ON THE GENERIC NAMES “PLOTIA” ROEDING, 1798, AND “PYRAMIDELLA” LAMARCK, 1799, AND THE PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER PLENARY POWERS OF THE GENERIC NAME “PYRAMIDELLA” LAMARCK, 1799 (CLASS GASTROPODA, SUBCLASS PROSOBRANCHIA)

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(Commission’s reference Z.N.(S.)651)

(Enclosure to a letter dated 17th February 1952)

The generic name Plotia was introduced by Roeding in 1798 (Museum Bolltenianum: 95) without a diagnosis but with a list of 15 specific trivial names. Of these 7 are nomina nuda, while the others have bibliographic references accompanying them. The first valid type selection for this genus was made by Pilsbry and Bequaert in 1923 (Nautilus 64: 68), the species so chosen being the sixth valid species in Roeding’s list, Plotia lineata Roeding (1798). This species is an objective junior synonym of Trochus dolabratus Linnaeus, 1758 (Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) 1: 760) the type species, by monotypy, of Pyramidella Lamarck, 1799 (Mém. Soc. Hist. nat. Paris, An VII: 76). A strict adherence to the rules would, therefore bring about the replacement of Pyramidella Lamarck, 1799, by Plotia Roeding, 1798.

2. Pyramidella has, however, been in common use since its introduction, and is the type genus of the family PYRAMIDELLIDAE, a very large family of world-wide range and of considerable importance in paleontology.

3. In order to prevent the confusion that would result from the loss of such a common generic and familiar name, we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:–

(1) to use its plenary power

(a) to suppress the generic name Plotia Roeding, 1798, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;

(b) to validate the generic name Pyramidella Lamarck, 1799;

(2) to place Pyramidella Lamarck, 1799 (gender of generic name: feminine) (type species, by monotypy: Trochus dolabratus Linnaeus, 1758) on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(3) to place Plotia Roeding, 1798, as proposed, under (1)(a) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:

(4) to place the trivial name dolabratus Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination Trochus dolabratus) (trivial name of type species of Pyramidella Lamarck, 1799) on the Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology;

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(5) to place the trivial name *lineata* Roeding, 1798 (as published in the binominal combination *Plotia lineata*) (an objective junior synonym of the trivial name *dolobratus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Trochus dolobratus*) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME “DASYPELTIS” WAGLER, 1830, FOR THE AFRICAN EGG-EATING SNAKE (CLASS REPTILIA)**

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The present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to set aside the name *Anodon* Smith, 1829 (Ophidia) and to place the name *Dasypeltis* Wagler, 1830, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

2. This action is taken for the following reason: Andrew Smith (1829, “Contributions to the Natural History of South Africa, &c.,” *The Zoological Journal* 4: 443) erected the genus *Anodon* using *Coluber scaber* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1: 223) as type species. Wagler (1830, *Natürliches System der Amphibien*: 178) independently erected the genus *Dasypeltis* using the same type species. Inasmuch as *Anodon* Smith, 1829, was preoccupied by *Anodon* Oken, 1815 (*Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte* 3 (1): 236) used for a mollusk, the name *Dasypeltis* has been used almost exclusively in subsequent literature.

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