

# Reassessing nomenclature for 'horned turban' snail

August 24 2017

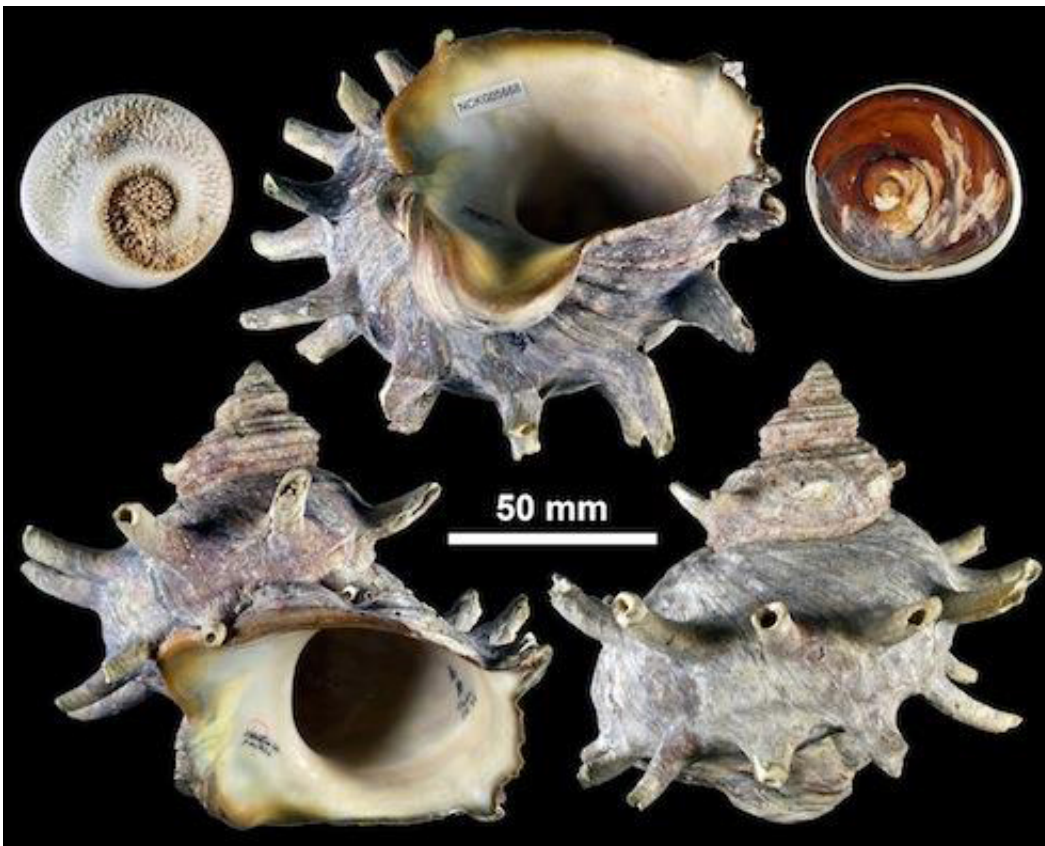


Figure 1: *Turbo sazae* from Japan. Credit: Okayama University

The 'horned turban' is well known to people mainly in Japan, Korea, and China as an edible marine snail. The species of Japan and Korea was known as *Turbo cornutus* Lightfoot, 1786 (Sazae in Japanese; Fig. 1) and the Chinese one as *T. chinensis* Ozawa & Tomida, 1995 (Nankai-sazae;

Fig. 2). The first literature record of *T. cornutus* was published 250 years ago (Fig. 3) and the name was globally accepted.

However, Hiroshi Fukuda, at the Graduate School of Environmental and Life Science, Okayama University discovered the existence of nomenclatural confusion for these two [species](#). He reviewed their history since original descriptions based on examination of old literature and re-defined the identities of the two species in accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

*Turbo cornutus* is not identifiable with the species of Japan and Korea. It should be restricted to the species endemic to southern China and Taiwan. *Turbo chinensis* is the junior synonym and invalid.

*Turbo japonicus* Reeve, 1848 has long been believed to be a junior synonym of *T. cornutus*, but Reeve's name contains two distinctly different species. One of them is a species known only from Mauritius and Réunion, in spite of the name 'japonicus'. Subsequent authors validated the name for species in Mauritius. Another *T. japonicus* by Reeve is the horned turban of Japan, but this is the junior homonym of the aforementioned *T. japonicus* from Mauritius, and is unfortunately, invalid.

