

Synonymical note on *Alvania benestarensis* Chirli et Forli, 2021 (Gastropoda Rissoidae)

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ABSTRACT After studying of new molluscan collections and of the existing bibliography it is established that *Alvania benestarensis* Chirli et Forli, 2021 (Gastropoda Rissoidae) is a junior synonym of *Benthonellania benestarensis* (Vazzana, 1996).

KEY WORDS Gastropoda; Rissoidae; *Alvania*; Miocene; Italy.

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INTRODUCTION

Vazzana (1996) described a new species of fossil Rissoidae (Mollusca Gastropoda) found in the Tortonian (Miocene) of Benestare, contrada Agliona, Reggio Calabria (Italy): *Benthonellania benestarensis* Vazzana, 1996.

Subsequently, Chirli & Forli (2021: 95, pl. 68, figs. B1-8) described another new species of Rissoidae, *Alvania benestarensis* Chirli et Forli, 2021, from the same locality.

The critical examination of new malacological material and of the existing bibliography allowed us to establish the identity of the two taxa.

DISCUSSION

In the our book on family Rissoidae (Chirli & Forli, 2021), we decided not to include some genera because they were not relevant, in whole or in part, for the studied area; among them, the genus *Benthonellania* Lozouet, 1990.

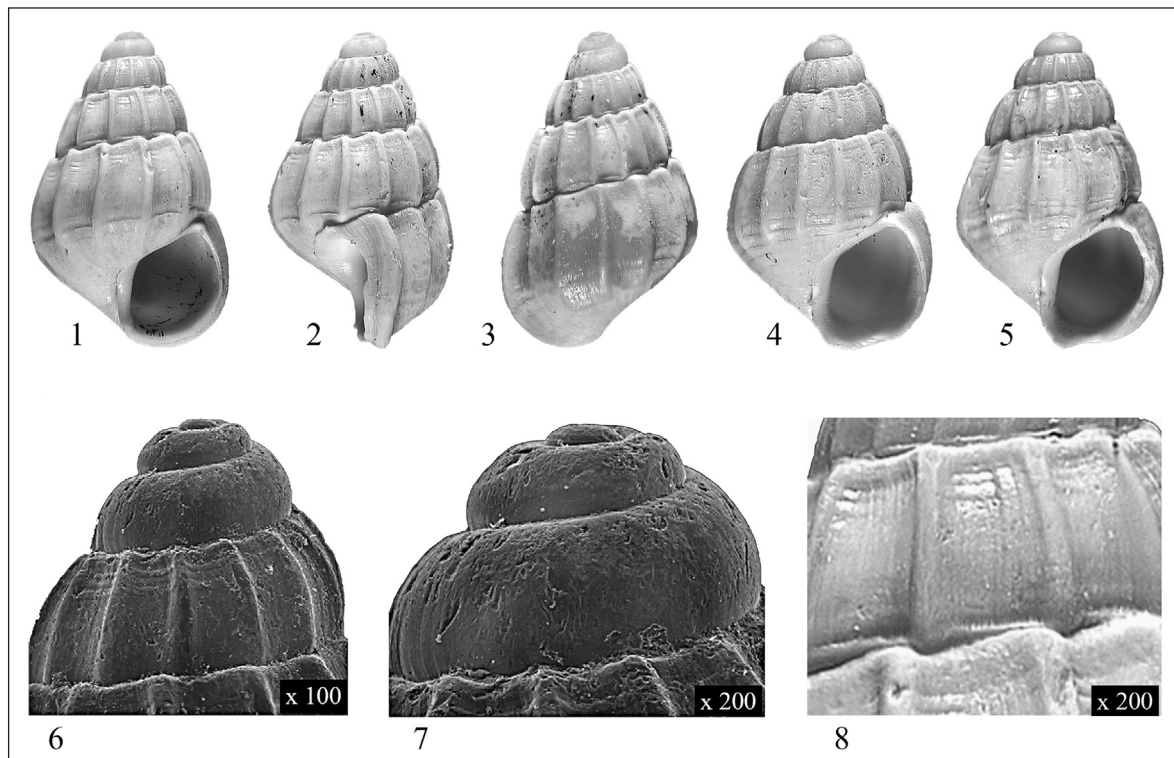
This led us to disregard the species included in this genus, generating an error of interpretation re-

garding the species *B. benestarensis* Vazzana, 1996.

Benthonellania is a genus established by Lozouet (1990) for some Recent and fossil species; type species is *B. gofasi* Lozouet, 1990 (type by original designation).

Original diagnosis: “*De petite taille (1,4 mm à 4 mm), ovoïdo-conique, avec une fente ombilicale étroite. Tours séparés par une suture canaliculée. Sculpture essentiellement composée de côtes axiales légèrement opisthoclines hérissées d'un tubercule en bordure de la suture adapicale. La sculpture spirale est limitée à la base de la coquille et consiste en 3 à 5 cordons spiraux. Ouverture à labre extrêmement mince de direction faiblement opisthocline ou orthocline. Protoconque: De type planctotrophe sur toutes les espèces examinées, à l'exception de B. antepelagica*”.

The specimens that we originally described how *Alvania benestarensis* Chirli et Forli, 2021 for some morphological features, as the absence of the umbilicus, led us to propose this taxon in the genus *Alvania* Risso, 1826 (see Risso, 1826; Chirli & Forli: 95, pl. 95, figs. B1-8) but they fit the description of *Benthonellania* better.



Figures 1–8. *Benthonellania benestarensis* Vazzana, 1996 = *Alvania benestarensis* Chirli et Forli, 2021.
Figs 1-3 size 2.7 mm, figs 4-5, 2.8 mm (from Chirli & Forli, 2021).

Vazzana in his diagnosis of *B. benestarensis* (1996) report the presence of a narrow umbilical fissure, but the others morphological characters correspond both to that of the genus *Benthonellania* and to those of our specimens.

The critical examination of new malacological material and of the existing bibliography allowed us to establish the identity of the two taxa and to conclude that *Alvania benestarensis* Chirli et Forli, 2021 is a junior synonym of *Benthonellania benestarensis* Vazzana, 1996.

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