



A checklist of Polyplacophora (Mollusca) from the Fiji islands

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Abstract

A compiled list of Fiji Islands chitons, including an updated chresonymy list and identification key, is provided. To the nine species previously known from the literature ten more are added. Of the 19 species now known from Fijian waters, one is a deep-water species and two are also known from fossils. A redescription of *Callochiton neocaledonicus* Kaas & Van Belle, 1990, and a detailed description of subadult specimens of *Choneplax littlerorum* Sirenko, 2003 are herein provided. *Chiton spinosetatus* Bergenhayn, 1930 is here regarded as a synonym of *Chiton subassimilis* Souverbie in Souverbie & Montrouzier, 1866. A lectotype designation is herein made for one of the numerous syntypes of *Cryptoplax jugosus* Bergenhayn, 1930 and for one of the two syntypes of *Chiton reticulatus* Nierstrasz, 1905 to stabilize the type localities for these species. For the same reason, and to clarify the confusing type status of *Lepidopleurus niasicus* Thiele, 1906, a lectotype is also selected from the three available syntypes. *Acanthopleura nigropunctata* Carpenter, 1865 and *Tonicia novemrugata* Bergenhayn, 1930, formerly placed in *Tonicia*, are both reassigned to the genus *Lucilina* on the basis of radular differences of both genera (second lateral tooth quadricuspid in *Lucilina* vs. unicuspid in *Tonicia*) and the geographic isolation of the *Tonicia*, of which species occur in central and south American waters only.

Key words: Mollusca, Polyplacophora, Pacific Ocean, Melanesia, Fiji, checklist

Introduction

The Melanesian Fiji island group consists of over 360 islands, which are surrounded by complex reef systems, especially the larger islands that show some remarkable double reef belts (Nunn 1994). The Fiji islands are located between latitude 12° to 20° South and longitude 176° East to 178° West.

Data on the molluscan diversity of this island group are rather scarce and restricted mainly to revisions of single gastropod groups (e.g., Cernohorsky 1964a, 1964b, 1965a, 1965b, 1967a, Cernohorsky & Jennings 1966; Brodie & Brodie 1990, Seeto 1998). Exceptions are the field guides of the South Pacific molluscs (Cernohorsky 1967b, 1972) and the list of the molluscs from the Fijian Lau group from where Cernohorsky (1978) reported 313 marine species. Thus it is very difficult to estimate a total number of molluscs inhabiting the Fiji