
CEPAEA : FAVORITES AMONG LAND SNAILS

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Because they are the most colourful among large-sized European land snails, *Cepaea* always attracted collectors. Their variation in shape and colour is intriguing and was subject to a lot of reflection and studies, especially at the beginning of the century. Readers are still interested in the subject and best start their literature with Henrard. Until the article of R. Verhaeghe (1946) the nomenclature remained confusing. His summary of the different names created for the description of the forms of *C. hortensis* and *C. nemoralis* is among the best ever made and they are listed here:

VARIATIONS AND THEIR NOMENCLATURE

THE SPIRAL BANDS

It is generally assumed that the normal type of *Cepaea* has 5 spiral bands. Each of these bands is indicated by a number:

1 2 3 4 5 - is the typical shell.

When one of the bands is absent, the number is replaced by a 0:

1 0 3 4 5 - means that band number 2 is missing.

When one of the bands splits into two bands the number is repeated:

1 2 2 3 4 5 - means that band 2 splitted into two (usually smaller) bands.

When bands fused together, they are placed between brackets:

(1 2) 3 4 5 - means that band 1 and 2 form only 1 band.

FREAKS

Sinistral, scalariform or umbilicate shells are rare among *Cepaea*. Their latin names are used for both *C. nemoralis* and *C. hortensis*:

scalariformis Ferussac - scalariform.

sinistrorsa Ferussac - sinistral.

umbilicata Cockerell - shell with an umbilicus.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF FORM NAMES IN *CEPAEA*

- acuminata* Baudon - *nemoralis* - high spire.
alba Picard - *hortensis* - shell white.
albescens Picard - *nemoralis* - shell yellow-white.
albilabris Dumont et Mortillet - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - white aperture.
albina Moquin-Tandon - *nemoralis* - shell white.
arenicola Mac Gillivray - *hortensis* - translucent bands.
aurantia Cockerell - *nemoralis* - shell orange.
baudonia Moquin-Tandon - *hortensis* - shell pale brown.
bimarginata Picard - *nemoralis* - aperture has a dark peristome and a white lip.
bouilletia Moquin-Tandon - *hortensis* - pure white bands.
castanea Picard - *nemoralis* - shell brown.
citrinozonata Cockerell - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - yellow bands.
concolor Picard - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - without bands.
depressa Baudon - *hortensis* - flat spire.
fascialba Picard - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - a clear or white peripheral band.
fasciata Moquin-Tandon - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - with bands.
filholia Moquin-Tandon - *hortensis* - shell red-brown to olive.
flavovirescens Picard - *nemoralis* - shell greenish yellow.
fuscolabiata Taylor - *nemoralis* - aperture pale brown.
fuscolaoris Kreglinger - *hortensis* - brown aperture.
hyalozonata Taylor - *nemoralis* - translucent bands.
lilacina Taylor - *hortensis* - shell violet.
incarnata Picard - *hortensis* - shell red.
lurida Moquin-Tandon - translucent bands, with a dark coloured shell, more contrasting than in *arenicola*.
lutea Picard - *hortensis* - shell yellow.
luteolabiata Cockerell - *hortensis* - yellow aperture.
lateritia Dumont et Mortillet - *nemoralis* - brick-red bands.
libellula Risso - *nemoralis* - shell yellow.
luteolabiata Cockerell - *nemoralis* - aperture yellow.
lutescens Picard - *nemoralis* - shell pale yellow.
major Ferussac - *nemoralis* - > 30 mm
major Moquin-Tandon - *hortensis* - > 25 mm.
media Dumont Et Mortillet - *nemoralis* - 16 to 30 mm.
media Moquin-Tandon - *hortensis* - 15 to 25 mm.
minor Moquin-Tandon - *hortensis* - < 15 mm.
minor Moquin-Tandon - *nemoralis* - < 16 mm.
nigrolabiata Taylor - *hortensis* - black aperture.
nigrolabiata Wright - *nemoralis* - aperture dark brown to black.
olivacea Risso - *nemoralis* - shell olive coloured
olivacea Taylor - *hortensis* - shell olive.
olivaceozonala Collier - *nemoralis* - olive bands.
pellucens Moquin-Tandon - *nemoralis* - thin-shelled.
petiveria Moquin-Tandon - *nemoralis* - shell pale brown.
planospira Picard - *nemoralis* - flat spire
porecta Westl. - *nemoralis* - last whorl not descending.
quinquefasciata Moquin-Tandon - *nemoralis* - with 5 spiral bands.
quinquevittata Moquin-Tandon - *hortensis* - 5 bands.

