

MEGALONAIAS UTTERBACK, 1915 (MOLLUSCA, BIVALVIA):
PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY THE SUPPRESSION OF
~~MAGNONAIAS UTTERBACK, 1915. Z.N.(S.)2512~~

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This application is for the suppression of the generic name *Magnonaias* Utterback, 1915, in the family UNIONIDAE. This is an unused, senior synonym of a well known genus, *Megalonaias* Utterback, 1915 and as such, poses a threat to the stability of the binomen *Megalonaias gigantea* (Barnes, 1823). A decision by the Commission is requested in order to prevent disruption of existing, universally accepted nomenclature.

2. Utterback (1915a p. 47) introduced the generic name *Magnonaias* in a key to Missouri unionids and included only *Unio heros* Say, 1829 (pp. 291–292) in the genus. The association of *U. heros* with *Magnonaias* constitutes an indication, satisfying the provision set forth in Article 12b (5) of the Code. Later in the same year (Utterback, 1915b, pp. 123–125) he described the genus *Megalonaias* and designated *Unio heros* Say, 1829, as type species. However, he did not present a discussion of the earlier generic name *Magnonaias*, nor did he include *Magnonaias heros* in the synonymy of *Megalonaias heros* (Say). Since both *Magnonaias* Utterback, 1915, and *Megalonaias* Utterback, 1915 have the same type species, *Megalonaias* is a junior objective synonym of *Magnonaias*.

3. Utterback (1916a, p. 460, at the end of part VII), included an erratum in which he commented:

'Some errors have been due to improper and insufficient corrections of the MS. which originally followed Lindahl's "Orthography of the Names of *Naiades*," — an article that adheres strictly to the International Code. Most of the other errors are the typographical mistakes that usually escape even the most careful proof-reading. Vol. IV., No. 3 —

pg. 47 . . . line 40 for "*Magnonaias*" read "*Megalonaias*"; . . .'

He recognised his error in using both *Magnonaias* and *Megalonaias* and corrected *Magnonaias* to read *Megalonaias*.

4. The suggested name change in Utterback's 1916a erratum was not a spelling correction, but a change of the root from the Latin *magnus* to the Greek *megale*. This change is not a justified emendation because the nomen *Magnonaias* was not originally misspelled. Utterback made the etymological change for philosophical reasons. This change is not allowed under Articles 18 and 23m of the Code. The name change proposed in the erratum is an emendation as defined by Article 33b but is clearly an unjustified emendation as defined by Article 33b (iii). Thus *Megalonaias* Utterback, 1916, automati-

cally becomes a junior objective synonym of *Magnoniaias*, in addition to being a junior homonym of *megaloniaias* Utterback, 1915. The complete text of the naiades of Missouri published in the American Midland Naturalist was repaginated and reprinted in 1916 (Utterback, 1916b).

5. The generic name *Megaloniaias* Utterback, 1915 has been used extensively and exclusively in malacological literature for the species *gigantea* Barnes, 1823 (= *U. heros* Say, 1829). Frierson (1916, p. 64) in discussing the synonymy of *gigantea* and *heros* used the name *Megaloniaias*. Ortmann & Walker (1922, pp. 7, 8) supported Frierson's use of *Megaloniaias gigantea*. Frierson (1927, p. 62) in his checklist of freshwater bivalves of North America, used *Megaloniaias* as a subgenus of *Amblema* Rafinesque, 1820. The genus *Megaloniaias* has been widely used in faunal surveys such as those of Baker, 1928; Goodrich & van der Schalie, 1944; La Rocque, 1953; Murray & Leonard, 1962; Parmalee, 1967; La Rocque, 1967 and Starobogatov, 1970. Haas (1969a, p. 284) and Burch (1975, p. 10) in surveys of unionids used *Megaloniaias*.

6. *Megaloniaias gigantea* is a commercially important species. It was one of the commonly used shells in the pearl button industry and is today a preferred species in the Japanese cultured pearl industry (see Parmelee, 1967, p. 33; Oesch, 1984, p. 77). Davis & Fuller (1981, p. 241) recognised the genus *Megaloniaias* but suggested that it was a synonym of *Amblema*. Haas (1969b, p. N439) used the genus *Megaloniaias* and in the notes listed '*Megaloniaias* Utterback, 1915 [= *Magnoniaias* Utterback, 1915].'

7. The genus *Magnoniaias* Utterback, 1915 has not been used in the literature on North America freshwater bivalves. Vokes (1967, 1980) listed *Magnoniaias* Utterback, 1915, as the nomenclaturally valid generic name followed by '[cf. *Megaloniaias* Utterback, 1915]', noting in the entry for *Megaloniaias* Utterback, 1915, '[*Magnoniaias* Utterback, 1915]'. Vokes (1967, p. 205) was the first to point out the priority of *Magnoniaias* over *Megaloniaias*. The listings of Haas (1969b) and Vokes (1967, 1980) are the only occurrences of the nomen *Magnoniaias* in the literature since the original description.

8. In order to avoid undesirable changes in nomenclature and to preserve the stability of generic names in the UNIONIDAE, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Magnoniaias* Utterback, 1915, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the generic name *Megaloniaias* Utterback, 1915 (gender: feminine), type species, by original designation, *Unio heros* Say, 1829, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *heros* Say, 1829, as published in the binomen *Unio heros* (specific name of the type species of *Megaloniaias* Utterback, 1915 and currently treated as a junior subjective synonym of *Unio giganteus* Barnes, 1823) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

- (4) to place the generic name *Magnoniaias* Utterback, 1915, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

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