

Preface

Any comprehensive research has at least two main goals: to generalize the main results of investigations conducted since last analogous work (in this case — the admirable monograph by Dr. Adolf Zilch, 1959-1960), and to give some fresh impetus for next researches. Besides, in the course of preparation of this book I have got some new ideas on the phylogeny of various groups; these ideas will be discussed in the concluding part.

I tried to examine personally as many type species of genera (subgenera) as possible; otherwise I used illustrations and/or descriptions from original or later publications. In total, type species (or, at least, similar to type species) of about 2600 taxa of genus group are described and illustrated in the book; the figures of more than 2000 shells are original. As concerns anatomical drawings, there are altogether over 800 figures; about 450 of them are based on my own dissections.

In systematic and phylogenetic parts I have used traditional both conchological and anatomical characters, except radular ones: on the one hand, because of numerous cases of convergence in radular teeth shape in many unrelated taxa, and, on the other hand, because of no less numerous cases when species of the same families have quite different shape of radular teeth (in particular, in Chondrinidae, Clausiliidae, endodontoid, helicoid and helicarionoid taxa, carnivorous pulmonates, etc.) (see Gittenberger, 1973; Likharev, 1962; Schileyko, 1972d; Solem, 1973c, 1974, 1976, 1982; Solem & Van Goethem, 1974, and many others).

Indeed, a book of this kind could not be written without cooperation with numerous colleagues and institutions who helped me in countless ways — starting from invitations to come and assistance in my work with collections, and ending by financial support. Some problems of taxonomy and phylogeny were discussed with many colleagues, particularly with Dr. George Davis, Dr. Edmund Gittenberger, Dr. Folco Giusti,

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