Mitt. dtsch. malakozool. Ges.	**113**	36 – 37	Frankfurt a. M., Dezember 2025

Monacha cantiana s. l. (MONTAGU 1803) found on the island of Åland, Finland, and some notes on other man spread molluscs on the island

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Abstract: A population of *Monacha cantiana* (MONTAGU 1803) was detected in the city of Mariehamn on the Finnish Island of Åland in the Baltic Sea in August 2025. This is the first record of this man-spread species in Finland. Remarks on some other anthropochorous species are also given. *Oxychilus draparnaudi* (H. BECK 1837) and *Decoceras invadens* REISE & al. 2011 are new species for the island.

During a short trip in August 2025 to the island of Åland (situated in Baltic Sea between the Swedish east coast and the southwestern corner of Finland), some anthropochorous (man-spread) land snails were observed and collected in a few localities on the island, mainly on some places in the capital Mariehamn.

On a concrete wall and on a house ground in Norragatan 22, Mariehamn, 12 specimens (4 adult-subadult, five large juveniles and two empty shells) of *Monacha cantiana* (MONTAGU 1803), a species so far not recorded from Finland (cf. KOIVUNEN 2014, Finnish Biodiversity Info Facility, checked 2025-09-08) was found. The habitat is a stripe of wasteland vegetation between a stone wall connected to a house ground and the pavement. Most specimens were found here, a few were crawling on the wall and house ground. The area of occurrence was approximately 5 m long, and about 1 m wide. Two specimens were found in copula. CHATFIELD (1972) mentions that *M. cantiana* often is associated with wayside habitats, and that the species is most abundant in habitats with nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) in the United Kingdom. This is in good accordance with the habitat on Åland, and with the so far known localities in Sweden.

In Sweden, *M. cantiana* has been found in three localities. The first is a roadside of Slättängsvägen, Charlottesborg, Kristianstad, north-eastern part of the province of Skåne, southernmost Sweden in 2000 (PROSCHWITZ 2001). This population is still existent, though probably declining (observations by the author in September 2025). In addition, the species was detected in another area in Kristianstad in 2025: Årummet nature reserve, southwest of the nature visitor centre. In this strongly man-influenced area *M. cantiana* is spread and common over a large area (data in Artportalen, Swedish Species Information Centre, checked 2025-09-08, observations by the author in September 2025, information from J. ROTH 2025). A third record (several living specimens) was made in a plant nursery for "*Sedum*--roofs" of the firm VegTech in Fagerås, province of Småland, in September 2025. The plants were imported from the firm's facilities close to Kastrup, Zealand, Denmark (information from M. FRISK, VegTech). In Denmark there are a few scattered records in Western Jutland and on Zealand (Naturbasen, checked 2025-09-08).

Monacha cantiana has long been believed to have an original distribution in Italy and mediterranean France (cf. distribution map in WELTER-SCHULTES 2000: 504). It has scattered anthropochorous occurrences in United Kingdom, Belgium, The Netherlands and northern Germany, but also single localities in Austria and in the Czech Republic (distribution map in WELTER-SCHULTES 2000). Recent molecular genetic studies have, however, shown that *M. cantiana* is a complex including several linages, which deserve specific rank (PIEŃKOWSKA & al. 2018, 2019a, 2019b, 2024, BRULÉ & BICHAIN 2019). Molecular genetically investigated populations from northern France, The Netherlands and Britain so far examined, all belong to *M. cantiana* s. s. (PIEŃKOWSKA & al.2024). Presumably this is the case also for the populations from Denmark, Sweden and Finland, but this has to be checked with molecular genetics.

Oxychilus draparnaudi (H. BECK 1837):

A subadult specimen was found in the plantings of the small Botanical Garden Mariero in Mariehamn. The species is known from some scattered sites in southern Finland but had not been found on Åland (cf. distribution map in KOIVUNEN & 2014, Finnish Biodiversity Info Facility, checked 2025-09-08).

Cepaea nemoralis (LINNAEUS 1758):

A large, very polymorph population was found in the plantings at the Åland Maritime Museum. A few specimens were also found in hedges and plantings in the eastern harbour of Mariehamn. There are a few sites of *C. nemoralis* on the Finnish mainland, and it is also known from the island of Åland according to the distribution map in KOIVUNEN & al. (2014).