rosea Baudon - *nemoralis* - shell pink
roseolabiata Kobelt - *nemoralis* - aperture pink.
roseolabiata Taylor - *hortensis* - pink aperture.
roseozonata Cockerell - *hortensis* - pink bands.
rubella Picard - *nemoralis* - shell red.
rubra Baudon - *nemoralis* - shell dark red.
rufozonata Cockerell - *hortensis* - red bands.
rufozonata Cockerell - *nemoralis* - red-brown bands
scalariformis Ferussac - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - scalariform.
sinistrorsa Ferussac - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - senestral.
studeria Moquin-Tandon - *nemoralis* - shell violet.
trochoidea Clessin - *hortensis* - high spire.
umbilicata Cockerell - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - shell with an umbilicus .
violaceolabiata Taylor - *nemoralis* and *hortensis* - violet aperture.
violaceozonata Taylor - *hortensis* - violet bands.
viridizonata Cockerell - *hortensis* - green bands.

NOMENCLATURE IN *CEPAEA NEMORALIS*:

Variations in size:

major Ferussac - > 30 mm.
media Dumont Et Mortillet - 16 to 30 mm.
minor Moquin-Tandon - < 16 mm.

Variations in shape:

acuminata Baudon - high spire.
pellucens Moquin-Tandon - thin-shelled.
planospira Picard - flat spire.
porecta Westl. - last whorl not descending.

Variations in the colour of the aperture:

albilabris Dumont et Mortillet - aperture white.
bimarginata Picard - aperture has a dark peristome and a white lip.
fuscolabiata Taylor - aperture pale brown.
luteolabiata Cockerell - aperture yellow.
nigrolabiata Wright - aperture dark brown to black.
roseolabiata Kobelt - aperture pink.
violaceolabiata Taylor - aperture violet.

Variations in the colour of the shell:

albescens Picard - shell yellow & white.



albina Moquin-Tandon - shell white.

aurantia Cockerell - shell orange.



petiveria Moquin-Tandon - shell pale brown.

castanea Picard - shell brown.

flavovirescens Picard - shell greenish yellow.

libellula Risso - shell yellow.

lutescens Picard - shell pale yellow.

olivacea Risso - shell olive coloured

rosea Baudon - shell pink

rubella Picard - shell red.

rubra Baudon - shell dark red.

studeria Moquin-Tandon - shell violet.



Variation in the number of bands:

concolor Picard - without spiral bands. Better not to be used.

fasciata Moquin-Tandon - with spiral bands. Better not to be used.

quinquefasciata Moquin-Tandon - with 5 spiral bands. Better 12345.

Variation in the colour of the bands:

citrinozonata Cockerell - yellow bands.

fascialba Picard - a clear or white peripheral band.

hyalozonata Taylor - translucent bands.

lateritia Dumont et Mortillet - brick-red bands.

olivaceozonala Collier - olive bands.

rufozonata Cockerell - red-brown bands

NOMENCLATURE IN *CEPAEA HORTENSIS*

Variations in size:

major Moquin-Tandon - > 25 mm.

media Moquin-Tandon - 15 to 25 mm.

minor Moquin-Tandon - < 15 mm.

Variations in shape:

depressa Baudon - flat spire.

trochoidea Clessin - high spire.

Variations of the aperture:

albilabris Dumont et Mortillet - white aperture.

fuscolaoris Kreglinger - brown aperture.

luteolabiata Cockerell - yellow aperture.

nigrolabiata Taylor - black aperture.

roseolabiata Taylor - pink aperture.

violaceolabiata Taylor - violet aperture.

