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**George Perry's molluscan taxa
and notes on the editions of his *Conchology* of 1811**

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RICHARD E. PETIT

806 St. Charles Road, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582-2846, USA; email: r.e.petit@att.net

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Abstract

The molluscan taxa named by George Perry in his two publications, the *Arcana; or the museum of natural history*., etc., published in 1810–1811, and the *Conchology* of 1811 are listed with notations on their current status, some figures being identified to the species level for the first time, some being placed in the synonymy of earlier names and others declared *nomina dubia*. Five species that are identified as previously unused senior subjective synonyms of names in current usage and one unused senior primary homonym are declared *nomina oblita*. Those declared herein to be *nomina oblita* are: *Triplex cornuta* Perry, 1811; *Buccinella quadrata* Perry, 1811; *Cassis rotundata* Perry, 1811; *Aranea tentacula* Perry, 1811; *Buccinella tuberculata* Perry, 1811; and *Solen viride* [sic; correctly *viridis*]. The names conserved are, respectively: *Murex brevifrons* Lamarck, 1822; *Cancelaria spengleriana* Deshayes, 1830; *Cassis madagascariensis* Lamarck, 1822; *Murex cabritii* Bernardi, 1859; *Turbinella* [now *Vasum*] *globulus* Lamarck, 1816; and *Solen viridis* Say, 1822.

Three Perry species are shown to be senior synonyms of names in current use but do not qualify for *nomen oblitum* status under the Code. They are: *Tellina aurea* Perry, 1811; *Triplex rosaria* Perry, 1811; and *Voluta pattersonia* Perry, 1811. Junior subjective synonyms affected by these three are, respectively: *Tellina vulsellia* Hanley, 1845; *Chicoreus palmarosae* (Lamarck, 1822); and *Lyria nucleus* (Lamarck, 1811). Type species designations for Perry's genera are listed and type species are designated for *Columna* and *Strigula*. The treatment of Perry's *Conchology* by other authors is discussed. Three distinct editions of the *Conchology* are identified. Perry's *Arcana* is the subject of another paper now in preparation but its mollusks are treated herein.

Key words. Mollusca, Perry, *Arcana*, *Conchology*, validity of taxa, type species designations, *nomina oblita*

George Perry

Almost nothing is known about George Perry except that he published two natural history works. The first of these (Perry, 1810–1811) is the *Arcana; or the museum of natural history*., etc., a monthly publication issued from January 1810 through September 1811 that included birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, insects, and other animals. This rare serial is the subject of a paper now in preparation but its mollusks are treated herein. His other, better known, work (Perry, 1811) is the *Conchology, or the natural history of shells: containing a new arrangement of the genera and species, illustrated by coloured engravings executed from the natural specimens, and including the latest discoveries*. It is this latter work that is the primary subject of this paper. All of Perry's molluscan taxa are listed showing their present status. Many of his taxa are placed in synonymy of other taxa for the first time and others are declared to be either *nomina dubia* or *nomina oblita*.

Unfortunately, not even birth and death dates are known for Perry although he must have lived in, or close to, London. The only record found of any George Perry who might be the same is in the Membership Lists of the Palaeontographical Society, founded in 1847 in London. These lists show that George Perry, Esq., was an early member. He was not in the first list for 1848 but was in the second list published that year with his address given as 39 Spencer-street, Northampton-square, a listing repeated in the 1851 list. In the 1853 list his address was changed to Croydon, and in 1856 it was emended to Croydon and Charterhouse. The 1859 list is the last in which he appears (the next list was not published until 1865). In 1848 James de C. Sowerby and G. B. Sowerby, Jr., were both members, the former remaining a member until his death in 1871. The last list on which G. B. Sowerby, Jr., appears is for 1853. G. B. Sowerby, Sr. was never a member. Whether or not this is the George Perry who wrote the works in question has not been determined. The improbability of Perry and G. B. Sowerby, Sr. being members of the same scientific society will become obvious in the following discussion.