

Neither *Rumina truncata*, nor *R. gracilis*, but *R. saharica* (Mollusca: Gastropoda Pulmonata: Subulinidae)

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Because of two cases of primary homonymy the synonyms *Rumina truncata* (Mousson, 1854) and *Rumina gracilis* (L. Pfeiffer, 1856) should be replaced by *Rumina saharica* Pallary, 1901.

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Introduction

The genus *Rumina* Risso, 1826 is represented in the entire Mediterranean region. Until now, only a single species, viz. *R. decollata* (Linnaeus, 1758), with several taxa of lower rank, has been reported in the literature. Unfortunately, no systematic survey has hitherto been undertaken to elucidate the systematic status of the various taxa within this very characteristic genus of forms with decollated shells. Therefore, both taxonomical and nomenclatural problems exist. This is exemplified by a.o. the form with relatively small, sub-cylindric shells with flattened sides, well-known from the eastern and southern part of the Mediterranean (Greece, Cyprus, Turkish west and south coast). Specimens from that area are generally referred to as *R. decollata truncata* (Mousson, 1854) or *R. decollata gracilis* (L. Pfeiffer, 1856) (see Mienis, 1976). However, both names are primary homonyms: they are preoccupied twice and three times, respectively. Prior to a taxonomic revision of the genus *Rumina*, which will take some more time, the present authors want to correct already this nomenclatural error.

Systematics and nomenclature

Kaltenbach (1951) published an account on *Rumina* of eastern North Africa (Egypt and Libya). The African specimens depicted on his plate 2 (figs. 7-8, 11-20) are indistinguishable, both in size and in shape, from shells found in e.g. Greece and Turkey. Kaltenbach's "forma *minima*" (1951: 31, pl. 2 figs. 17-20) clearly applies to small specimens of the form under discussion. However, the epithet *minima* is not available according to ICZN Art. 45(g) (ii) (1). It refers to a form of infrasubspecific rank because of the remarks of Kaltenbach (1951: 30): "obgleich sie nur eine Reaktionsform, also keine Rasse ist" [though it is only an ecophenotype, thus not a race].

Although many old names exist within *Rumina* (see Pilsbry, 1905: 211-215), only one most probably applies to the form under discussion, viz. "*Rumina decollata* var. *saharica*", introduced by Pallary (1901) for specimens from Algeria. In the molluscan



Figs. 1-7. *Rumina* spec. 1-5, *R. saharica* Pallary, 1901; 6, 7, *R. decollata* (L., 1758) s.l., sympatric and syntopic with *R. saharica* (see fig. 5). 1, Greece, Peloponnisos, Arkadhia, Paralio Astros, castle; 2, 3, Libya, Cyrenaica, Haua Hamed; 4, Greece, islet of Andikithira, 0.1 km SW. of Potamos; 5-7, Turkey, Izmir, ruins of Ephesus. Scale line 1 cm.

collection of the RMNH we have compared shells from several localities in Algeria collected by A.J. de Winter, as well as specimens from Libya collected by the late Dr C.O. van Regteren Altena, with shells from Greece and Turkey in the same collection and in the private collection of the first author, and found them to be very similar indeed. Interestingly, Pallary was already aware of the close resemblance of the Algerian taxon with that of Greece, as he stated in his original description that it is "rapellant une variété vivant aux îles Ioniennes" [resembling a variety living in the Ionian Islands].

The *Rumina* with a small to medium-sized, sub-cylindrical shell (figs. 1-5) is apparently wide-spread in the Mediterranean region, where it is known from the coastal area of North Africa between Egypt and Morocco (e.g. Kaltenbach, 1951; Llabador, 1970), Greece, Cyprus and the western and southern coast of Turkey. Its distribution is apparently disjunct; it is not known from Syria, Lebanon, Israel and most of Egypt. A somewhat similar disjunction is seen in *Trochoidea* (*Xerocrassa*) *cretica* (L. Pfeiffer, 1841) and the so-called circum-Mediterranean species *Eobania vermiculata* (Müller, 1774) and *Helix aspersa* Müller, 1774 (for the last two species see Mienis, 1991).

In SE Europe and N Africa sympatric and syntopic specimens referable to *R. decollata* s.str. and *R. saharica*, respectively, have sometimes been found, without intermediate forms (see figs. 5-7). Therefore, we consider the latter taxon a separate species with the following synonymy:

- Bulimus decollatus* var. *truncata* Mousson, 1854: 15. Type locality: "l'Orient". Non Bruguière, 1789; nec L. Pfeiffer, 1841.
Stenogyra decollata var. *truncata*; Hesse, 1882: 332.
Bulimus decollatus var. *gracilis* L. Pfeiffer, 1856: 177. Type locality: Turkey, "Smyrna" (= Izmir). Non Hutton, 1834; nec Lea, 1838; nec Thomae, 1845.
Rumina decollata var. *saharica* Pallary, 1901: 142, pl. 3 fig. 31a-b. Type locality: "Dans les alluvions de l'oued Keroua, près d'El Abiod Sidi cheikh ... et de l'oued Sefra. Dans celles de l'oued Djelfa et de l'o. Seguen".
Rumina decollata forma *minima* H. Kaltenbach, 1951: 31, pl. 2 figs. 17-20. Type locality: Libya, Tripolitania, "130 km w. Agheila (= Al Ugaylah). Invalid name.

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