Variations in colour:

***alba* Picard - white.**

***lutea* Picard - yellow.**



***baudonia* Moquin-Tandon - brown.**



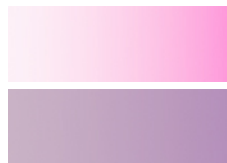
***olivacea* Taylor - olive.**



***incarnata* Picard - red.**



***lilacina* Taylor - violet.**



Variation in the number of spiral bands:

concolor Picard - without bands.

fascialba Picard - a clear or white peripheral band.

fasciata Moquin-Tandon - with bands.

quinquevittata Moquin-Tandon - 5 bands.

Variations in the colour of the spiral bands:

arenicola Mac Gillivray - translucent bands.

bouilletia Moquin-Tandon - pure albinos.

citrinozonata Taylor - yellow bands.

lurida Moquin-Tandon - translucent bands, with a dark coloured shell, more contrasting than in *arenicola*.

roseozonata Cockerell - pink bands.

rufozonata Cockerell - red bands.

violaceozonata Taylor - violet bands.

viridizonata Cockerell - green bands.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE NOMENCLATURE

The diversity in colouration, shape and size being so large, it is evident that a *C. nemoralis* from over 30 mm with an olive background, 5 spiral bands, a high spire and a clear brown aperture can be called:

C. nemoralis form *major olivacea quinquefasciata acuminata fuscolabiata*.

If used in this way the nomenclature loses its efficiency. We therefore propose the following use:

We do not use the following names:

minor, media, major : exceptional large or small specimens can be indicated by their size in mm.

planospira, depressa : all *Cepaea* have a low spire, and it is difficult whether to decide if it is especially flat or not.

porecta : easy to confuse with young *Cepaea*. A subjective term.

pellucens : again easy to confuse with young *Cepaea* and subjective.

luteolabiata, roseolabiata, violaceolabiata, fuscolaoris, bimarginata, violaceolabiata and *fuscolabiata* are all subjective as whether an aperture is "pink" or "light violet".

albescens, lutescens, flavovirescens, rubra, studeria, petiveria, filholia, rubella are not well defined: do bright red *nemoralis* really exist ? Most of these colour variants can best be classified by the colour range given below. They have been created to name much of the "intermediate" cases.

Colour of the shell

The colour of the shell can be indicated by a name. Many shells have intermediate colours. These are best classified within the colour they most approach. With "white" we mean the pure white shell.

For very particular colours you still can chose in the names given above.

Colour of the aperture

We avoid the use of the many names given to all variants of aperture and lip colours. However, one type of shell deserves attention: the *C. nemoralis* with a colourless aperture. They are called ***albilabris***.

Pattern of bands

As for the number of bands, 3 types of shells are regularly turning up: 00000, 00300 and 12345.

00000 is best not used: these are the plain coloured shells.

Variants are best indicated by the numerical system as used since a century.

Colour of the bands

Here again we avoid the use of names for the multiple colour divergence found in the bands. One type deserves our attention: the shells with translucent bands. In *hortensis* we call these ***lurida*** and in *nemoralis* they are called ***hyalozonata***.

Variation in shape

We only retain two names that can be used for exceptional specimens.

acuminata : for really high spired, turrishaped shells of *nemoralis*.

trochoidea: for the high spired, turrishaped shells of *hortensis*.

CONCLUSION

The question remains in which order the names should be used. We think it is best to mention names as follows:

species - colour – form - bands

With "exception", placed between brackets we mean the uncommon variants such as the *acuminata*, *trochoidea*, *albilabris*, *lurida* and *hyalozonata* forms.

A large number of shells will not match exactly the description given, as some bands can be fused or absent on part of the last whorl.

