CHROMODORIS CALIFORNIENSIS BERGH, 1879 (MAY): PROPOSED CONSERVATION OVER CHROMODORIS GLAUCa BERGH, 1879 (MARCH) (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA).

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The CHROMODORIDINAE are a group of tropical and warm-temperate nudibranch mollusks. Species of the genera Chromodoris and Hypselodoris account for the majority of the named taxa in this subfamily. Both because of the size of the group and a plethora of synonyms, there is still a fair amount of taxonomic dispute over the identity of various species.

2. By contrast, the species occurring along the Pacific coast of America have been carefully studied, with only three species that have been doubtful. These three have been shown to be subjective synonyms of other, well-known species (Bertsch, 1977, 1978a and 1978b). Chromodoris aegialia Bergh, 1904, is a synonym of Hypselodoris agassizii (Bergh, 1894); the 1894 species has been in current usage. Chromodoris banksi Farmer, 1963, is a synonym of Chromolaichma dalli (Bergh, 1879 b). This synonymisation has a relatively minor effect on stability; although the name banksi has been used often in the modern literature (including the original description, it has appeared on 12 occasions, in works by 8 different authors), dalli has not been a forgotten name (between 1879 and 1926, the name occurred in 10 publications by 4 different authors; since 1960, 8 occasions by 8 different authors). Article 79 (b) of the 1972 Code borders on being applicable to this situation, but because the difference in usage of the names dalli and banksi is so marginal, we feel that the Law of Priority must be followed. The synonymization of Chromodoris glauca Bergh, 1879 a, with Hypselodoris califomiensis (Bergh, 1879 b) presents a major upset of general usage if the Law of Priority were to be invoked.

3. The name califomiensis has appeared in the literature numerous times in combination with the genera Hypselodoris, Chromodoris (original designation), and Glossodoris (the modern understanding of these genera is based on Odhner, 1957). Between 1879 and 1927, 8 authors used califomiensis on 16 occasions (Bergh himself accounts for 9 uses). Since 1927, at least 29 authors have used the name califomiensis in 36 different publications,
including major monographs, textbooks, and reference books. A selection of these works includes:


4. Since its establishment, *glauca* has appeared rarely in the literature. Bergh based the original description on two undissected, preserved specimens then, but now no longer, present in the Zoologisches Museum, Berlin (Dr. R. Kiliias, *in litt.*, 11 May 1971). Between 1879 and 1905, Bergh included the name in various lists, but without reference to any additional specimens. There have been only 4 other uses of *glauca* since 1905. One reference does not occur in the primary literature *sensu stricto*, and the others are simply listings as a synonym or a possible synonym.

4 a. Pruvot-Fol (1951: 106) included the taxon in her list, with a synopsis of Bergh’s description, stating that “cette espèce devra probablement être assimilée à l’une des *Glossodoris* bleues de Californie.”

4 b. Russell (1971: 76, 131) listed the name *glauca* in his bibliography of nudibranch literature.

4 c. Bertsch (1976: 158) simply listed *Chromodoris glauca* as a junior synonym of *Hypselodoris californiensis*. Burn (1978) demonstrated that the publication of *glauca* actually occurred one and a half months prior to *californiensis*. The name *glauca*, therefore, has priority.

5. To replace *californiensis* with the forgotten name *glauca* would seriously affect a well-established general usage. Because of the disuse of the senior synonym, Bertsch (1977: 114) suggested that *Chromodoris glauca* be relegated to the synonymy of
Hypselodoris californiensis as a nomen oblitum. We have considered two alternative requests to the Commission: one for the suppression of Chromodoris glauca under the provisions of Articles 23a–b and 79b; the other for the grant of nomenclatural precedence over C. glauca to Hypselodoris californiensis. Having regard to the fact that the syntypes of C. glauca were never dissected and have anyway disappeared, we see no useful purpose in artifically maintaining that name for possible use as a valid name and accordingly ask for its suppression.

6. We therefore request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name glauca Bergh, 1879, as published in the binomen Chromodoris glauca, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;

(2) to place the specific name californiensis Bergh, 1879, as published in the binomen Chromodoris californiensis, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

(3) to place the specific name glauca Bergh, 1879, as published in the binomen Chromodoris glauca, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

LITERATURE CITED


