

On the species of molluscs from Russian waters described by Valenciennes in little known publications in 1858

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ABSTRACT. Valenciennes has described 10 species of molluscs from the northern Japan Sea. Two of the names are valid (*Fusus arthriticus* and *Fusus bulbaceus*), one is *nomen dubium* (*Fusus lamniger*), 4 are junior synonyms (*Pecten dominicanus*, *Mytilus unguiculatus*, *Fusus dominovae*, *Tritonellum barthi*) one is a *nomen nudum* (*Buccinum luteolum*), one was suppressed by ICZN (*Maetra sibyllae*), and one was erroneously attributed to the Japan Sea fauna (*Ranella ampullacea*). Type specimens of 7 species preserved in the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, are illustrated.

Professor Achille Valenciennes (1794-1865) was a famous French zoologist, closely associated with Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris. He started working here in 1814, initially as an assistant to Lamarck, helping him to arrange the collection of invertebrates. Then he collaborated with Cuvier, professor of comparative anatomy in the Museum. Valenciennes started his own researches on fish in 1827. Several years later he was appointed as professor of Malacology in the Museum, although proceeded working in Ichthyology department. He is well known as a co-author of "Natural History of Fishes" ("L'histoire naturelle des Poissons"), a fundamental publication (1828-1850), in which 4055 species (2311 new) were described.

Nevertheless, Valenciennes published a number of works in malacology, among them the descriptions of the molluscs, collected in the circumglobe expedition of the frigate *Venus* (1836-1839) under the commandship of captain A.A. Dupetit-Thouars.

Detailed biography of A. Valenciennes was published recently [Bauchot, Daget, Bouchot, 1990].

In April 1858 A. Valenciennes published a short note on the molluscs collected by surgeon Barthe on board of the frigate *La Sybille* in the northern Japan Sea [Valenciennes, 1858a]. The same year he published a slightly longer paper [Valenciennes, 1858b], containing descriptions of the same species. No species were, however, illustrated. It is not possible to trace exactly the day of publication of the

latter one, but it was probably published after April, 1858. We were not been able to find any details about the cruise of *La Sybille* or about Barthe himself.

These publications are very poorly known and rarely cited, even omitted by Ruhoff [1980], although most of these species of Valenciennes were cited by Schrenck [1867]. Our attention to them was attracted by Dr. Philippe Bouchet (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris). The works are pertinent to the molluscan fauna of Russia, and we regarded it necessary to investigate the possible application of Valenciennes' names to species currently known from Russian seas. The types of most of the species described by Valenciennes in mentioned publications are present in the type collection of the MNHN. Their examination allowed to clarify their taxonomic position and revealed some nomenclatural problems, that are discussed below.

The following species were described by Valenciennes:

Pecten dominicanus — 1858a: 144; 1858b: 760. No type survived, locality was not given in 1858a, but specified in 1858b as "bassin de l'empereur Nicolas" (= Imperatorskaya Gavan', presently Sovetskaya Gavan', at southern entrance to the Tatar Strait, northern Japan Sea). This name seems to have been never used after, while the very brief description does not permit to identify it with certainty. However, most probably it is a new synonym of *Mizuhopecten yessoensis* (Jay, 1856) (H. Dijkstra, personal communication).

Mytilus unguiculatus — 1858a: 144; 1858b: 760. One specimen is present in the type collection (Fig. 1F). Type locality — Sangar Strait. According to the original note "cette espèce bonne à manger" (this species is edible), Valenciennes could have several specimens, and therefore we consider the specimen as a syntype. It is without any doubt a junior synonym of *Crenomytilus grayanus* (Dunker, 1853).