

Short Communications

REPLACEMENT NAME PROPOSED FOR THE GENUS *SIMPSONELLA* STIASNY, 1940 (OCTOCORALLIA: CHRYSOGORGIIDAE), PREOCCUPIED BY *SIMPSONELLA* COCKERELL, 1903 (BIVALVIA: UNIONIDAE).— *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Fourth Edition, 1999:57) states, “53.2. **Homonyms in the genus group.** In the genus group, two or more available names established with the same spelling are homonyms. **Example.** The generic name *Noctua* Linnaeus, 1758 (Lepidoptera) and *Noctua* Gmelin, 1771 (Aves) are homonyms.” On the other hand, species of animals can share generic names with plants. An example is the genus *Mimulus* (Crustacea: Decapoda and Anthophyta: Scrophulariaceae).

Bivalvia: Unionidae

The type species of the valid freshwater mussel genus *Simpsonella*, is *Anodonta purpurea* Valenciennes, 1821.

SYNONYMY:

Non *Anodonta* Lamarck, 1799, Valenciennes, 1821.

Dalliella C.T. Simpson, 1900 (preoccupied by *Dalliella* Cossmann, 1895; Gastropoda: Prosobranchia).

Simpsonella Cockerell, 1903.

Octocorallia: Chrysogorgiidae

SYNONYMY:

Non *Juncella* (misspelling of *Junceella* Valenciennes, 1855), Hickson, 1904:231.

Hicksonella J.J. Simpson, 1910: 682 (preoccupied by *Hicksonella* Nutting, 1910; Octocorallia: Gorgoniidae)

Non *Radicipes* Stearns, 1883, Kükenthal, 1919:545.

Simpsonella Stiasny, 1940:31. Williams, 1992a:253; 1992b:376, 395; 1992c:379 (preoccupied by *Simpsonella* Cockerell, 1903; Bivalvia: Unionidae)

Helicogorgia Bayer, 1981:902, 938 (this name was originally proposed to replace *Hicksonella* J.J. Simpson, 1910, which was preoccupied; but the author was unaware of the published accounts of either *Simpsonella* Stiasny, 1940 or *Simpsonella* Cockerell, 1903).

REPLACEMENT NAME: *Helicogorgia* Bayer, 1981.

Figures 1, 2.

This alcyonacean genus, composed of five species, is distributed in the western Indian Ocean, along the East African coast from Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar (Tanzania) in the north, to East London (South Africa) in the South; bathymetric range 66–775 meters:

1. *Helicogorgia spiralis* (Hickson, 1904) [type species] – South Africa
2. *Helicogorgia flagellata* (J.J. Simpson, 1910) – South Africa
3. *Helicogorgia capensis* (J.J. Simpson, 1910) – South Africa
4. *Helicogorgia squamifera* (Kükenthal, 1919) – Zanzibar and South Africa
5. *Helicogorgia ramifera* (Williams, 1992) – South Africa

NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.— Valenciennes (1821) described a new species of Asian freshwater mussel as *Anodonta purpurea*. Simpson (1900) considered this taxon to belong to a previously undescribed genus, and named it *Dalliella*. Cockerell (1903) observed that the name *Dalliella* C.T. Simpson, 1900, was preoccupied by *Dalliella* Cossmann, 1895 (a gastropod prosobranch), and proposed the generic name *Simpsonella* as a replacement. Hickson (1904) described a new species of

gorgonian octocoral as *Juncella spiralis* (*Juncella* is a misspelling of *Junceella* Valenciennes, 1855). J.J. Simpson (1910) considered this taxon to belong to a different genus and provided the new name *Hicksonella spiralis*, apparently unaware of *Hicksonella* Nutting, 1910. He also described two additional species, *Hicksonella flagellata* and *Hicksonella capensis*. Prior to this (but in the same year), Nutting (1910) proposed the name *Hicksonella* for a gorgonian octocoral in the family Gorgoniidae. Kükenthal (1919) described a fourth species as *Radicipes squamiferus* from Tanzania, and placed it in the chrysogorgiid gorgonian genus *Radicipes* Stearns, 1883. Stiasny (1940), presumably unaware of Cockerell's replacement name, recognized the priority of *Hicksonella* Nutting, 1910, and proposed the replacement name *Simpsonella*. Bayer (1981), not aware of Stiasny's replacement name, proposed the name *Helicogorgia* for *Hicksonella* Simpson, 1910. Williams (1992c) revised the genus of four species and added a fifth species, *Simpsonella ramifera*. He also recognized *Radicipes squamiferus* as a synonym of *Simpsonella squamifera* and the priority of Stiasny's replacement name *Simpsonella* over *Helicogorgia* (but was also unaware of *Simpsonella* Cockerell, 1903)

In March of 2006, Joel Hallan brought to my attention the fact that the freshwater mussel genus *Simpsonella* of Cockerell (1903) has priority over the gorgonian name *Simpsonella* of Stiasny (1940). Since Bayer (1981) already provided the replacement name *Helicogorgia*, at the time unaware of either *Simpsonella* Cockerell, 1903, or *Simpsonella* Stiasny, 1940, *Helicogorgia* Bayer, 1981, is here proposed as the valid replacement name for *Simpsonella* Stiasny, 1940.

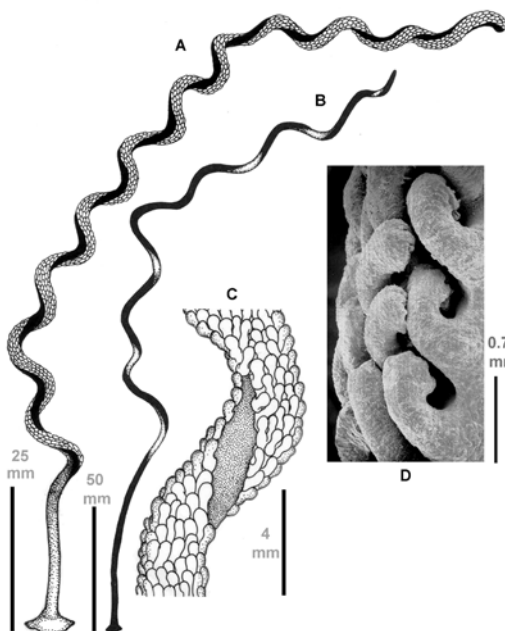


FIGURE 1. *Helicogorgia spiralis* (Hickson, 1904), type species of the genus. A. Whole colony; scale bar = 25 mm. B. Cleared axis of another colony; scale bar = 50 mm. C. Diagram of a partial colony showing polyps and a portion of bare axis; scale bar = 4 mm. D. Scanning electron micrograph showing polyps on a portion of a colony; scale bar = 0.75 mm. A and C from Williams, 1992a; B and D from Williams, 1992c.



FIGURE 2. Map of central and southern Africa showing the known distribution of the genus *Helicogorgia*. Black triangles represent collecting stations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Joel Hallan (Austin, Texas) for alerting me to the fact that *Simpsonella* Stiasny, 1940 (a gorgonian octocoral), is preoccupied by *Simpsonella* Cockerell, 1903 (a genus of freshwater mussel).

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