

INDO-PACIFIC COCKLES (BIVALVIA: CARDIIDAE). PART 1. GENERIC DIAGNOSES AND AN OVERVIEW OF SPECIES WITH MENTION OF TAXONOMIC PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THAILAND.

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ABSTRACT

An overview of current diagnoses of genera and subgenera is compiled. A checklist of Indo-Pacific cardiids is provided to show that a high number of synonyms exist, and that many specific distinctions seem unclear, and that the generic status of many species remain in doubt. Generic and subgeneric combinations change considerably with time. Therefore, in the checklist, the species are arranged alphabetically according to their original binomen, starting with the specific name followed by subgenus, genus, and authorship in order to facilitate search for information of interest. Problems in regard of identification are discussed with reference to common literature. Cockles are characterized by highly variable characters such as shape, thickness and ornamentation. This has caused some confusion, which is related to incomplete diagnoses of species and genera. There is little information about hinge structure, periostracum or shell ultrastructure. The soft body is not considered at all, although a number of characters could highlight relationships among cockles. Digging behaviour, ability to jump or swim, presence of eyes, presence of byssus, sex characteristics, morphology of spermatozoa, deposition of eggs, larval development, and the number of openings in the mantle could provide useful characters for a better classification.