



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3683.1.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:02163060-EF0D-40E2-B45F-FB4BF0BE2771>

Nomenclatural remarks on *Cyanogaster* Oken 1823 and *Cyanogaster* Blainville 1825 (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Pleurobranchaeidae)

RALF BRITZ¹, GEORGE M. T. MATTOX², MONICA TOLEDO-PIZA³ & MANOELA M.F. MARINHO⁴

¹Department of Zoology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 5BD, London, United Kingdom.

E-mail: r.britz@nhm.ac.uk

²Departamento de Biologia, Universidade Federal de São Carlos – campus Sorocaba, Rodovia João Leme dos Santos (SP-264), Km 110, Bairro do Itinga, CEP 18052-780, Sorocaba, SP, Brazil. E-mail: gmattox@ufscar.br

³Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão, Travessa 14, nº101, 05508-090, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mail: mtpiza@usp.br

⁴Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 42494, 04218-970, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

E-mail: manumfm@yahoo.com.br

We recently published the description of a miniature fish species of the teleost order Characiformes from the Amazon basin in Brazil and named it *Cyanogaster noctivaga* (Mattox *et al.* 2013). Shortly after the description was published we received e-mails from several colleagues informing us that the genus name *Cyanogaster* Mattox *et al.* was preoccupied in Mollusca by *Cyanogaster* Oken 1823 and/or *Cyanogaster* Blainville 1825. We then checked the original publications and we found several interesting facts pertinent for the issue that we summarize here.

Oken's (1823) reference to the name *Cyanogaster* appeared in the journal *Litterarischer Anzeiger*, which was published as a supplement to various journals including the journal *Isis*, which was edited by Oken himself. In a series of issues of *Litterarischer Anzeiger*, Oken (1823) reported on his visit to the “Pariser Königs-Garten” (Muséum Nationale d’Histoire Naturelle of today). Both, the journal *Isis* and the supplement *Litterarischer Anzeiger* did not use a simple numbering system for their individual pages, but each page had two numbers, one at each the upper left and the upper right corner. Rather than numbering the pages these numbers refer to the left and right columns on each page. Oken's (1823) report can be found on columns 265–350, 353–379 (part II), 401–424 (part III), 440–469 (part IV), 481–503 (part V), and 505–539 (part VI) of the *Litterarischer Anzeiger*. Reference to *Cyanogaster* is in part IV, column 458, line 5, which is part of a list of gastropod molluscs that Oken (1823) encountered in room no. 8 (“Achter Saal”) of the building of the “Anatomie Comparée” in the Jardin des Plantes. The gastropod list mentions almost exclusively genus names in the sequence they were encountered in the different showcases. There is no accompanying description of any of the gastropods including *Cyanogaster* and no distinguishing characters were listed for the latter. Oken's (1823) mention of the name *Cyanogaster* as such does not make it available, as it does not meet the requirements of Article 12.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999); it is a *nomen nudum*.

Blainville (1825: 471) mentioned the name *Cyanogaster*, when he described the new genus of gastropod *Pleurobranchidium* with a new species *P. meckeli* in his order Monopleurobranchiata. In a paragraph at the end of this account, headed “Observ.” (observations) he noted: “Nous avons nous-mêmes caractérisé ce genre sur deux individus envoyés par M. Meckel; ce mollusque nous paroît être le pleurobranche baléarique de Delaroché et le type du genre *Cyanogaster* de M. Rudolphi.” (“We ourselves have characterized these two individuals sent by Mr. Meckel: this mollusc seems to us to be the Balearic pleurobranch of Delaroché and type of the genus *Cyanogaster* of Mr. Rudolphi.”). We note here that the name “*Cyanogaster*” was not italicized in de Blainville (1825), while all other genus names on the same or other pages in the same book are in italics. Blainville (1825) indicated Rudolphi as author of the name *Cyanogaster*, but failed to list a reference to Rudolphi in the text and in the literature cited. The name Rudolphi most likely referred to Karl (or Carl) Asmund Rudolphi, a Swedish born naturalist, zoologist and botanist, who taught at universities in eastern Germany (Greifswald and Berlin) during the first three decades of the 19th century. Rudolphi is mainly known for his botanical work and his important early contributions to parasitic helminthology. We have been unable to find any reference to *Cyanogaster* in the publications of Rudolphi that we checked.

It seems that soon after the name *Cyanogaster* was used by Blainville (1825), it was treated as a synonym of *Pleurobranchaea* Leue 1813 (Menke 1830; Gray 1847; Herrmannsen 1847–49; Scudder 1882; Pilsbry 1895–96; Clessin 1899; Thiele 1831). The name *Pleurobranchaea* is sometimes incorrectly attributed to Meckel (e.g. Menke 1830; Adams & Adams 1858; Pilsbry 1895–96).