



TAXONOMIC POSITION OF *KASPERIA* GODWIN-AUSTEN, 1914 (GASTROPODA: PULMONATA: LIMACIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: Examination of the type material of *Limax (Kasperia) mayae* Godwin-Austen, 1914 revealed that the subgeneric name *Taulimax* Wiktor et Likharev, 1980 is a junior synonym of *Kasperia* Godwin-Austen, 1914; the specific name *mayae* Godwin-Austen, 1914 is a synonym of *turkestanus* Simroth, 1898.

KEY WORDS: Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Limacidae, *Kasperia*, *Turcomilax*, Kashmir

GODWIN-AUSTEN (1914) described the subgenus *Kasperia*, simultaneously providing a description of a new species, *Limax (Kasperia) mayae*, which consequently became the type species (monotypy). The type specimens (5 syntypes) come from Tajwas (or Tajwaz; it was impossible to locate the name on the map), Sonamurg and Kashmir, and were collected in 1910 on old tree trunks by Miss M. POCKLINGTON. All those specimens, some damaged or incomplete, are deposited at The Natural History Museum in London. At present I designate the lectotype – the specimen whose genitalia are depicted in GODWIN-AUSTEN's paper (1914: Pl. CXL, Fig. 9). To my knowledge, this slug has not been collected in Kashmir any more, nor the taxonomic position of the subgenus revised since then.

Like the author of the name himself, i.e. GODWIN-AUSTEN (1914), HESSE (1926), LIKHAREV & WIKTOR (1980) and recently WIKTOR et al. (1999) did not associate the name *Kasperia* with any known slug. The knowledge of the slug fauna of Kashmir is very scanty, and the name, both of the subgenus and species, i.e. *Limax (Kasperia) mayae* Godwin-Austen, 1914, had not appeared in the literature and must have been omitted.

Having examined the syntypes of *Limax (Kasperia) mayae*, I came to a conclusion that they are conspecific with the slug known as *Turcomilax turkestanus* (Simroth, 1898); thus, the name *mayae* is a junior synonym of *turkestanus* (Fig. 1).

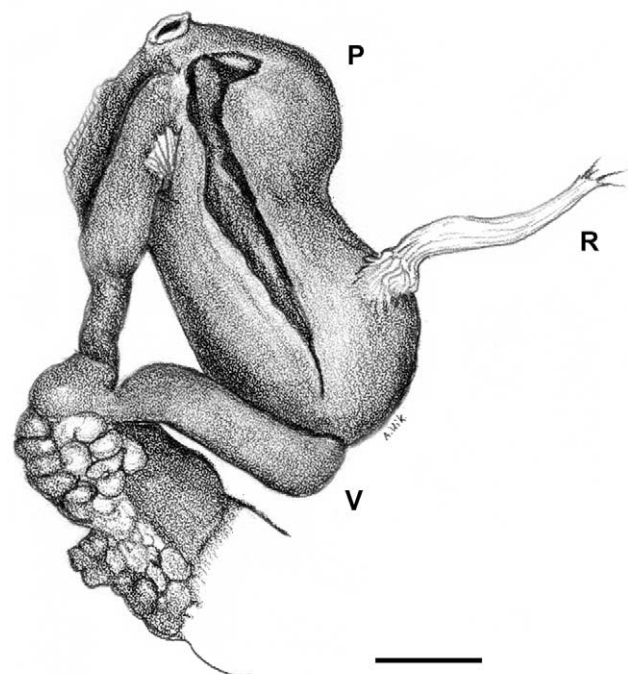


Fig. 1. *Limax (Kasperia) mayae* Godwin-Austen, 1914 – copulatory organs of the lectotype with the characteristically shaped penis and the lateral insertion of retractor penis typical of *Turcomilax turkestanus* (Simroth, 1898) (orig.). O – oviduct, P – penis, R – penial retractor muscle, V – vas deferens (scale bar 1 mm)

Within the genus *Turcomilax*, LIKHAREV & WIKTOR (1980) described a new subgenus, giving it the name *Taulimax*, and *Limax turkestanus* Simroth, 1898 was designated as its type species. In view of this, the subgeneric name *Taulimax* Likharev et Wiktor, 1980 should be acknowledged as a junior synonym of *Kasperia* Godwin-Austen, 1914.

Since the genus *Turcomilax* is still poorly known and, additionally, it occurs in regions which will certainly be the subject of further zoological exploration, I think it is useful to rearrange the nomenclature of this group as attempted below.

Family: Limacidae Rafinesque, 1815

Subfamily: Limacinae Rafinesque, 1815

Genus: *Turcomilax* Simroth, 1901

(SIMROTH 1901: 176)

Type species: *Gigantomilax (Turcomilax) nanus* Simroth, 1901, by monotypy.

Subgenus: *Turcomilax* s. str.

Type species: *Gigantomilax (Turcomilax) nanus* Simroth, 1901, by monotypy.

Turcomilax (Turcomilax) nanus (Simroth, 1901)

(SIMROTH 1901: 177, Pl. 19, Figs 15–20, as *Gigantomilax (Turcomilax)*).

Synonyms:

Gigantomilax (Turcomilax) abramovi Simroth, 1910 (SIMROTH 1910: 529, Pl. VII, Fig. 26 pars).

Gigantomilax (Turcomilax) pischpekensis Simroth, 1910 (SIMROTH 1910: 530, Pl. VII, Figs 27–28).

Turcomilax (Turcomilax) ferganus (Simroth, 1910)

(SIMROTH 1910: 528, Pl. VII, Figs 22–25, as *Gigantomilax (Turcomilax)*).

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Subgenus: *Michaelisia* Likharev et Wiktor, 1980

(LIKHAREV & WIKTOR 1980: 252)

Type species: *Limax (Lehmannia) natalianus* Michaelis, 1892, by original designation.

Turcomilax (Michaelisia) natalianus (Michaelis, 1892)

(MICHAELIS 1892: 31, Fig. 3).

Synonyms:

Limax (Lehmannia) stummeri Simroth, 1910 (SIMROTH 1910: 510, Pl. VI, Figs 11–12).

Gigantomilax (Turcomilax) iliensis Altena, 1954 (ALTENA 1954: 47, Figs 1–3).

Subgenus: *Kasperia* Godwin-Austen, 1914

(GODWIN-AUSTEN 1914: 312)

Type species: *Limax (Kasperia) mayae* Godwin-Austen, 1914 [= *turkestanus* Simroth, 1898].

Taulimax Likharev et Wiktor, 1980, **syn. n.**

(LIKHAREV & WIKTOR 1980: 254)

Type species: *Limax turkestanus* Simroth, 1898, by monotypy.

Turcomilax (Kasperia) turkestanus (Simroth, 1898)

(SIMROTH 1898: 54, as *Limax*).

Synonym: *Limax (Kasperia) mayae* Godwin-Austen, 1914 (GODWIN-AUSTEN 1914: 312, PL. CXI, Figs 1–12).

Turcomilax (Kasperia) tzvietkovi Likharev et Wiktor, 1980

(LIKHAREV & WIKTOR 1980: 258, Figs 309–310).

Turcomilax (Kasperia) oli Wiktor, Naggs et Gupta, 1999

(WIKTOR et al. 1999: 225, Figs 1–6).

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