Examples:

The final result as for yellow coloured *C. hortensis* looks as follows:

C. hortensis lutea

C. hortensis lutea 02345

C. hortensis lutea albilabris

C. hortensis lutea lurida

SOME EXISTING VARIANTS:

- C. hortensis alba*
- C. hortensis lutea*
- C. hortensis lutea concolor*
- C. hortensis lutea fasciata*
- C. hortensis lutea 02345*
- C. hortensis lutea 00345*
- C. hortensis lutea 00045*
- C. hortensis lutea 00005*
- C. hortensis lutea (12)345*
- C. hortensis lutea (12)3(45)*
- C. hortensis lutea 123(45)*
- C. hortensis lilacina*
- C. hortensis lilacina concolor*
- C. hortensis lilacina fasciata*
- C. hortensis lilacina 02345*
- C. hortensis lilacina 00345*
- C. hortensis lilacina 00045*
- C. hortensis lilacina 00005*
- C. hortensis lilacina (12)345*
- C. hortensis lilacina (12)3(45)*
- C. hortensis lilacina 123(45)*
- C. hortensis incarnata*
- C. hortensis incarnata concolor*
- C. hortensis incarnata fasciata*
- C. hortensis incarnata 02345*
- C. hortensis incarnata 00345*
- C. hortensis incarnata 00045*
- C. hortensis incarnata 00005*
- C. hortensis incarnata (12)345*
- C. hortensis incarnata (12)3(45)*
- C. hortensis incarnata 123(45)*
- C. hortensis baudonia*
- C. hortensis baudonia concolor*
- C. hortensis baudonia fasciata*
- C. hortensis baudonia 02345*
- C. hortensis baudonia 00345*
- C. hortensis baudonia 00045*
- C. hortensis baudonia 00005*
- C. hortensis baudonia (12)345*
- C. hortensis baudonia (12)3(45)*
- C. hortensis baudonia 123(45)*
- C. hortensis olivacea*
- C. hortensis olivacea concolor*
- C. hortensis olivacea fasciata*
- C. hortensis olivacea 02345*
- C. hortensis olivacea 00345*
- C. hortensis olivacea 00045*
- C. hortensis olivacea 00005*

C. hortensis olivacea (12)345
C. hortensis olivacea (12)3(45)
C. hortensis olivacea 123(45)
C. nemoralis albina
C. nemoralis libellula
C. nemoralis libellula concolor
C. nemoralis libellula fasciata
C. nemoralis libellula 02345
C. nemoralis libellula 00345
C. nemoralis libellula 00045
C. nemoralis libellula 00005
C. nemoralis libellula (12)345
C. nemoralis libellula (12)3(45)
C. nemoralis libellula 123(45)
C. nemoralis rosea
C. nemoralis rosea concolor
C. nemoralis rosea fasciata
C. nemoralis rosea 02345
C. nemoralis rosea 00345
C. nemoralis rosea 00045
C. nemoralis rosea 00005
C. nemoralis rosea (12)345
C. nemoralis rosea (12)3(45)
C. nemoralis rosea 123(45)
C. nemoralis aurantia
C. nemoralis aurantia concolor
C. nemoralis aurantia fasciata
C. nemoralis aurantia 02345
C. nemoralis aurantia 00345
C. nemoralis aurantia 00045
C. nemoralis aurantia 00005
C. nemoralis aurantia (12)345
C. nemoralis aurantia (12)3(45)
C. nemoralis aurantia 123(45)
C. nemoralis castanea
C. nemoralis castanea concolor
C. nemoralis castanea fasciata
C. nemoralis castanea 02345
C. nemoralis castanea 00345
C. nemoralis castanea 00045
C. nemoralis castanea 00005
C. nemoralis castanea (12)345
C. nemoralis castanea (12)3(45)
C. nemoralis castanea 123(45)
C. nemoralis olivacea
C. nemoralis olivacea concolor
C. nemoralis olivacea fasciata
C. nemoralis olivacea 02345
C. nemoralis olivacea 00345
C. nemoralis olivacea 00045

C. nemoralis olivacea 00005
C. nemoralis olivacea (12)345
C. nemoralis olivacea (12)3(45)
C. nemoralis olivacea 123(45)

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