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**Priority of the name *Opisthobursa mexicana*
Benazzi, 1972 over *Dimarcus villalobosi* Mitchell and
Kawakatsu, 1972**

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SEZIONE III

(Botanica, zoologia, fisiologia e patologia)

Zoologia. — *Priority of the name* *Opisthobursa mexicana* Benazzi, 1972 over *Dimarcus villalobosi* Mitchell and Kawakatsu, 1972 (*). Nota (**) del Socio MARIO BENAZZI.

RIASSUNTO. — L'A. dimostra la priorità del nome *Opisthobursa mexicana* Benazzi, 1972 attribuito ad un Triclade cavernicolo raccolto durante la 2ª spedizione Lincea in Messico, su *Dimarcus villalobosi* attribuito alla stessa planaria da Mitchell e Kawakatsu.

In a previous paper [1] I gave a preliminary report of my studies on the planarians collected during the 2nd zoological expedition in Mexico organized in 1971 by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. The most interesting result of the research was the finding of a new cave Triclad sharply differentiated from all other freshwater planarians by some features of the copulatory system: above all the postpenial position of the bursa copulatrix and its opening to the exterior with a little ventral pore. This planarian was called *Opisthobursa mexicana* g. and sp.n. and its complete description, including biological and karyological characteristics, is since July 1972 in press (Benazzi and Giannini [2]).

Recently I received a paper by Mitchell and Kawakatsu [3] containing the description of a planarian, collected in the same Mexican cave (Grutas de Coconá) from which my specimens originated, which undoubtedly corresponds to *Opisthobursa mexicana*. The planarian has been called by Mitchell and Kawakatsu *Dimarcus villalobosi* new genus and new species and attributed to a new family (Dimarcusidae) of the Maricola.

At the end of their paper, the Authors put in the following *Addendum*:

When this paper was in page proof, we received a recently published note (BENAZZI, 1972, Rend. Acc. Naz. Lincei, 52, 403-405) containing a *nomen nudum*, *Opisthobursa mexicana*, which may be referable to the species *Dimarcus villalobosi*. Although a few characters of the planarian were mentioned, they are insufficient to diagnose the species, and it was stated further that the description (by Benazzi and Giannini) was "in progress".

In accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Revised edition 1964, Art. 13 a) I refuse the qualification of *nomen nudum* for *Opisthobursa mexicana*. In fact, my paper contains: a) the generic and

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(**) Presentata nella seduta del 13 gennaio 1973.

the specific names, *b*) the precise indication of the type locality, *c*) the most peculiar characteristics sufficient to diagnose the species. The conditions of availability of the name are certainly satisfied.

Therefore, *Opisthobursa mexicana* Benazzi, March 1972 is nomenclatorially valid, and *Dimarcus villalobosi* Mitchell and Kawakatsu, December 1972 is to be considered a synonym.

ADDENDUM

When this Note was in page proof, I received from I. R. Ball the following statement:

The nomenclatural problem of the cave planarian from Mexico is here resolved quite correctly by Benazzi. The diagnosis of *Opisthobursa mexicana* is perfectly adequate for its recognition, and this name has clear priority.

Furthermore, in a letter dated 10th October 1972 I informed Mitchell, before his description had been prepared, and after the paper by Benazzi and Giannini had gone to press, that Benazzi had a full description in press of the Mexican cave planarian. Mitchell acknowledged the likelihood of a common identity between his material and that described in press by Benazzi and Giannini. The publication of a paper by Mitchell and Kawakatsu thus conflicts with Appendix A (2) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (revised edition, 1964). These facts reinforce the view that *Opisthobursa mexicana* is the prior and valid name.

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REFERENCES

- [1] BENAZZI M., *Notizie preliminari sulle planarie raccolte nella seconda spedizione Lincea in Messico*, « Rend. Acc. Naz. Lincei », ser. VIII, 52, 403–405 (1972).
- [2] BENAZZI M. and E. GIANNINI, *A remarkable new cave planarian: Opisthobursa mexicana Benazzi, 1972*. « Quaderni Acc. Naz. Lincei », 171, Part II (In press.).
- [3] MITCHELL R. W. and M. KAWAKATSU, *A new family, genus, and species of cave-adapted planarian from Mexico (Turbellaria, Tricladida, Maricola)*, « Occas. Papers The Mus. Texas Tech Univ. », 8, 22 Dec. 1972.