

**Case 3604*****Helix (Helicogena) aspersa insolida* Monterosato, 1892 (currently *Ercetella insolida*; Gastropoda, Pulmonata, HELICIDAE): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Helix (Helicogena) aspersa insolida* Monterosato, 1892 (currently *Ercetella insolida*; Gastropoda, Pulmonata, HELICIDAE; endemic to NW Sicily), threatened by the senior primary homonyms *Helix (Campylaea) insolida* Brusina, 1876 and *Helix (Campylaea) insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881, two unjustified emendations, no longer in use, for *Helix insolita* Rossmässler, 1838 (currently *Chilostoma insolita*, Gastropoda, Pulmonata, HELICIDAE, endemic to Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro and Herzegovina). In order to conserve the current usage of Monterosato's name it is proposed that *Helix (Campylaea) insolida* Brusina, 1876 and *Helix (Campylaea) insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881 be suppressed.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; HELICIDAE; *Chilostoma insolita*; *insolida*; *Ercetella insolida*; pulmonates; land snails; NW Sicily; Balkans.

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1. Rossmässler (1838, p. 31, Plate 37, fig. 506, sub *Helix insolita* Ziegler) described *Helix insolita*, a land snail (Gastropoda, Pulmonata, HELICIDAE) from 'Albanien'. Rossmässler, like many other authors of that period, when describing a new species, used to add a person's name to its species name in order to indicate the origin of the material studied (in this case Ziegler, who was a dealer of shells). Therefore, for several years, *insolita* was often wrongly attributed to Ziegler, rather than to Rossmässler (1838), who is in fact the author of the name (Article 50.1 of the Code). Since Pfeiffer (1841, p. 18) the taxon has been referred to as *H. insolida*; see also Pfeiffer (1842, p. 83; 1846, p. 36; 1848, p. 352, 450; 1852, p. 232; 1868, p. 359, 503; 1876, p. 414; 1877, p. 587), followed by Bielz (1865, p. 225: *H. nisolida* (!) Zgl.) and Brusina (1866, p. 121; *H. insolida* Ziegler with var.  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\alpha$  . . .). All these names must be regarded as incorrect subsequent spellings, hence unavailable names. Although the spelling *insolida* was in prevailing usage from 1841 to 1881 (with a few exceptions: Möllendorf (1873, p. 38), Kobelt in Rossmässler (1876, p. 32) and Westerlund (1876–78, p. 86), who all used the correct name *insolita*), such usage does not qualify as the 'prevailing usage' according to the Code (see Glossary), which requires a substantial majority of the 'most recent authors' and in our case all most recent

authors use the original correct spelling: in fact, after 1881 the correct spelling *insolita* Rossmässler, 1838 prevailed and the name *insolida* fell into disuse, e.g. Tryon (1888, p. 98); Westerlund (1889, p. 135, 333: *H. insoleta* (sic!) (Z.) Rossm. Syn. *H. insolida* Auct. mult.); Pilsbry (1894, p. 98); Sturany (1901, p. 68).

2. Besides the aforementioned incorrect subsequent spellings, there are two unjustified emendations: (a) by Brusina (1876) and (b) by Pfeiffer & Clessin (1881).

(a) Brusina (1876, p. 54) used *insolida* Ziegler and quoted among its chresonyms *Helix insolita* Kobelt and *Helix insolita* Möllendorf (Möllendorf attributes *insolita* to its correct author Rossmässler). This is therefore an unjustified emendation, as it satisfies the requirements of Article 33.2.1 (both the original and the changed spellings are cited and the latter is adopted in place of the former) and does not satisfy the requirement of Article 33.2.2 of the Code. It must be stressed that Article 33.2.1 requires only the simultaneous citation of original and changed spellings and the adoption of the latter in place of the former in order to fulfil the intentionality requirement stated by Article 33.2, no other statements of intention are required, hence we have no alternative but to consider *insolida* Brusina 1876 as an unjustified emendation. Brusina's *insolida* 'Ziegler' was published as *Campylaea insolida*, not as *Helix insolida*, but Brusina's 1876 paper is titled 'Aggiunte alla monografia delle *Campylaea* della Dalmazia e Croazia' ('Additions to the monograph of the *Campylaea* from Dalmatia and Croatia'). In the 'Monografia delle *Campylaea* della Dalmazia e Croazia', Brusina (1869), although he used *Campylaea* rather than *Helix* in his binomina, expressly stated that he considered *Campylaea* to be a subgenus of *Helix*. While the binomina are written in an unorthodox style, we can conclude that if Brusina regarded *Campylaea* as a subgenus in 1869, the same should apply to his 1876 paper. Therefore, the name *Campylaea* must be considered as a subgenus of *Helix* and consequently, the name *Campylaea insolida* is an available name and unjustified emendation of *Helix insolida* Rossmässler. An alternative interpretation – not favoured by the applicants – would be to regard *Campylaea insolida* Brusina as an independent binomen, in that case not relevant to homonymy within the genus *Helix*.

(b) Pfeiffer & Clessin (1881, p. 145, n. 2928, sectio *Campylaea* Beck, 1837, subsectio *Eucampylaea* Westerlund, 1889) used for this species the name *H. insolida* (attributed to Ziegler) and gave '*Helix insolita* Auct., Kob.' as a synonym. This is therefore another unjustified emendation, as it satisfies the requirements of Article 33.2.1 (both the original spelling, *insolita* Auctorum, and the changed spelling, *insolida* Ziegler, are cited and the latter is adopted in place of the former) and does not satisfy the requirement of Article 33.2.2. Hence we have no alternative but to consider *insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin 1881 as an unjustified emendation. Therefore *H. insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881 is an available name. Pfeiffer & Clessin listed *Campylaea insolida* Brusina among the synonyms or chresonyms of *Helix insolida*, and this might suggest that Pfeiffer's *insolida* is nothing but a chresonym of *insolida* Brusina, and therefore not another unjustified emendation. However, Pfeiffer treated '*insolida* Ziegler' as a valid name but did not treat *insolida* Brusina in this capacity (the name was listed as a junior synonym or chresonym). Therefore it is possible to conclude that Pfeiffer established another unjustified emendation of *insolita* Rossmässler.

