designation of a lectotype first took place in 2022, and the specimen designated by Dekkers & Maxwell (2022) is generally agreed upon that it is one of the syntypes of *Strombus lambis*, the designation by Dekkers & Maxwell (2022) is deemed the valid designation. The subsequent designation by Dekkers & Vink (2026) of another specimen as the lectotype is not valid as it conflicts with Article 74.1.1.

Therefore, the lectotype of *Strombus lambis* Linnaeus, 1758, currently known as *Lambis lambis* (Linnaeus, 1758), is the specimen present in the Linnean collection, G-M 0010148, and not the specimen illustrated in figure E of Rumphius' plate 35. Furthermore, Dekkers & Vink (2026) considered Ambon to be the type locality of *Strombus lambis*, as Ambon is linked to the specimen of fig. E of plate 35 provided by Rumphius (*i.e.* the invalid lectotype). Their restriction of the type locality to Ambon is invalid, as such information is lacking in the case of the first lectotype selection, and does not comply with Article 76.2.

Discussion and Conclusions

The first lectotype designation for *Strombus lambis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Dekkers & Maxwell, 2022) remains valid as it meets the requirements of the ICZN (1999). The restrictions of the type locality by Abbott (1961) and by Dekkers & Vink (2026) are invalid, the provenance being "O[ceanus]. Asiae". The specimen must have been collected somewhere within the supposed range of the species, i.e. between eastern Africa, Fiji and Japan. The precise type locality is unknown.

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