

On *Helicina biconica* MARTENS and *H. viridis* GRAY, non LAMARCK.

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With 2 figures.

MARTENS described *Helicina biconica* (1867: 169) from Java on the basis of a specimen in the MOUSSON collection. He did illustrate the new species but referred to GRAY's figure of *Helicina viridis* LAMARCK (1825: pl. 6 fig. 17) with which he thought his new species was identical. MARTENS realized that GRAY had been in error in associating his figure with LAMARCK's taxon and thought that he was renaming GRAY's specimen. The account of the confusion arising from LAMARCK's poorly defined species is well set forth by CROSSE (1891) who, however, overlooked MARTENS's remarks concerning the identity of *biconica* with "*viridis*" GRAY, non LAMARCK.

The present writer is in a position to state that, contrary to the opinion expressed by MARTENS, the two taxa are distinct. Through the extreme kindness of Dr. J. F. PEAKE of the British Museum (N. H.) and Dr. HANS JUNGEN of the Zoological Museum of the University of Zürich, I was able to compare the unique type-specimens of both *biconica* and "*viridis*" GRAY. The figures accompanying this note show the differences immediately. The following points should also be noted:

The outline of *biconica* is steeper and less inflated, and the sutures are less strongly impressed. It is smaller than GRAY's type (9.6 as compared to 11.2 mm in diameter) and has a more widely and more sharply expanded lip. The body whorl has a slightly less acute carina and does not descend at the aperture as does "*viridis*" GRAY. The color of *biconica* is generally yellowish brown rather than bluish green as is "*viridis*" and there is only a small area of greenish tinge below the periphery. Finally the shell of *biconica* is more solid and opaque, quite different from the rather fragile and translucent shell of "*viridis*".

As far as I was able to learn, GRAY's species has never been renamed, chiefly perhaps because CROSSE (1891: 190) thought that the specimen did not exist. He wrote that it was "sans valeur qu'il convient de n'en tenir aucun compte". In a separate paper (1971: 104), Dr. W. J. CLENCH and the present author reintroduce GRAY's species under the name *H. grayi*.

Through the generosity of Dr. R. KILIAS of the Zoological Museum in Berlin, it was possible for me to see photographs of a specimen of *H. biconica* in the MARTENS collection. According to Dr. KILIAS, this shell was collected in Bali on

the Rensch Sunda Expedition. It closely matches the holotype-specimen in the Zoological Museum in Zürich, differing mainly in some details of color. As Dr. KILIAS pointed out to me in a letter (December 2, 1970), the presence of this specimen serves to confirm the fact that *biconica* is indeed an Indonesian species. This view was expressed earlier (1931) by RENSCH himself (Zool. Jb. [Syst.], 61: 394). MARTENS (1867: 170) had voiced the suspicion that, since the type-locality of *biconica* was the Buitenzorg (now Bogor) Botanical Garden, it might have been an accidentally introduced species from Hispaniola.

I am indebted to Dr. K. J. Boss of the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, Massachusetts for the photographs accompanying this note.

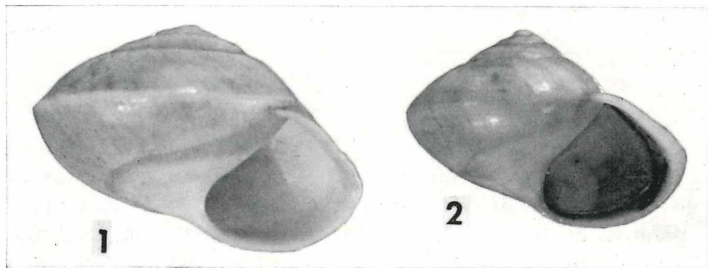


Fig. 1. *Helicina viridis* GRAY, non LAMARCK, in British Museum (N. H.).

Fig. 2. *Helicina biconica* MARTENS, in Zoological Museum of the University of Zürich. Both figures circ. $\times 4$.

Literature.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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