Arion vulgaris MOQUIN-TANDON 1855:
The species is common over the whole island and was found on all farms visited and on several places in Mariehamn. *Arion vulgaris* had spread over the whole island already in 2011, when the author of this article was invited to Åland to give a lecture on this species and methods of fighting it. The species is spread and common in the southern and middle parts of Finland according to the distribution map in KOIVUNEN & al. (2014).
Arion distinctus J. MABILLE 1868:
A few specimens were found in the plantings at the Åland Maritime Museum and in the small botanical garden Mariero in Mariehamn. There are few earlier records in southwestern Finland and also on the island of Åland according to the distribution map in KOIVUNEN & al. (2014).
Decoceras invadens REISE, HUTCHINSON, SCHUNACK & SCHLITT 2011:
Recorded in the small Botanical Garden Mariero in Mariehamn. A few specimens were found under leaves of rhubarb (*Rheum rhabarbarum*). There are few earlier records in southern Finland but the species has been unknown on the island of Åland (cf. distribution map in KOIVUNEN & al. 2014, Finnish Biodiversity Info Facility, checked 2025-09-08).

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Mitt. dtsch. malakozool. Ges.	**113**	38 – 39	Frankfurt a. M., Dezember 2025

Nomenclatorial, taxonomical and zoogeographical notes on Northern European land- and freshwater molluscs: The correct spelling of *Gyraulus stromi* (WESTERLUND 1881) (Gastropoda: Hygrophila: Planorbidae)

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Abstract: The incorrect transcription of the name of the taxon *Gyraulus stromi* (WESTERLUND 1881) as *G. stroemi*, and the historical and present use of this form of the name are discussed. As *strömi* is based on a Norwegian name (and not on a German), the correct form, according to ICZN 32.5.2.1. must be *stromi*.

WESTERLUND (1881) described *Planorbis* (*Gyraulus*) *strömi* – o with the diacritic two dots (the Swedish letter "ö"). The taxon was named after the Norwegian clergyman and naturalist HANS STRØM (1726-1797), who is known also as the author of two common and widespread land-snails: *Perpolita hammonis* (STRØM 1765) and *Clausilia bidentata* (STRØM 1765). The "ø" in Norwegian (and Danish) corresponds to "ö" in Swedish (and in German, and the diphthong "oe" in several languages). WESTERLUND used the spelling *strömi* in all his consecutive publications – the last one being WESTERLUND (1897).

After for a long time being neglected (outside Russia) and considered a synonym of *Gyraulus acronicus* (A. FERUSSAC 1807) (e. g. HUBENDICK 1947) the species status of *G. stromi* was convincingly proved by GLÖER & VINARSKI (2009), both concerning shell morphology and anatomy of the male genitalia. VINARSKI & KANTOR (1983: 381) refer to MEIER-BROOK (1983) concerning the placement of *G. stromi* in the synonymy of *G. acronicus*. The name *G. stroemi* (nor *G. stromi*) is, however, not mentioned in that publication. In Russian and Ukrainian malacology the taxon has been recognised since the 1930's, first as *Planorbis gredleri* var. *stroemi* (in ZHADIN 1933), later as *Anisus stroemi* (in STADEICHENKO 1990). Further references see in VINARSKI & al. (2013).

Gyraulus stromi is distributed over large areas of Siberia (VINARSKI & al. 2013, GLÖER & VINARSKI 2009, GLÖER 2019) and it also occurs in the northern and middle parts of the Scandinavian Peninsula (PROSCHWITZ & al. 2023).

As the use of an "ö" is not allowed in a nomenclatorial correct scientific name, it must be corrected according to paragraphs 32.5. A in the ICZN (1999). The wrongly corrected form *stroemi* has been used mainly in publications by Russian malacologists – the "ö" by WESTERLUND changed to "oe" (e. g. ZHADIN 1933, PROZOROVA & STAROBOGATOV 1997, VINARSKI & al. 2013 and in further publications cited in the last paper).