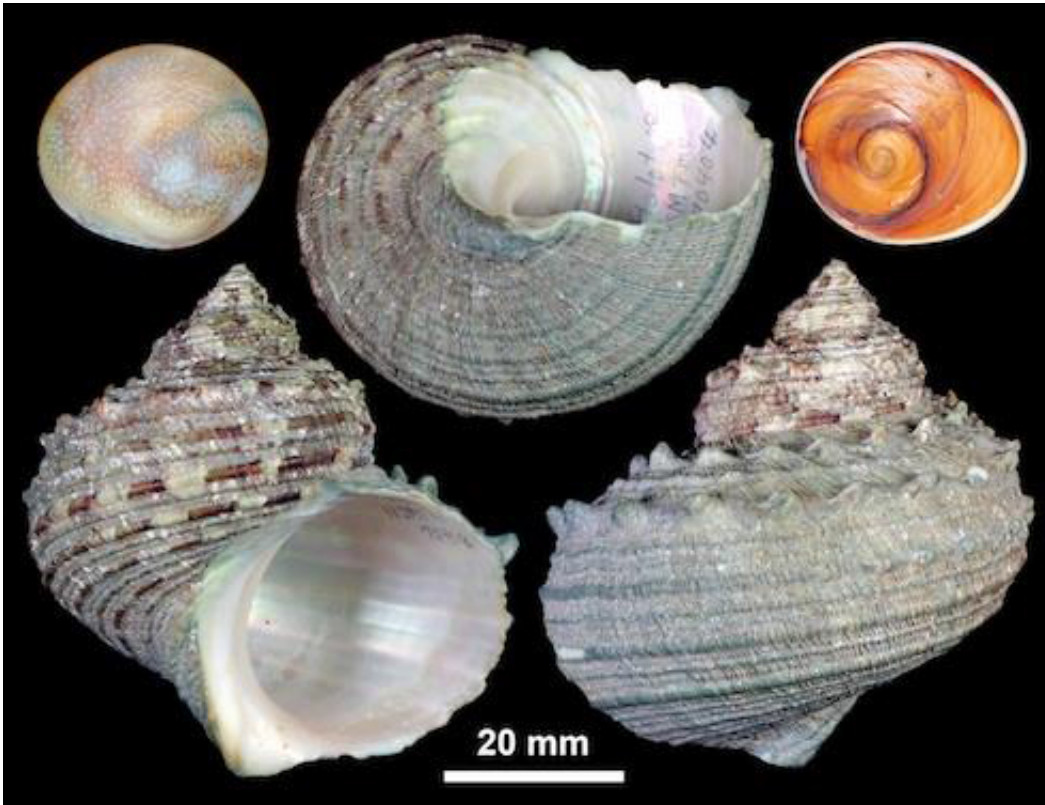


Figure 2: *Turbo cornutus* from China. Photo by Dr Yuichi Kameda of the National Science Museum, Tokyo. Credit: Okayama University

Surprisingly, the horned turban of Japan and Korea did not have any valid scientific names. Thus, *Turbo sazae* Fukuda, 2017 was proposed for this species as a new replacement name for the invalid *T. japonicus*.

The complicated history of the nomenclature for these species was caused by 'Chinese whispers' by zoologists over 250 years, partly because the species were very common for all the researchers and nobody suspected the misidentification.

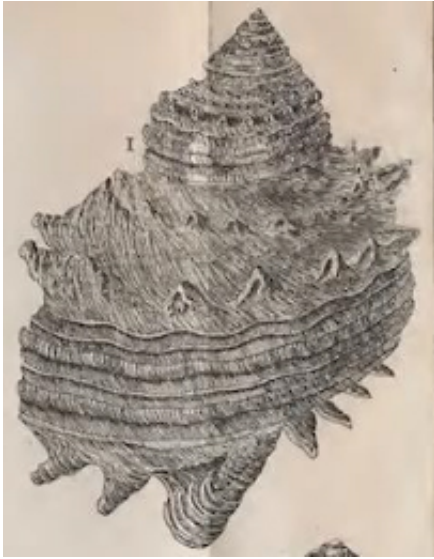


Figure 3: The original illustration of the type specimen of *Turbo cornutus* from China, after Davila (1767). Credit: Okayama University

**More information:** Hiroshi Fukuda. Nomenclature of the horned turban snails previously known as *Turbo cornutus* [Lightfoot], 1786 and *Turbo chinensis* Ozawa & Tomida, 1995 (Vetigastropoda: Trochoidea: Turbinidae) from China, Japan and Korea, *Molluscan Research* (2017). [DOI: 10.1080/13235818.2017.1314741](https://doi.org/10.1080/13235818.2017.1314741)

Provided by Okayama University

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