

# Correspondence



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## Macoma Leach, 1819 (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Tellinidae): the unavailability of Limecola Brown, 1844, and Limicola Leach, 1852

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Tellinidae Blainville, 1814, is a diverse family of marine to brackish-water clams which contains, among others, the large genus Macoma Leach, 1819 (here: 1819a), within the subfamily Macominae Olsson, 1961. The genus' taxonomy, systematics, ecology and palaeontology has been studied for decades (e.g. Coan 1971: 19; Meijer 1993: 297; Coan & Scott 1997: 15; Hummel et al. 2001: 189; Huber et al. 2015: 742) and several benthic communities are named after it, such as the circumpolar Macoma calcarea community and the boreal Macoma balthica community (Thorson 1957: 505). Genetic studies have also been conducted by Meehan (1985: 69), Meehan et al. (1989: 235), Väinölä (2003: 935), Nikula et al. (2007: 928), Saunier et al. (2014: 1), Layton et al. (2016: 282), and Yurchenko et al. (2018: 58). Nevertheless, the nomenclature and classification of *Macoma* and its subordinate taxa remain unresolved. The present study provides a brief survey of the nomenclatorial history of the genus and type species; it also addresses the usage of *Limicola* Leach, 1852, Macroma as of Gray (1825) and others, and of Limecola, which has been recently revived as a valid genus by Huber et al. (2015: 290, 291, 737).

Macoma and M. tenera: The generic name Macoma was published four times during 1819, firstly in the first edition of the book "A Voyage of Discovery..." together with a single species M. tenera (Leach, 1819: lxii) (here: 1819a) which thus becomes the type species by monotypy. The 1st edition is authored by Ross. The genus and species in question, however, are described in Appendix II titled "List of invertebrate animals ...; corrected by W. E. Leach" where he figures as the author of the genus Macoma but not specifically of tenera, in contrast to other species which he marked as "(new species)".

Appendix IV by Leach (1819b: 175) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the book essentially repeats the text of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Because its title reads "Descriptions of the new species of animals ... by Dr. W. E. Leach" (1819b: 169), however, the specific name tenera as well can be assumed to be authored by Leach (cf. Article 50.1.1 of the ICZN 1999: 52).

The date of the original publication remains problematic, though, because the cover pages of both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition only state the year 1819 lacking other hints in these volumes towards the month and day of their publication. But Leach (1819c: 462) published another version of his "Descriptions ..." in the French Journal de Physique, de Chimie et d'Histoire Naturelle, vol. 88, in June 1819 and in which he referred to the 1st edition of the "Voyages ..." (Leach 1819c: 463; taxa described on p. 465) suggesting that the date of publication of the 1st edition must be no later than the end of June 1819. Lending further support to this interpretation, a footnote in Leach (1819d: 201) indicates that the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was published contemporaneously or before end of September 1819. Based on this indirect evidence and Article 21.3.1 of the code (ICZN 1999: 22), it seems that the date of publication for Macoma and M. tenera must be deemed to be June 30, 1819. Concordantly with this interpretation, most later publications coincide with Macoma and *M. tenera* Leach, 1819. The type species, however, is usually considered a junior synonym of *Tellina calcarea* Gmelin, 1791 (e.g. Carpenter 1857: 221; Dall 1900: 299; Keen 1969: N623; Coan 1971: 19; Coan et al. 2000: 408).

Macroma: The combination Macroma [sic] tenera Leach appeared in Gray (1825: 136; 1847: 186), Forbes & Hanley (1848–1853: 307) and Middendorff (1851: 257). This combination was also mentioned by Jeffreys (1863: 378, 390) although he was aware that Mörch (1853: 11) spelled the generic name as Macoma. Gray's (1825) Macroma was regarded an inadvertent spelling error (lapsus calami) by Scudder (1882: 198), Neave (1940: 14) and Vokes (1980:145).

Limecola: This name has been variably attributed to Brown (1844) or Leach in Brown (1844) in the literature. But the name was never published by Leach himself so that Brown (1844) has to be regarded as the author (*cf.* Article 50.1.1, ICZN 1999: 52). However, Brown (1844: 101, pl. xl, fig. 14) neither adopted *Limecola* as a valid taxon name nor treated it as a senior homonym, but rather referred to "*Limecola solidula*, Leach, MSS., p. 7" as a junior synonym of *Tellina solidula* sensu Brown (1827: pl. xvi, fig. 14) (Brown 1844: 101).

According to present knowledge, *Limecola* was never considered a valid name before 1961, meaning that the requirements for availability established in Article 11.6.1 (ICZN 1999: 11) are not met. Thus, Vokes (1967: 284; 1980: 145) found *Limecola* to be invalid nomenclatorially, whereas Keen (1969: N623) and Higo *et al.* (1999: 488) assumed that *Limecola* is a junior synonym of *Macoma*. Contrary to these views, Huber *et al.* (2015: 737) claimed *Limecola* to be a valid genus name.

