

**On the identity of *Sphaerumbonella brunelli* Coen, 1933  
(Mollusca, Bivalvia, Galeommatidae)**

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Abstract: *Sphaerumbonella brunelli* Coen, 1933, described from material collected near Massawa, Ethiopia, has to be considered a junior synonym of *Scintillula scintillula* Jousseume, 1888. This bivalve seems to be confined in its distribution to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Key words: Bivalvia, Galeommatidae, *Sphaerumbonella brunelli*, *Scintillula*, synonymy, distribution.

A small bivalve found dead inside the tube of a polychaete at the base of a coral near Massawa, Ethiopia, was described by Coen (1933) as belonging to a new genus and species: *Sphaerumbonella brunelli*. The exact identity of the species remained unknown and nobody seems to have quoted these names afterwards. They are even missing from the excellent monograph dealing with the bivalves of the Red Sea by Oliver (1992).

The holotype of *Sphaerumbonella brunelli* Coen, 1933 was located in the former G. S. Coen-collection, which forms now part of the National Mollusc Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ). The specimen (HUJ 12547 ex Coen 9443) turned out to be identical in full details with one of the numerous, often curious tautonyms created by Jousseume: *Scintillula scintillula* Jousseume, 1888 as redescribed by Oliver (1992: 112, plt. 18, figs. 12a-b). The following primary synonymy is now known:

Family Galeommatidae

*Scintillula scintillula* Jousseume, 1888

*Scintillula scintillula* Jousseume, 1888: 203-204.

*Scintilla sulphurea* Sturany, 1899: 286, plt. 7, figs. 6-9.

*Sphaerumbonella brunelli* Coen, 1933: 3, figs. 1-3.

The species has been recorded sofar from the following localities: RED SEA: Egypt, Sinai, Sharm el Sheikh (Sturany, R. W. A. 1899: 286); Ethiopia, Massawa (Coen, G. 1933: 3) GULF of ADEN: Djibouti, Obock (Jousseume, F. 1888: 204); Djibouti (Oliver, P. G. 1992: 112).

References

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