PROPOSED CONSERVATION OF SYPHONOSOMA CUMANENSE KEFERSTEIN, 1867 OVER SYPHONOSOMA EDULE (PALLAS, 1774) (SIPUNCULA). Z.N.(S.)2379

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I am hereby requesting that the Commission use its plenary powers and adopt the relative precedence procedure to conserve the widely used junior synonym Siphonosoma cumanense Keferstein, 1867, over the senior synonym S. edule, in order to avoid confusion and to preserve nomenclatural stability. This latter species was first described as Lumbricus edulis by Pallas in 1774. In 1816 Lamarck moved it to the genus Sipunculus and in 1912, when Spengel created the genus Siphonosoma, it was transferred to that group.

2. During my studies of Indo-Pacific Sipuncula, it became clear that the genus Siphonosoma has been unduly inflated with an excessive number of species names. Stephen & Edmonds (1972) reduced the number of species in the sub-genus Siphonosoma (Dasmosiphon) from six to three. In Cutler & Cutler (1979) an additional name was eliminated and in Cutler, Cutler & Nishikawa (1983) the case is presented to consider Siphonosoma cumanense and S. edule as conspecific, following the suggestion of Stephen & Edmonds (1972). A strict application of the Law of Priority would require that S. cumanense be submersed as the junior synonym. This would be unfortunate for the following reasons:

(a) Since 1905, the name S. edule has appeared only twice in the primary literature. Sato (1939) applied it to two individuals and Halder (1975) to one worm. The few other references to it have been made in revisionary or monographic works, not in studies of new material.

(b) The name cumanense has appeared at least 30 times in the primary literature since 1905 (see Stephen & Edmonds, 1972, p. 46 for records through 1965; also Christie & Cutler, 1974; Cutler, 1977; Cutler & Cutler, 1979; Edmonds, 1980; Gibbs, 1978; Halder, 1975; Murina, 1967; Rice & Stephen, 1970).

(c) In Stephen & Edmonds' monograph (1972) there are five subspecies of cumanense described in addition to the nominate form which, in that work, includes four junior synonyms. All of these would become S. edule unless this petition is granted.

(d) The holotype of S. edule cannot be located.

(e) Perhaps most importantly, this species is a very common, circumtropical, shallow-water form and therefore is regularly found by biologists engaged in ecological studies of coral reef and sandy habitats. To substitute the name edule for cumanense would create real and unnecessary confusion for these non-specialists and besides, any effort to make the substitution could not be successful for several decades
because many marine ecologists would continue to use the old terminology.

3. In view of the foregoing, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to take the following action:

(1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the specific name *cumanense* Keferstein, 1867, as published in the binomen *Siphonosoma cumanense*, is to be given nomenclatural precedence over the specific name *edule*, as originally published in the binomen *Lumbricus edulis* Pallas 1774, by anyone who considers that these two names denote the same taxon;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *cumanense* Keferstein, 1867, as published in the binomen *Siphonosoma cumanense*, with an endorsement that it is to be given nomenclatural precedence over *Siphonosoma edulis* Pallas, 1774, by anyone who considers that these two names denote the same taxon;

(b) *edulis* Pallas, 1774, as originally published in the binomen *Lumbricus edulis*, with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Siphonosoma cumanense* Keferstein, 1867, by anyone who considers that these two names denote the same taxon.

This application has been reviewed by and is supported by T. Nishikawa (Nagoya, Japan), P. E. Gibbs (Plymouth, England), and S. J. Edmonds (Adelaide, Australia).

REFERENCES


