

***Melania baldwini* Ancey, 1899, synonymized with
Melanoides tuberculata (Müller, 1774) (Gastropoda: Thiaridae)**

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Two globally invasive species of thiarid snails inhabiting fresh and brackish water occur in the Hawaiian Islands: *Melanoides tuberculata* (Müller, 1774), and *Tarebia granifera* (Lamarck, 1816) (Cowie *et al.* 1995; Cowie 1997). During the second half of the nineteenth century, seven species-level taxa of thiarids were described from the Hawaiian Islands by various European and American authors; most or all of these will no doubt prove to be synonyms of *M. tuberculata* or *T. granifera*, but their identities have heretofore remained unresolved (Cowie *et al.* 1995; Cowie 1997). The purpose of this note is to identify one of these, *Melania baldwini* Ancey, 1899, as a synonym of *M. tuberculata*.

César-Marie-Felix Ancey (1860–1906) was a French malacologist active in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who published descriptions of a large number of Hawaiian nonmarine mollusks (Wood & Gallichan 2008), including *Melania baldwini*. Ancey's original description of *M. baldwini* stated that the type material was from Lahaina, Maui, and was obtained from “Baldwin” (undoubtedly D.D. Baldwin). Examination of Ancey's original description and, especially, the excellent illustration accompanying that description (Ancey 1899: 273–274, pl. 3, fig. 6) shows *M. baldwini* to be a synonym of *Melanoides tuberculata*, **new synonymy**.

The National Museum of Wales holds a single specimen of *M. baldwini* obtained from Ancey's collection via dealer Paul Geret and John R. le B. Tomlin (Wood & Gallichan 2008). This specimen, catalogued as NMW 1955.158.24088, is illustrated by Wood & Gallichan (2008: pl. 26, fig. 2; not fig. 3, as stated in the caption on p. 150; the illustrations of *M. baldwini* and *M. brazieri* [pl. 26, fig. 3] are reversed; J. Gallichan, pers. comm. 13 May 2013). This specimen closely resembles Ancey's figure of *M. baldwini*, and it “measures very close to the dimensions given in [his] description” (Wood & Gallichan 2008: 27). Although considered as a “Possible Syntype” (Wood & Gallichan 2008: 150), the label accompanying it does not identify it as a type. C. Montague Cooke, Jr., Malacologist at Bishop Museum, visited Ancey at his home in Algeria shortly before the death of the latter and examined the type specimens of all the Hawaiian taxa that were then present in his collection; no types of *M. baldwini* were found (Cooke 1907: 312). After Ancey's death, Bishop Museum purchased more than 14,000 specimens of Hawaiian nonmarine mollusks from his collection (Brigham 1909: 186), but no specimens identified as *Melania baldwini* were included in that material. It thus appears that Ancey did not retain the type material of *M. baldwini* in his collection and that no extant specimen can be identified with certainty as having been among Ancey's type material. For the purpose of clarifying the status of this hitherto unrecognized taxon, the specimen illustrated by Ancey (1899, pl. 12, fig. 6) is **here designated as the lectotype** of *M. baldwini*

1. Contribution No. 2014-007 to the Hawaii Biological Survey.

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pursuant to Article 74.4 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) in order to stabilize the name.

Acknowledgments

I thank Ms. Jennifer Gallichan of the National Museum of Wales for information regarding the illustration of *M. baldwini* in Wood & Gallichan (2008).

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