

# Clarification on the nomenclatural availability of the turtle barnacle genus *Chelolepas* (Cirripedia: Balanomorpha: Coronuloidea), a corrigendum to Hayashi (2012)

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*The validity of the turtle barnacle genus Chelolepas has been challenged on the grounds that the publication in which the genus was formally described does not meet the requirements of a published work under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The present note informs that Chelolepas is a valid name that satisfies the provisions of the Code and that Tubicinella cheloniae is a synonym of Chelolepas cheloniae.*

**Keywords:** turtle and whale barracles, Coronuloidea, *Tubicinella*, *Chelolepas*

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The tubular barnacle *Chelolepas cheloniae* (Monroe & Limpus, 1979) occurs within the tissues of cheloniid sea turtles throughout the Indo-West Pacific region (Ross & Frick, 2007). This species was originally described as *Tubicinella cheloniae* Monroe & Limpus, 1979 under the family Coronulidae—a previously monotypic genus represented by the tubular whale barnacle *Tubicinella major* (Lamarck, 1802). *Tubicinella cheloniae* was later placed in a new genus *Chelolepas* Ross & Frick, 2007 under the family Platylepadidae, subfamily Chelolepadinae. The reasons for this placement were systematically detailed in Ross & Frick (2007, 2011).

In a recent publication on the turtle and whale barnacles associated with marine vertebrates in Japanese waters (Hayashi, 2012a), the author asserts that the generic name *Chelolepas* should be ignored because ‘there is no description and comparison on soft parts between *Tubicinella major* and *T. cheloniae* [provided by Ross & Frick (2007) that would facilitate placing the two species into separate genera, and, as a result, into different families under the superfamily Coronuloidea].’ A rejoinder by Frick (2012) addressed Hayashi’s (2012a) contention—providing details and description of the ‘soft-parts’ of *C. cheloniae* and *T. major*, and a comparison of these structures between the two species<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, Frick (2012) reemphasized the external morphological features that justified the placement of the two species under different genera and within separate families.

<sup>1</sup>It should be noted that the title of Frick (2012) reflects the date of publication for the FirstView digital version of Hayashi’s ‘atlas’ (2011). The same article was later published in print form in 2012, and it is cited herein as Hayashi (2012a).

More recently, Hayashi (2012b) stated: ‘Ross & Frick (2007) revised the taxonomic position of *T. cheloniae* and erected a new genus *Chelolepas* for this species (Ross & Frick, 2007). However this nomenclatural act was published in *Marine Turtle Newsletter*. The journal is open to the public via a website while this is not available work under the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 4th edition (Article 9). This nomenclatural act cannot be validated and this was mentioned in Hayashi (2012[a]), too. So, *Chelolepas* is the void nomenclature and this species should be listed as *Tubicinella cheloniae*.’

However, in questioning the nomenclatural availability of the genus *Chelolepas*, Hayashi (2012a) did not invoke Article 9 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Code), which decrees what does not constitute a published work (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999). Furthermore, his assertion (Hayashi, 2012b) that the *Marine Turtle Newsletter* violates the Code’s definition of a published work is erroneous. *Marine Turtle Newsletter* meets all of the criteria required by Article 8 of the Code for a work to be regarded as published for the purposes of zoological nomenclature as it is available in print form in public and university libraries worldwide (ISSN: 0839-7708), as well as in digital format on the internet (<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn/>) (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999). Therefore, *Chelolepas* is a valid name that satisfies the provisions of the Code, and *Tubicinella cheloniae* is a junior synonym of *Chelolepas cheloniae*.

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