3. As stated above, after 1881 *insolida* Brusina, 1876 and *insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881 were no longer in use and, nowadays are generally considered to be junior

synonyms of *insolita* Rossmässler, 1838 (Dhora & Welter-Schultes, 1996, p. 165). The species *insolita* Rossmässler, 1838 is now placed in *Helicigona* (Hesse, 1931, p. 69; Subai, 1995, p. 88; 2002, p. 28; Welter-Schultes, 2012, p. 594), or in *Chilostoma* Fitzinger, 1833 (Štamol, 2010, pp. 24, 43, 59, 61, 67; Bank, 2011a).

4. Monterosato (1892, p. 26) described a land snail (HELICIDAE) from NW Sicily as *Helix (Helicogona) aspersa* var. *insolida*, with locus typicus ‘Favignana ?; comprata al mercato di Trapani come del Monte S. Giuliano e di Favignana’ (‘Favignana?; bought at the market in Trapani as coming from Monte S. Giuliano and [the island of] Favignana’). Subsequently, Monterosato (1894, pp. 168–169) changed his views on the affinity of the taxon and slightly redefined its distribution area, reporting it as a variety of *Helix mazzullii* De Cristofori & Jan, 1832 from Monte San Giuliano or Erice (Favignana being definitely ruled out). In this same work (1894, pp. 168–169), Monterosato also described the new ‘sectio’ *Ercella* for a group of endemic species of *Helix* Linnaeus, 1758, from NW Sicily, including *insolida*.

5. After the revised account by Monterosato (1894, pp. 168–169), *Helix insolida* Monterosato, 1892 was almost completely ignored by all subsequent authors. Taylor (1911, table 24, sub *Helix aspersa* var. *Insolida*), Alzona (1971, p. 220, as a synonym of *Helix (Cryptomphalus) aspersa*) and Bank (2011b, as a synonym of *Cornu aspersum*) cited this taxon. However, recently *insolida* Monterosato has been revalued in its original meaning as an endemic taxon belonging to the group of *Ercella mazzullii*, with distribution limited to the surroundings of Trapani (Sicily-NW); see Colomba et al. (2008, p. 90, sub *Cornu mazzullii insolidum*); Liberto et al. (2010, pp. 115–116, fig. 156, sub *Ercella insolida*); Colomba et al. (2011, p. 43, sub *Ercella insolida*); Giglio (2012, p. 15, sub *Ercella insolida*), Giannuzzi-Savelli et al. (2012, p. 109, figs. 8–10, sub *Ercella insolida*); Reitano et al. (2012, p. 566, sub *Ercella insolida*); Nordsieck (2013, p. 3, sub *Ercella insolida*). No junior synonyms are known for this taxon. The nominal taxon *Helix vitincola* De Gregorio, 1895, described from San Vito Lo Capo (De Gregorio, 1895, p. 7) differs from it in morphological and molecular characters (Colomba et al., 2011, pp. 10, 36). Type material of *Helix insolida* Monterosato (syntypes) is kept in the Museum of Zoology in Rome.

6. *Helix insolida* Brusina, 1876 and *Helix insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881 and *Helix aspersa* v. *insolida* Monterosato, 1892 are primary homonyms, and, although the first two are no longer in use and have not been used after 1899, we cannot act under Article 23.9.1, since the junior homonym does not satisfy the requirements of Article 23.9.1.2. With two senior homonyms no longer in use and a junior homonym lacking synonyms, the best solution promoting stability and avoiding confusion is, in our opinion, to suppress the senior homonyms.

7. As a final remark we would like to highlight that if the Commission don’t decide to suppress the names *Helix insolida* Brusina, 1876 and *Helix insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881 in order to give precedence to *Helix aspersa* v. *insolida* Monterosato, 1892, uncertainty will remain as to whether to consider *Helix insolida* Brusina, 1876 and *Helix insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881 as incorrect subsequent spellings (and therefore unavailable names) or unjustified emendations (and therefore available names). This will create instability with different schools of thought, so that for some students *Helix aspersa* v. *insolida* Monterosato, 1892 will need to be replaced while for others it will not need a replacement name. Therefore, in order to avoid this

unpleasant consequence, we here accept for the purposes of this application that *Helix insolida* Brusina, 1876 and *Helix insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881 are unjustified emendations (available names) and ask the Commission to suppress them. Alternatively we could have asked the Commission to rule under Article 78.2 that the names *insolida* Brusina, 1876, as published in the binomen *Helix insolida* and *insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881, as published in the binomen *Helix insolida* are incorrect subsequent spellings, and therefore unavailable names. One way or another, in the event of a positive decision, the name *Helix insolida* Monterosato, 1892, would stand and would not need to be replaced.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy:
  - (a) *insolida* Brusina, 1876, as published in the binomen *Helix insolida*;
  - (b) *insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881, as published in the binomen *Helix insolida*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *insolida* Monterosato, 1892, as published in the combination *Helix (Helicogena) aspersa* var. *insolida*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *insolida* Brusina, 1876, as published in the binomen *Helix insolida* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
  - (b) *insolida* Pfeiffer & Clessin, 1881, as published in the binomen *Helix insolida* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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