

Liapinella, a new epitonioidean genus (Gastropoda) from the Upper Jurassic of European Russia

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ABSTRACT. In the Middle Oxfordian of European Russia a new gastropod was found, for which a new species and genus *Liapinella liapini* are proposed. This form is referred to the family Nystiellidae.

In the Middle Oxfordian clays (Ryazan and Kostroma regions), an unusual minute gastropod was collected, which strongly differs from other known groups of Mesozoic gastropod mollusks. It is described below as *Liapinella liapini* Guzhov, gen. et sp. nov. Externally *Liapinella* very much resembles a rissoid as its teleoconch consists of several convex volutions covered with well-developed collabral sculpture. Its aperture, as in rissoids, looks almost holostomatous. Besides the collabral sculpture, the whorls of *Liapinella* are covered with numerous and densely arranged spiral rows of microscopic granules. In the teleoconch morphology *Liapinella* almost does not differ from *Pisillina (Vicinirissoa) harpa* (Verrill, 1880), the type species of *Vicinirissoa* Ponder, 1985 (Rissoidea, Rissoinae) [Ponder, 1985: 31, fig. 83A, B], but it has a different type of protoconch. As distinct from Rissoidea, *Liapinella* has a collabrally sculptured protoconch. Such protoconch was found in Cerithiiformes, Epitoniiiformes and some Neogastropoda. However, *Liapinella* differs from Cerithiiformes and neogastropods in almost holostomatous aperture, that is more typical of Epitoniiiformes. Besides, the teleoconchs of Epitoniiiformes are also frequently covered with collabral sculpture, and the spiral sculpture can be absent or vary from rows of microscopic nodes to well developed ribs. Shells of the family Epitoniiidae have smooth and often pike-like protoconch, whereas Nystiellidae frequently have collabrally sculptured protoconch and are especially similar to *Liapinella*. Most representatives of the Nystiellidae have shells with rather short spire. Therefore, it seems natural to place *Liapinella liapini* in the latter family. *Liapinella* differs from other nystiellid genera by its short teleoconch of rissoid outline, consisting of convex and rapidly growing whorls, covered by strong collabral and dense and very thin spiral sculpture.

Systematic position of the described gastropod is given according to the classification of Minichev and Starobogatov [1988]. The material is stored in the Geological and Mineralogical Museum of the Moscow State Pedagogical University (GMM MSPU), collection No. 12. The work was supported by a grant of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, No. 04-04-48703a.

Order Epitoniiiformes
Minichev et Starobogatov, 1979

Superfamily Epitonioidei
Minichev et Starobogatov, 1979

Family Nystiellidae Clench et Turner, 1952

Genus *Liapinella* Guzhov, gen. nov.

Type species — *L. liapini* sp. nov.; Upper Jurassic, Middle Oxfordian, Densiplicatum Zone, Densiplicatum Subzone; Russia, Kostroma Region.

Gender — feminine.

Diagnosis. Shell minute, paucispiral, low-turriculate. Protoconch consists of several volutions: smooth in the beginning and with collabral sculpture later. Teleoconch consists of roundish whorls divided by deep suture. Teleoconch sculpture represented by strong collabral folds and numerous rows of microscopic granules. Body whorl high. Base convex, covered by same spiral sculpture and weakening collabral folds. Lower base with a spiral groove, encircled by a spiral ridge abapically. Aperture weakly oval, roundish anteriorly. Lips thin. Growth lines on the outer side of body whorl have a prosocyr character.

[Диагноз. Раковина мелкая, малооборотная, низко башенковидная. Протоконх из нескольких оборотов, сначала гладких, позже с коллабральной скульптурой. Телеоконх из округлых оборотов, разделенных глубоким швом. Скульптура телеоконха из сильных коллабральных валиков и многочисленных рядов микроскопических бугорков. Последний оборот высокий. Основание выпуклое, покрыто такой же спиральной скульптурой и ослабевающей коллабральной. По внут-