As the form *stroemi* is still seen in some databases/webpages (e. g. Finnish Biodiversity info facilities, Artsdatabanken Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre, Hudson Institute of Mineralogy), the ground for the incorrect correction of the original name deserves to be explained and cleared. The origin is probably that paragraph 32.5.2.1 in the ICZN (1999) has been overlooked or misinterpreted – species-group names "… published before 1985 and based upon a German word the umlaut sign is deleted from a vowel and the letter 'e' is to be inserted after that vowel". In the case of *G. stromi*, however, this is not appropriate as the name is based on a Norwegian name (Strøm = Ström). Hence the name should not be transcribed with "oe" but with "o" – *stromi*. This was remarked by WELTER-SCHULTES (2012), but it was not followed by Russian malacologists (e. g. VINARSKI & KANTOR 2016, VINARSKI & al. 2017), and among them this use has continued also into recent years MAKHROV & al. (2022). Even GLÖER (2019) in his European freshwater snail fauna used the incorrect *stroemi*. In the major malacological taxonomic databases the spelling *stromi* is now established (e. g. MolluscaBase 2025), but in some distributional and ecological databases (see examples above) the incorrect *stroemi* should be corrected.

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Mitt. dtsch. malakozool. Ges.	**113**	39 – 40	Frankfurt a. M., Dezember 2025

On the micro-habitat of *Marstoniopsis insubrica* (KÜSTER 1853)

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Abstract: The remarks on the habitat selection of the freshwater snail *Marstoniopsis insubrica* are discussed. The characteristic "under stones" is, at least what concerns Scandinavia, incomplete as the species indeed lives under stones, but in the narrow, free water space under stones which are resting on other stones. Due to this the species may be overlooked when using traditional collecting methods and is probably more common than presumed in some areas.

The freshwater amnicolid freshwater snail *Marsoniopsis insubrica* (KÜSTER 1853) is distributed through large parts of the north and northern parts of Middle Europe (cf. distribution maps in WELTER-SCHULTES 2012, HORSÁK & al. 2013). South of this area the distribution is today highly fragmented (HORSÁK & al. 2013, ANISTRATENKO & ANISTRATENKO 2018). Probably the southern occurrences are relicts of a wider distribution in early Holocene (HORSÁK & al. 2013). It is generally regarded as rather rare or rare in the literature, but locally in some areas as more common (e. g. WELTER-SCHULTES 2012). In Sweden it was classified as red-listed in category 4 (according to the old system) in the national Red List of 1993 (EHNSTRÖM & al. 1993), but in the later version of the Red List it has not been considered as threatened due to present knowledge (cf. PROSCHWITZ 2025).

In literature *M. insubrica* is described as occurring in the shore zone of lakes and stagnant bays of slow flowing rivers (HUBENDICK 1947, 1949, WELTER-SCHULTES 2012, PIECHOCKI & WAWRZYNAIAK-WYDROWSKA 2016, GLÖER 2019, ROWSON & al. 2021). The micro-habitat is described by HUBENDICK (1947, 1949) [translated from the Swedish text 1949] as "under stones on a depth of 20-40 cm rather than under stones in the riparian zone. Rarely in the water vegetation", by WELTER-SCHULTES (2012) as "exclusively on hard substrate (Berlin)" and "on muddy ground often associated with submerged dead wood logs and leaves (Hamburg)", by PIECHOCKI & WAWRZYNAIAK-WYDROWSKA (2016) as "on logs, branches and stones resting on the bottom", by GLÖER (2019) as "usually under stones, wood or on the underside of floating leaves", and by ROWSON & al. (2021) as "on waterlilies and other floating vegetation, under stones and wood".

What concerns the species' ecological appearance in Scandinavia, the description "under stones" is accurate but not complete. "Under stones resting on the bottom" is not appropriate. A more precise and correct description of its micro-habitat would be on the underside of stones (or other hard items) resting on other stones and with a small, but free, space underneath (cf. PROSCHWITZ 2023, 2025). Records on submerse water plants (stems, leaves etc.) are very rare in Sweden, as are records from muddy bottoms. *Marstoniopsis insubrica* seems to prefer a hard substrate (cf. also FALKNER & al. 2001). If the suitable stone micro-habitat is present the species seems to be able to live also in shallow parts of slightly eutrophicated and polluted waters, which is in accordance with the comment in WELTER-SCHULTES (2012) "appears to tolerate mild industrial pollution near Manchester and Berlin".

Because of this hidden way of living, *M. insubrica* has, in many cases, probably been overlooked at traditional collecting in freshwater habitats by sweeping with a net or a sieve or sifting organic material directly from the bottom. Hence the species is presumably underrecorded and, in some areas, more common than assumed. Due to my experience from Scandinavia, the best method to search for *M. insubrica* is to take up stones which do not completely rest on the bottom and brush them gently with a medium-soft brush over a winnow or a bowl, from which the specimens can be picked up.

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