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Notes on recent and fossil Neritidae, 21
 On the status of Tanzaniella LUPU, 1979 -

Jegyzetek a recens és fossilis Neritidae 21-ről
 A Tanzaniella LUPU, 1979 rendeltetési helye

ABSTRACT: Tanzaniella LUPU, 1979 (type: Neritina souverbiana MONTROUZIER, 1863) is a junior synonym of Smaragdella BAKER, 1923 (type: Neritina souverbiana hellvillensis CROSSE, 1881), since both are based on the same species. Smaragdia viridis sensu Lupu is in reality Smaragdia /Smaragdista/ rangiana (RECLUZ, 1841). In order to avoid too much splitting in the subfamily Smaragdinae, Smaragdella BAKER, 1923 and Smaragdista IREDALE, 1936 are considered subgenera of Smaragdia ISSEL, 1869.

LUPU (1979) instituted the genus Tanzaniella with Neritina souverbiana Montrouzier, 1863 (sic! error for 1863) as generotype. In describing the new genus she compared especially the radula of Neritina souverbiana, considered so far as belonging to the genus Smaragdia ISSEL, 1869, with that of what she supposed to represent Smaragdia viridis. For both species she used specimens collected in Tanzania.

True Smaragdia viridis (LINNAEUS, 1758) is, however, an Atlantic-Mediterranean species, which does not occur in the Indian Ocean. Specimens reported as Smaragdia viridis from the Indian Ocean (FÉRUSSAC, 1827; LIÉNARD, 1877 - as Natica (sic!) viridis; GERMAIN, 1921; VIADER, 1937) have turned out to belong to Smaragdia (Smaragdista) rangiana (RECLUZ, 1841). Thus

when LUPU (1979) compared the radula of souverbiana with viridis, she was dealing most probably in reality with rangiana.

Although Lupu referred in the text and bibliography to the now classic work on Neritid radulae by BAKER (1923), it is questionable whether she really consulted it. This is evident from the fact that BAKER (1923: 172) described a new subgenus of Smaragdia as Smaragdella with Neritina souverbiana hellvillensis CROSSE, 1881 as generotype. His specimens came from Madagascar. Since Neritina souverbiana hellvillensis is a junior synonym of the highly polychromic neritina souverbiana, Tanzaniella LUPU, 1979 becomes automatically a junior synonym of Smaragdella BAKER, 1923.

According to LUPU (1979: 17) the radula of souverbiana is totally different from viridis sensu Lupu (= rangiana in reality). The two can not therefore be maintained in one and the same genus i.e. her proposal is to split Tanzaniella (= Smaragdella) from Smaragdista Iredale, 1936 with generotype Smaragdista traqena IREDALE, 1936.

However, both genera differ also in radula characters from Smaragdia ISSEL, 1869 with generotype Neritina feuilletii ALOUDOUIN, 1826, a junior synonym of Smaragdia viridis (LINNAEUS, 1758). This will leave us with a number of genera, each including one or two species, which are almost impossible to separate on shell characters, but only on features of the radula. In my opinion the various species are still too closely related in order to place them into different genera. It is possible that in the subfamily smaragdiinae the radulae underwent more radiation than the shell characters in the different species. This is in contrast to what has happened in other subfamilies of the Neritidae, where the radulae remained quite similar

in species with quite different shell characters. In order not to get lost in a profusion of generic names in the subfamily Smaragdinae, each containing one or two species, I propose to maintain for the meantime Smaraggia, Smaragdella and Smaragdista as subgenera of Smaraggia till we know somewhat more about the speciation in this interesting branch of the Neritidae.

Literature

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