

A new genus of Parreysiinae Henderson, 1935 from Yunnan, China (Bivalvia: Unionidae)


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Abstract. A new genus of freshwater mussel, *Chenunionetta* n. gen., is described from Yunnan, China. It is distinguished from other genera of Indochinellini by its irregularly elongate triangular shell, an elongate, narrow, and relatively pointed posterior end, a weak ridge near the posterodorsal margin, and a smooth transition between the dorsal and posterior margins.

Key words. Freshwater molluscs, new taxon, taxonomy, *Unionetta xishuangbannaensis*

Introduction

The subfamily Parreysiinae Henderson, 1935 is widely distributed across tropical Asia and Africa and is highly diverse (Graf & Cummings, 2026; MolluscaBase eds., 2026). Compared with other subfamilies of Unionidae Rafinesque, 1820, however, Parreysiinae remains comparatively understudied, with only limited molecular phylogenetic evidence available (Bolotov *et al.*, 2018, 2020, 2024; Pfeiffer *et al.*, 2018; Graf & Cummings, 2026). Taxonomic uncertainty persists in many genera within this subfamily, highlighting the need for further systematic revision (Bolotov *et al.*, 2018; Pfeiffer *et al.*, 2018; Graf & Cummings, 2026).

Unionetta xishuangbannaensis Chen *et al.*, 2026, recently described from Yunnan, is currently the only known representative of Parreysiinae from China (Chen *et al.*, 2026). In the present study, we establish a new genus to accommodate *U. xishuangbannaensis*, thereby preserving the monophyly of *Unionetta* Haas, 1955.

Systematics

Family **Unionidae** Rafinesque, 1820

Subfamily **Parreysiinae** Henderson, 1935

Tribe **Indochinellini** Bolotov, Pfeiffer, Vikhrev & Konopleva in Bolotov *et al.*, 2018

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<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:B2433AD4-A828-445C-80EC-75C4DE05ADB0>

Genus *Chenunionetta* n. gen.

陈珠蚌属 (Pinyin: chén zhū bàng shǔ)

Type species. *Unionetta xishuangbannaensis* Chen, Dai, Zheng, Ouyang & Wu, 2026.

Diagnosis. An Indochinellini genus characterised by an irregularly elongate triangular shell, an elongate, narrow, and relatively pointed posterior end, a weak ridge near the posterodorsal margin, and a smooth transition between the dorsal and posterior margins.

Etymology. The genus is named in honour of Dr Zhong-Guang Chen (陈重光), who discovered the type species, and is combined with the generic name *Unionetta*.

Distribution. China: Yunnan; Cambodia; possibly Laos. In China, the new genus is known only from the Menglun section of the Luosuo River, a tributary of the Lancang River, and has not been recorded from either upstream or downstream reaches (Chen *et al.*, 2026).

Remarks. Molecular phylogenetic analyses by Pfeiffer *et al.* (2018) and Chen *et al.* (2026) consistently indicate that the new genus and *Unionetta* do not form a monophyletic group. Although Chen *et al.* (2026) recommended refraining from erecting a new genus because several genera within Indochinellini are widely non-monophyletic, we consider the establishment of a new genus necessary to preserve the monophyly of *Unionetta*.

The new genus is currently monotypic. Pfeiffer *et al.* (2018) reported an unidentified species from northern Cambodia that belongs to this lineage. From biogeographic and morphological perspectives, *Unio molleuri* Morlet, 1891, currently treated as a junior synonym of *Unionetta fabagina* (Deshayes in Deshayes and Jullien, 1876) and distributed in Laos, may also be attributable to the new genus. It is possible that *U. molleuri* corresponds to the unidentified species reported by Pfeiffer *et al.* (2018). Pending the collection and examination of topotypic material, we refrain from revalidating this taxon or transferring it to the new genus.

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云南雕刻蚌亚科（双壳纲：蚌科）一新属

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摘 要

本文描述了产自云南的河蚌新属：陈珠蚌属 *Chenunionetta* **n. gen.**。该属可依据以下特征与同族其他属区分：贝壳延长，不规则的三角形，具延长、狭窄且相对较尖的后部，背缘后部具一弱脊，且背缘与后缘平滑过渡。印支蚌族各属普遍非单系群，有待开展进一步的系统

关键词：淡水贝类，新阶元，分类学，版纳小珠蚌