- Limicola: This genus name was introduced by Leach (1852: 296) to cover the British Limicola carnaria [sic] referring to Tellina carnaria sensu Pennant (1777), which he thought was not identical with *T. carnaria* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 676). Later, Dall (1900: 292) deemed the generic name Limicola Leach, 1852, not Koch, 1816, as synonymous with the subgenus Macoma (Macoma) Leach, 1819, with *M. tenera* Leach (= *T. calcarea* Gmelin, 1791) as the type. Vokes (1967: 284; 1980: 143) stated that Limicola Leach, 1852, and Limicola Gray, 1857, are both invalid as they are junior homonyms of Limicola Koch, 1816, Class Aves.
- Tellina vs. Macoma vs. Limecola: The original combination of the Baltic Tellina balthica Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 677), is a senior synonym of *T. carnaria* sensu Pennant, 1777 (p. 88, pl. xlix, fig. 32, non Linnaeus, 1758, = Strigilla), *T. rubra* Costa, 1778 (p. 211, pl. xii, fig. 4), and *T. solidula* Pulteney, 1799 (p. 29) (*cf.* Montagu 1803: 63; Brown 1844: 101; Forbes & Hanley 1848–1853: 304; Römer 1871: 15, 16; Oliver & Morgenroth 2018: 299).

The combination *Macoma balthica* (Linnaeus, 1758) (*baltica* being a lapsus calami) has been widely used until today (*e.g.* Mörch 1853:12; Dall 1900: 298; Jensen & Spärck 1934: 128; Thorson 1957: 505; Rasmussen 1973: 307; Tebble 1976: 149, pl. 9, figs. f, g; Meijer 1993: 297; Jensen & Knudsen 1995: 45; Kafanov *et al.* 1997: 298; Hummel *et al.* 2001: 189; Väinölä 2003: 935; Genelt-Yanovskiy *et al.* 2018: 13). Another combination is *Macoma* (*Macoma* s.l.) *balthica* (Linnaeus, 1758) used by Coan & Scott (1997: 16).

In recent years, however, some authors have begun to use the combination *Limecola balthica* (Linnaeus, 1758) as the presumed valid name for the Baltic tellinid. That usage, which probably began with Huber *et al.* (2015: 737) (see above), now appears in more than 25 publications by at least 10 authors (*e.g.* Beukema *et al.* 2017: 1; Pante *et al.* 2017: 226; Oliver & Morgenroth 2018: 299; Yurchenko *et al.* 2018: 58). Since 2015, the lack of consensus is reflected by the instability of generic and subgeneric naming such as "*Macoma (Limecola) balthica*" by Ducrotoy *et al.* (2019: 584) and "*Limecola (Macoma) balthica*" by Beukema *et al.* (2017: 1), Ehrnsten *et al.* (2019: 36) and Thornton *et al.* (2019: 708).

As mentioned before, Huber *et al.* (2015: 737) regarded *Limecola* a distinct genus from *Macoma*. Yet, they placed the combination *Limecola balthica* in a *Macoma*-group including *Macoma* and other genera, without recognizing any subgenera or subspecies. However, the level of subspecies has been found useful in order to explain genetic lineages and hybridization of the North Atlantic *M. balthica* complex, commonly in relation to trans-Arctic invasions from the Pacific (*e.g.* Meehan 1985; 69; Väinölä 2003: 935; Nikula *et al.* 2007: 928; Saunier *et al.* 2014: 1; Layton *et al.* 2016: 282). In contrast, placing *M. balthica* and *M. calcarea* into different genera is unproven genetically. It still remains uncertain how much the two species differ from each other and at which level the separation between them should be implemented in systematic classification.

Macoma s.s. vs. Macoma s.l.: Concerning the distinction between Macoma balthica and M. calcarea, Huber et al. (2015: 737) emphasized the characteristics of the periostracum, shell color, and pallial sinus. However, thickness of the periostracum is related to water temperature (Olsson 1961: 410) serving as protection of the calcareous part of the shell against higher corrosion in cold waters (Cox 1969: N74) and shell color is very variable in M. balthica (Tebble 1976: 149; Kafanov et al. 1997: table 3; Coan et al. 2000: 417). Both characteristics are thus inadequate for a generic distinction. The pallial sinus was used by Coan et al. (2000: 409, 417) for a sort of "supraspecific" distinction between Macoma (Macoma s.s.) calcarea and Macoma s.l. balthica [sic]. The former is characterized by sinuses detached from the pallial line, being deep in the left valve and moderately deep in the right valve. In M. balthica, the sinus is deep in both valves and not detached (Coan et al. 2000: 409, 417).

According to Marinho & Arruda (2021: 1, table 4), pallial sinuses and adductor muscle scars might be useful to distinguish some species of the subfamily Macominae, whereas the shell shape and size are related to life habits. In contrast, Kafanov *et al.* (1997: 298) concluded that the pallial lines and sinuses as well as the muscle scars are insignificant to separate *M. balthica* and *M. calcarea*, due to their adaptive nature. It thus appears that only molecular phylogeny can solve this stalemate, which could then also address the potential polyphyly of the subfamily Macominae (*cf.* Coan *et al.* 2000: 398, 408).

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