SELECTION OF A LECTOTYPE FOR MEGALOBRACHIUM
GRANULIFERUM STIMPSON, 1858 [= M. POEYI (GUÉRIN, 1855)]
(DECAPODA, PORCELLANIDAE) 1)

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Stimpson (1858) in his revision of the Porcellanidae described the new genus
Megalobrachium, denoting as the type species Megalobrachium granuliferum from
"Ins. Antillarum", the Antilles Islands. The specific name has usually been
considered a nomen nudum (e.g. Haig, 1960) as the name was only listed. However, Dr. Lipke B. Holthuis (pers. comm.) pointed out that the generic diagnosis
included the type and only species listed and that the name therefore is available. In
1859 Stimpson gave additional information on the species by describing material
from "Barbadoes", collected by "Mr. Gill", and from St. Thomas, collected by
A. H. Riise. As is well known, a major part of Stimpson's collections were
destroyed in the great Chicago fire of 1871 (see Evans, 1967), although scattered
lots are still extant in some museums. Recently, a lot of material which is apparently
syntypic was found in the Copenhagen Museum. The label accompanying these
specimens indicate that they were collected by "Riise" at St. Thomas, and the
handwriting appears to be that of William Stimpson. Among this material (in
the same vial) is also a single male specimen of Petrolisthes armatus (Gibbes,
1850).

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Science. Support for this work was provided by Research Grant No. 7075X from the National
Science Foundation.
As far as we can determine no holotype or lectotype has ever been designated either by Stimpson or any other author for any syntypic material of *M. granuliferum*. *Megalobrachium granuliferum* Stimpson, 1858 is a junior subjective synonym of *Porcellana poeyi* Guérin, 1855. Selection of the single specimen of *P. armatus* as the lectotype would unduly confuse the nomenclature, as *Megalobrachium granuliferum* would fall as a junior subjective synonym of *P. armatus*. The genus *Megalobrachium* Stimpson, 1858, would then be synonymous with *Petrolisthes* Stimpson, 1858, since *M. granuliferum* is the type species of the former genus. Although such a selection would be highly unlikely, it would nonetheless be valid.

To preclude this difficulty we now select as lectotype of *M. granuliferum* Stimpson, 1858, an ovigerous female specimen (cl 7.6, cb 8.3 mm) from the Copenhagen Museum material. We also select as paralectotypes the remaining five males and seven females in the lot. The type locality of *M. granuliferum* is thereby restricted to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. The single specimen of *P. armatus* has been removed from this lot and placed in the Copenhagen Museum.

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**LITERATURE CITED**


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