

BOOK REVIEW

Molljiski Bielogo morja. Opredelitel po faunie SSSR. (Molluscs of the White Sea. Key for the USSR fauna), Edited by O. A. Skarlato; 151, 328 pp; Nauka, Leningrad, 1989, (No. ISBN is lacking).

Among the Northern Soviet Seas, the White Sea, next to the Barents Sea, is one of the best known in respect to invertebrate fauna, including *Mollusca*, that belong to the most essential components of the benthos. In the book reviewed 162 species of *Mollusca*, belonging to *Aplacophora*, *Polyplacophora*, *Gastropoda* and *Bivalvia*, are discussed. Therefore not all mollusc classes forming the phylum of *Mollusca* have been discussed.

The main editor of this work is O. A. Skarlato. Along with this specialist there are also other ones of great scientific authority such as A. N. Golikov, V. V. Fediakov or A. D. Naumov who are discussing particular classes, orders or lower taxonomic units of *Mollusca*. But despite these malacological authorities some mistakes in this work occurred.

Main objections concern the list of *Mollusca* inhabiting the White Sea (pp. 14—25). Instead of *Oenopota bicarinata* (Couthouy, 1839) should be *O. violacea* (Mighels et Adams, 1842), *Oenopota cancellata* (Mighels, 1841) and *Oenopota impressa* (Beck, 1869) are, in fact, the same species — *O. impressa* (Mörch, 1869). Instead of *Cylichna occulta* (Mighels, 1841) should be *C. occulta* (Mighels et Adams, 1842). Instead of *Retusa pertenuis* (Mighels 1843) should be *R. obtusa* (Montagu, 1803). The species: *Elliptica elliptica* (Brown, 1827), *Tridonta borealis* (Schumacher, 1817) and *Nicania montagui* (Dillwyn, 1817) — should be all classified in one genus — *Astarte*. There are some 10 other small errors in this list.

The bibliography of the work reviewed includes 343 positions (101 are published in Russian). The lack of at least three important positions by Bernard, 1979 (Bivalve molluscs of the Western Beaufort Sea. Contr. Sci. Nat. Mus. Los Angeles County, 313: 1—80), by Lubinsky, 1980 (Marine bivalve molluscs of the Canadian Central and Eastern Arctic: faunal composition and zoogeography. Can. Bull. Fish. Aquat. Sci., 207: 1—111), and by Hisaeter, 1986 (An annotated check-list of marine molluscs of the Norwegian coast and adjacent waters. Sarsia, 71, 2: 73—145) in such a rich bibliography must be noticed. These basic papers would help to avoid most of the above mentioned mistakes.

Drawings and photos are, of course, the most important component of keys and guide-books. In the book reviewed all 162 species discussed are illustrated. However, the reviewer has many reservations about this aspect of the book. First of all, sources of illustrations are not indicated (which is the rule in the books by Soviet authors). Some of the illustrations are, most probably, the copies of imperfect drawings being over 50 years old. The quality of some drawings, especially of the inner side of bivalves shell, is not satisfactory. In many cases they are primitive and taxonomically important features of the inner side of the shell, like impressions of adductor muscles, of the edge of the mantle, presence or absence of the pallial sinus, the structure of teeth and ridges, are not indicated. The details of the inner shell structure marked in some instances make the false impression that they may be interpreted freely. This makes the drawing out of use in the identification of the species.

However, despite of various slips and imperfections, the book reviewed is a valuable monograph fulfilling an important information demand. Therefore it seems worthy to be recommended to zoologists and marine biologists.

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