

Communication

***Cultellus subellipticus* Dunker, 1862, the correct name for *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850, a junior primary homonym of *Solen scalprum* King, 1832 (Bivalvia: Solenoidea: Pharidae)**Martyn E. Y. Low^{1,2} and Siong Kiat Tan¹¹Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, 2 Conservatory Drive, Singapore 117377, Republic of Singapore; martyn@natural-history.org; nhmtsk@nus.edu.sg²Corresponding author**Abstract**

The name *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 is in current use for a widely distributed species of bivalve assigned to the genus *Cultellus*. The name is a junior primary homonym of *Solen scalprum* King, 1832. The name *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 should be replaced by its junior synonym *Cultellus subellipticus* Dunker, 1862.

http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:39E7C4F3-EC58-4AC3-B790-9BAD323B947A

Introduction

The name *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 is in prevailing use for a species of bivalve assigned to the genus *Cultellus* Schumacher, 1817 that is found in the Mergui Archipelago, Singapore, Java, the Gulf of Thailand, the Philippines, the South China Sea, Taiwan and Guangdong (see von Martens, 1897: 265; Lyngø, 1909: 275; Bernard et al., 1993: 103; Liu, 2008: 582; Tan & Woo, 2010: 14).

The name *Solen scalprum* was proposed as a new taxon name by King (1832: 335) based on material from “ad Patagoniae oras Orientales (Sea Bear Bay)” and by Gould (1850: 214) based on material from “Singapore”. Gould (1856: pl. 33, fig. 502a, 502b) later figured the holotype of *Solen scalprum* from Singapore (USNM 5889; Fig. 1).

Solen scalprum King, 1832 is currently considered to be a junior subjective synonym of *Ensis macha* (Molina, 1782) (see Marcus, 1959: 67; Osorio & Bahamonde, 1970: 238). The taxon that the name *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 denotes is considered to be valid, but the name *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 is a junior primary homonym of *Solen scalprum* King, 1832 and is permanently invalid (Article 57.2 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, hereafter the Code; ICZN, 1999: 59).

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A reversal of precedence (Article 23.9 of the Code, ICZN, 1999: 27–29) is not possible as the name *Solen scalprum* King, 1832 has been used as a valid name at least twice after 1899 (Morretes, 1949: 46; Parodiz, 1996: 217).

As *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 is invalid, the name needs to be replaced by a replacement name or a junior synonym (Article 60 of the Code, ICZN, 1999: 62, 63). The name *Cultellus subellipticus* Dunker, 1862 (pp. 421, 422, type locality: “Malacca”) has been universally considered to be a synonym of *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 (e.g., von Martens, 1897: 265; Lyngø, 1909: 275; Bernard et al., 1993: 103; Tan & Woo, 2010: 14) and is the valid name for the taxon under discussion.

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Fig. 1. The holotype of *Solen scalprum* Gould, 1850 (USNM 5889) from Singapore. Photograph provided by the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution and used with permission.

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