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The types, publication date, and validity of *Nucella elongata* Golikov & Kussakin (Mollusca, Ocenebrinae)

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The name *Nucella heyseana* var. *elongata* Golikov & Kussakin, 1962 was proposed for a 'form of uncertain taxonomic level', found in Kunashir and Sakhalin islands. However, this entity was previously recorded as *Thais lamellosa* (*non* Gmelin, 1791) (Kussakin 1956: 105–106, 108). In this description, the individual collected from southern shore of Kunashir Island was verbally described in the text and illustrated with a photographic image (Golikov & Kussakin 1962: 312–315, pl. 2, fig. 2c ['в' in Russian]). *N. heyseana* var. *elongata* was expressly proposed as an infrasubspecific entity, as a variation of *N. heyseana* (Dunker, 1882) specific to particular habitats. Therefore it is not an available name according the provisions of International Code of Zoological Nomenclature Articles 45.5 and 45.6.3 (ICZN 1999; hereafter the Code). According to Article 1.3.4 it should be excluded from the species group as not regulated by the Code. In 1974, Golikov & Kussakin described this form as the species *Nucella elongata* Golikov and Kussakin, 1962, mentioning the same entity (Golikov & Kussakin 1974: 295). This verbal description is identical with their previous text published in 1962, although the new species was not illustrated. However, the same specimen from Kunashir Island was clearly designated as the holotype repeating the same shell measurements and collecting location. In this and following publications *N. elongata* was reported from Kurile Islands and Sakhalin (Golikov & Kussakin 1978: 190–191, fig. 132; Golikov & Scarlato 1985: 426). In 1978, they repeated their texts dated 1962 and 1974 confirming the same specimen from Kunashir Island as the holotype preserved in Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg (ZIN) collection, although they illustrated different shell (presumably a paratype, which we did not find in ZIN) obtained from southeastern Sakhalin.

The distribution range of *N. elongata* was extended in the current literature to the northwestern shore of the Sea of Japan and Okhotsk Sea (Egorov 1992, Alexeyev 2003, Kantor & Sysoev 2006, Gulbin & Chaban 2007, Sirenko *et al.* 2013, Marko *et al.* 2014). Several authors (Higo *et al.* 1999; Min 2004; Kantor & Sysoev 2005, 2006) referred to *N. elongata* as a synonym of northeastern Pacific *N. lamellosa* (Gmelin, 1791). After Collins *et al.* (1996), the name *elongata* is also used in literature and online sources (*e.g.* Gofas & Houart 2014) in combination with *N. freycinetii* (Deshayes, 1839).

Our investigation of ZIN museum archival records revealed that the shell designated as the holotype in 1974 and 1978 was the only gastropod specimen deposited in ZIN after Oleg Kussakin's expedition to Kurile Islands undertaken in 1951. Hence, this specimen was very likely the only *N. elongata*-like shell from Kunashir Island preserved in Russian collections ever examined by Golikov and Kussakin. We have examined this individual (no registration number available but AC labeled it as '*N. elongata* holotype'), which was presumably lost for last decades (being deposited into an 'unsorted materials' case after photography, as marked on the jar, we presume in 1961 or 1962) and found it identical to the photograph published by Golikov & Kussakin (1962). We cannot distinguish this shell from most specimens of *N. heyseana* (Dunker, 1882) (Fig. 1B–E), which is a common species in southern Kurile Islands; it also fits the diagnosis of *N. heyseana* (Golikov & Kussakin 1978, Volova *et al*. 1979). This specimen possesses 'unusually' large proportional spire height but similar shells are often found in other populations of *Nucella heyseana* – especially those collected in lower intertidal or below intertidal zone (*e.g.* Fig. 1D) throughout entire distribution range of this species. Slightly more expressed axial sculpture also cannot be considered as a species-specific trait because development of shell sculpture is highly variable character in *N. heyseana*, which depends on wave exposure of particular habitat (*e.g.* Fig. 1E). Besides the holotype, we found the shells most likely examined by Golikov and Kussakin (Fig. 1F, G, ZIN 20245/3). One of these shells was described by Golikov and Kussakin (Golikov & Kussakin, 1962, 1978) as the largest available individual of

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