Case 3166

_Campanularia noliformis_ McCrady, 1859 (currently _Clytia noliformis_; Cnidaria, Hydrozoa): proposed conservation of the specific name by the designation of a neotype

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name _Clytia noliformis_ (McCrady, 1859) for a well-known marine hydroid (family _Campanulariidae_). McCrady’s (1859) type material of _C. noliformis_ is lost but the hydroid he described is now believed to have been a different species from _C. noliformis_ auct. and perhaps conspecific with _C. hemisphaerica_ (Linnaeus, 1767). It is proposed that a neotype be designated for _C. noliformis_ in accord with usage during the past 100 years. The species _noliformis_ as currently understood occurs circumtropically and is common on pelagic _Sargassum_ and benthic substrates.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Cnidaria; Hydrozoa; _Campanulariidae_; hydroids; medusae; _Clytia noliformis_; _Clytia hemisphaerica_.

1. McCrady (1859, p. 194) established the name _Campanularia noliformis_ for the immature medusa and hydroid stages of a hydrozoan species from Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. The specific name is now generally combined with _Clytia_ Lamouroux, 1812 (p. 184). The type material of _Clytia noliformis_ is lost, probably having been destroyed during the American Civil War. None of McCrady’s material has been found at the Charleston Museum (see Calder, 1983, pp. 10, 24) and none has been located at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, where McCrady was employed from 1873 to 1876 (see Calder, 1991, p. 67). No previous neotype designation has been made.

2. The original description of _Clytia noliformis_ by McCrady (1859), which included an illustration (pl. 11, fig. 4) of a young medusa, provides little basis for differentiation of the species from several others of the genus. Based on current evidence it seems unlikely that McCrady’s species and the hydrozoan known today as _C. noliformis_ are the same species. One of us (Calder, 1991, p. 67) noted that
McCrady’s description of the hydroid, including the gonotheca, more closely resembles *Clytia hemisphaerica* (Linnaeus, 1767, p. 1098, published as *Medusa hemisphaerica*) than *C. noliformis* auct. Moreover, in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina (the type locality of *C. noliformis*) hydroids corresponding with *C. hemisphaerica* (Linnaeus, 1767) were common to abundant in collections made between 1973-1981, often on the same substrates noted by McCrady (1859) for *C. noliformis* (see Calder, 1991, p. 67). *Clytia noliformis* auct. was never found in those collections.

3. Misuse of the name *Clytia noliformis* is long standing. Misidentification of McCrady’s (1859) species, and misapplication of the name to the species of *Clytia* abundant on pelagic *Sargassum* in the North Atlantic, took place early in the 20th century (see Nutting, 1901, 1915; Wallace, 1909; Kingsley, 1910; Fraser, 1912, Stechow, 1925). The name *C. noliformis* has since been applied to a well-known hydroid species, also found on benthic macroalgae and invertebrates, differing from *C. hemisphaerica* in the shape of its hydrothecae and gonothecae, and probably different from that observed by McCrady (1859) (see, for example, Fraser, 1943, 1947; Mammen, 1965; Rees & Thursfield, 1965; Rees & White, 1966; Boero, 1981; Spracklin, 1982; Niermann, 1986; Calder, 1986, 1991, 1995, 1998; Stachowicz & Lindquist, 1997. A list of a further seven references demonstrating the current usage of *C. noliformis* is held by the Commission Secretariat).

4. Recognition of McCrady’s species as *Clytia hemisphaerica* (Linnaeus, 1767) would mean the loss of the name *C. noliformis* as a junior synonym, and a new name would be needed for the taxon currently known as *C. noliformis*, resulting in confusion in the use of names. No synonym is available as a substitute name for *C. noliformis* auct. (see Calder, 1991, pp. 65, 68). Another name applied to the species, *Clytia simplex* Congdon, 1907 (p. 471), is an invalid junior secondary homonym of *Clytia simplex* (Browne, 1902, p. 282, published as *Phialidium simplex*). *Epenthesis folleata* McCrady, 1859 (p. 191), considered identical or questionably so with *C. noliformis* by some authors (see Brooks, 1883, p. 138; Vannucci Mendes, 1946, p. 549; West & Renshaw, 1970, p. 332), seems closer to *Clytia gracilis* (M. Sars, 1850, p. 138, published as *Laomedea gracilis*) or to *C. hemisphaerica* than to *C. noliformis* auct. (see Calder, 1991, p. 68). Reasons for not using other names were also provided by Calder (1991, p. 68).

5. In 1991 one of us (Calder, pp. 65, 68) recorded that an application to the Commission was required to conserve the widespread use of the name *Clytia noliformis* (McCrady, 1859). We propose the stabilization of the name in its current meaning by the designation of a neotype. In accord with Article 72.5.2 of the Code, the proposed neotype is a fertile hydroid colony deposited in the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada, collection number ROMIZ B365. It was collected in Castle Harbour, Bermuda, on a dead octocoral, by Dale Calder on 1 October 1986. The hydroid colony is accompanied by 35 one-day-old medusae, released from the hydroid in the laboratory. Parts of the hydroid colony of the proposed neotype, as well as accompanying medusa stages, were illustrated by Calder (1991, p. 66, figs. 36a, d, e and f).

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
(1) to use its plenary power to set aside all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Campanularia noliformis* McCrady, 1859 and to designate as neotype the hydroid colony, collection no. ROMIZ B365, described in para. 5 above;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *noliformis* McCrady, 1859, as published in the binomen *Campanularia noliformis* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above.

References


Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).