

TAXONOMY

Family CYMATIIDAE Iredale, 1913

Subfamily CHARONIINAE Powell, 1933

Genus *Charonia* Gistel [1847]

1798. *Tritonium* "Cuvier" Roeding, Museum Boltenianum: 125 (not Mueller, 1776). Type species (by tautonymy): *T. tritonis* Linnaeus (= *Murex tritonis* Linnaeus, 1758).
1810. *Triton* Montfort, Conchyliologie Systematique 2: 587 (not Linnaeus, 1758; not Laurenti, 1768). Type species (by monotypy): *Triton tritonis* Montfort, 1810 (in part *Murex tritonis* Linnaeus, 1758; in part *Charonia capax* Finlay, 1927). Not *Triton* Fleming, 1828 (= *Tritonalia* Fleming, 1828), Muricidae; I.C.Z.N. pending.
1822. *Tritonium* "Montfort" Bowditch, Elements of Conchology (1): 36 (not Mueller, 1776; not Roeding, 1798); emend. of *Triton* Montfort, 1810.
- [1847]. *Charonia* Gistel, Handbuch der Naturgesellschaft: 559; 1848, Naturgeschichte das Thierreich für höhere Schulen: 170.
1877. *Buccinatorium* Moersch, Malakozoologische Blätter 24: 26. Type species (by subsequent designation, Clench and Turner, 1957): *Triton nobile* Conrad, 1848 (= *T. variegatum* Lamarck, 1816).
1877. *Tritonellium* "Valenciennes" Moersch, Malakozoologische Blätter 24: 25 (not *Tritonellium* Valenciennes, 1858).
1901. *Septa* "Perry" Dall and Simpson, U.S. Fisheries Comm. Bull. 1900(1): 416 (not *Septa* Perry, 1810); 1904, Dall, Smithson. misc. Collns 47: 134.
1904. *Eutritonium* Cossman, Essais de Paléoconchologie Comparée 6: 123. Type species (by original designation): *Murex tritonis* Linnaeus, 1758.
1912. *Nyctilochus* "Gistel" Dall, The Nautilus 26: 58 (not *Nyctilochus* Gistel, 1848).

Type species (by monotypy): *Murex tritonis* Linnaeus, 1758, Recent, Indo-Pacific.

The genus name has more synonyms than almost any other molluscan genus. After Montfort, most workers for almost a century used *Triton* for all Cymatiidae, although they knew it to be preoccupied by a name erected by Linnaeus. Dall and Simpson (1901: 416) instituted the use of *Septa* Perry, "1811" for *Murex tritonis*, but Mathews and Iredale (1912) showed that *Septa* dated from Perry's "Arcana", 1810, where it was monotypic, and that it should be used in place of *Lampusia* Schumacher, 1817. Dall (1912: 58) then suggested the use of *Nyctilochus* Gistel, 1848, for *Murex tritonis*, but Iredale (1913: 55) showed that *Nyctilochus* was proposed for *Triton* "Montfort" Broderip, as used in *Isis van Oken* for 1835, column 453 (error for 452), where the only Cymatiidae listed are species now placed in *Distorsio* (*Rhysema*), *Cymatium* s.str., *Priene*, *Turritriton* and *Reticutriton*. *Triton tigrinus* Broderip, 1833, is here designated the type species of *Nyctilochus* Gistel, 1848, so that the name is a junior subjective synonym of *Cymatium* Roeding, 1798. In the same work Gistel (1848) used the name *Charonia* for *Murex tritonis* Linnaeus, and this was considered by Iredale (1913) to be the earliest available name for the genus. This has been quoted as the earliest reference to *Charonia* by most recent workers, but Iredale and McMichael (1962: 54) quoted the name as of Gistel and Bromme, 1847, and this was followed by Powell (1964: 14). Neave (1939: 674) gave *Charonia* as dating from Gistel "[1847], *Handb. Naturges.*, 1850, 559, 586", and also gave the 1848 reference. The earlier work is apparently dated 1850, but appeared in 1847. It is not available in New Zealand, so I have accepted Neave's reference to its authorship, and quote *Charonia* as of Gistel [1847]. *Charonia* is thus earlier than *Nyctilochus*.

Winckworth (1934: 14) and Dodge (1957: footnote to p. 97) considered that *Tritonalia* Fleming, 1828, should be interpreted as a substitute name for *Triton* Montfort, 1810, and was therefore an earlier name for *Charonia*. However, Vokes (1964: footnote to pp. 19, 20) and most other authors have interpreted *Tritonalia* Fleming as a new name for the muricid genus Fleming had called *Triton* in the