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MICROPALAEONTOLOGY NOTEBOOK

Ankumia van Veen, 1932 retained and not replaced by the junior taxon *Platella* Coryell & Fields, 1937 (Ostracoda, Platycopina, Cytherelloidea)

HEINZ MALZ[1] & ALAN LORD[2]
[1]Neulandstraβe 3; D-49565 Bramsche, Germany
[2]University College London, Gower Street, London WCIE 6BT, UK (e-mail: a.lord@ucl.ac.uk).

Recently, the monotypic ostracod genus *Ankumia* van Veen, 1932 was abandoned as *nomen dubium* by Jones (2003, p. 85) in favour of *Platella* Coryell & Fields, 1937 and a new combination was proposed for the type species of *Ankumia*, i.e. *Platella bosqueti* (van Veen, 1932). However, *Ankumia bosqueti* from the Maastrichtian of The Netherlands was introduced as an available taxon and, as documented by Jones (2003), the specific name is valid for recognizing the species in which 'pathological individuals with retained moults' occur. Therefore, there is no reason to treat *Ankumia* as *nomen dubium*. Yet, although there is no doubt about the cytherellid relationship of the species, two taxonomical questions still remain.

(1) Do pathological individuals of cytherellids justify specific and/or generic ranking? Certainly they do not, and demonstration of a corresponding 'normal' species (including 'pathological individuals') among the associated cytherellids is wanting. On the other hand, if these pathological individuals can be proven as representing a discrete pathological genus, *Ankumia* remains as a valid genus to characterize the available species name *bosqueti.*

(2) Why should *Ankumia* be abandoned in favour of *Platella*? When van den Bold (1967, pp. 306, 308) compared Coryell & Fields' original Gatún ostracod fauna with his own collection from the Neogene Gatún Formation in the Panama Canal Zone, he recognized the type species, *Platella gatunensis*, as a small-sized cytherellid moult. Over the years about a dozen small- and normal-sized cytherellid species from all over the world have been assigned to *Platella*, ignoring the questionable taxonomic status of the type species represented by a moult. [And moults on their way to adults change quite considerably, as recently shown by Ware & Whatley 2002.] Therefore, why abandon *Ankumia*, since the taxonomic status of *Platella* is questionable? Furthermore, none of the so-called *Platella* species have ever been shown to contain 'pathological individuals'. As a consequence, in the authors' view *Ankumia* should be retained as a valid generic name and need not be replaced by the junior taxon *Platella,* which itself is questionable.

The taxon *Cytherella bolliaformis*, obviously synonymous with *Ankumia bosqueti* as has been accurately shown by Jones (2003), was introduced by van Veen (1932), but remained as a MS name, neglected in the various indexes such as Howe & Laurencich (1958) or the Kempf Index (1986). Furthermore, it was not the intention of van Veen to have her MS name validated, because from 'her work it is clear that she did not intend to establish the name' (Jones, 2003, p. 92). Therefore, the revival of *bolliaformis*, via its anonymous reference in the '*Catalogue of Ostracoda* (1952–)' [due to ICZN, 1999, Art. 14] and, thereby, attributed as junior synonym of *A. bosqueti* to van Veen '1952' as author [according to ICZN, 1999, Art. 50.1.1.], becomes an abstruse nomenclatural act arbitrarily opposing the will of the original author.

Cytherellacea was introduced by Sohn (1968, p. 21) to discriminate the superfamily versus Cavellinacea. The 'acea' suffix, which is still widely used in ostracod nomenclature, has to be abandoned in favour of 'oidea' (ICZN, 1999, Art. 29.2), as adopted correctly by Jones (2003). Although somewhat confusing, and without prejudice to the homonymy of the superfamily Cytherelloidea Sars, 1866 with the genus *Cytherelloidea* Alexander, 1929, the priority of a generic name does not affect the identical name for the superfamily.

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