PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY OF THE SPECIFIC NAME *CASERTANUM* POLI, 1791, AS PUBLISHED IN THE BINOMEN *CARDIUM CASERTANUM* (CLASS PELECYPODA). Z.N.(S.) 500

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Until 1921 the specific name *casertanum* Poli, 1791, as published in the binomen *Cardium casertanum* (*Testacea utriusque Siciliae* 1, Bivalvia: 65, pl. 16, fig. 1) was in regular use for a common species of freshwater lamellibranch of the genus *Pisidium*. In 1921, B. B. Woodward (*Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* 14: 209) claimed that Poli’s work must be “ruled out as not a serious contribution to systematic zoology, and his names have to be discarded”, on the grounds that Poli gave one set of names to the shells and another to the contained animals. Woodward concluded that the next available name for the species was *Pisidium cinereum* Alder, 1838 (*Trans. nat. Hist. Soc. Northumb.* 2: 341), and some subsequent authors have accordingly employed this name.

2. After carefully studying Poli’s description and figure of *Cardium casertanum*, we are in agreement with Woodward that there can be no doubt as to the identity of this species, which, moreover, has been found to be the sole species of *Pisidium* living in the type-locality near Caserta (Boettger, 1954, *Arch. Moll.* 83: 137–138). Both description and figure are good for the eighteenth century, and are superior to many published later and accepted as adequate. We are unable, however, to agree with Woodward’s contention that Poli’s work should be rejected for purposes of nomenclature: it is consistently binominal and Linnean, and his practice, not unusual at that period, of in some cases giving the animal and the shell different names, constitutes no ground for discarding his names in toto. In the present instance, he described only the dead shell of *Cardium casertanum*, and neither knew nor named the contained animal. [The question of the availability of Poli’s work for purposes of zoological nomenclature has been registered in the Commission’s office under the number Z.N.(S.) 488. Editor]

3. Some of the leading authorities on the genus *Pisidium*, e.g. A. W. Stelfox, Jules Favre, Temple Prime and Victor Sterki, have always used Poli’s name, and quite ninety per cent. of the material of this species in the collections of the British Museum (Natural History) is labelled *Pisidium casertanum* (Poli). The rejection of Poli’s name in favour of Alder’s would involve much profitless labour in relabelling specimens in museums and private collections, and would cause more confusion in the literature than would be occasioned by the stabilisation of that name in preference to the specific name *cinereum* Alder.

4. Although Poli’s figure is adequate as a standard of reference for the species, the following published descriptions and figures will help to make clear the way in which it is understood:

Stelfox, A. W., 1918, *J. Conchol.* 15, pl. 9, figs. 27, 28.
5. We therefore request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:—

(1) to rule that the nominal species *Cardium casertanum* Poli, 1791 is to be interpreted by reference to fig. 1 on pl. 16 of Poli’s work *Testacea utriusque Siciliae*, 1, Bivalvia;

(2) to place the specific name *casertanum* Poli, 1791, as published in the binomen *Cardium casertanum*, and as defined in (1) above, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.