



Towards a systematic revision of the superfamily Cyrenoidea (Bivalvia: Imparidentia): species delimitation, multi-locus phylogeny and mitochondrial phylogenomics

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ABSTRACT

Cyrenoidea is a superfamily of bivalves (Bivalvia: Imparidentia) currently comprising three families (Cyrenidae, Cyrenoididae and Glauconomidae). The superfamily is widely distributed in marine, brackish and freshwater environments, with an estimated 60 or more living species. Recent phylogenetic results have confirmed the monophyly of Cyrenoidea and placement in Venerida. Nevertheless, a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of Cyrenoidea remains elusive and the phylogeny is unresolved due to inadequate sampling in previous studies. Moreover, the taxonomy and delimitation of most species, originally based on shell morphology, have not yet been tested with molecular data. Here, we constructed three molecular datasets by sequencing three markers (*COI* + *16S* rRNA + *28S* rRNA) and complete mitogenomes for *Geloina coaxans* (Gmelin, 1791) and *Glauconome virens* (Linnaeus, 1767). *COI* barcoding clarifies the validity of *Geloina coaxans* and *Geloina erosa* that have been subject to controversy regarding synonymy. Additionally, the barcoding supports the existence of multiple cryptic species within the *Geloina expansa* complex. A multi-locus dataset (*COI* + *16S* rRNA + *28S* rRNA) provides the most comprehensive phylogeny of all eight recognised genera of Cyrenoidea to date. Phylogenetic results indicate that the currently recognised family Cyrenidae is polyphyletic. The type species *Geloina coaxans*, *Cyanocyclus limosa* (Maton, 1811) and *Polymesoda caroliniana* (Bosc, 1801) that have long been classified within the family Cyrenidae based on shell morphology, have a closer relationship with *Cyrenoida floridana* Dall, 1896 than with other Cyrenidae. Therefore we transfer the genera *Geloina*, *Cyanocyclus* and *Polymesoda* from the family Cyrenidae to the family Cyrenoididae. The mitochondrial phylogenomics further support the family-level relationships in Cyrenoidea obtained from the three-gene analyses, confirming that the newly defined Cyrenoididae is closely related to Glauconomidae as the sister group. We observed a novel gene arrangement in *Glauconome virens*, the first report on the mitogenome of the family Glauconomidae, by comparing gene arrangements. Three patterns of gene rearrangement identified in Cyrenoidea are shared by the families Glauconomidae, Cyrenoididae and Cyrenidae, suggesting that gene arrangements can be a valuable tool for phylogenetic studies.

Keywords: Cyrenidae, Cyrenoididae, *COI* barcoding, gene order, Glauconomidae, *Glauconome virens*, mitochondrial genomes, molecular phylogeny, taxonomic revision.

Introduction

Bivalves are the second most species-rich molluscan class after Gastropoda (Bieler *et al.* 2014) and are regarded as commercially and ecologically important groups of aquatic fauna (Kocot *et al.* 2011; Smith *et al.* 2011; Vaughn and Hoellein 2018). After decades of puzzling efforts by anatomists, palaeontologists and molecular biologists, bivalve systematics are stabilising, especially at the family level and higher levels (e.g. Newell and Boyd 1978; Popham 1979; Steiner and Müller 1996; Johnston *et al.* 1998; Carter *et al.*

2000; Cope 2000; Giribet and Wheeler 2002; Sharma et al. 2012; Plazzi et al. 2013; Bieler et al. 2014; González et al. 2015; Combosch et al. 2017; Lemer et al. 2019; Valentas-Romera et al. 2019; Crouch et al. 2021).

Cyrenoidea Gray, 1840 is a superfamily of bivalves (Bivalvia: Imparidentia) (Bieler et al. 2010). As currently recognised, Cyrenoidea consists of three families: Cyrenidae Gray, 1840, Cyrenoididae H. Adams & A. Adams, 1857 and Glauconomidae Gray, 1853 and includes more than 60 extant species in 8 genera (i.e. *Corbicula*, *Geloina*, *Cyanocyclas*, *Cyrenoida*, *Batissa*, *Polymesoda*, *Villorita* and *Glauconome*) (Bieler et al. 2014; MolluscaBase 2022). Cyrenidae is the most diverse (~50 species) of these 3 families and is widely distributed on all continents except Antarctica; Cyrenoididae includes 6 species and is found across the Afrotropics, Central America and North America; Glauconomidae contains ~12 species, mainly distributed in the coastal areas of southern China, India and the Philippines (note: all numbers are for extant species; Bieler et al. 2010, 2014; Bouchet and Rocroi 2010; Coan and Valentich-Scott 2012; Pereira et al. 2014; Huber 2015; Breure et al. 2022). The habitat of most Cyrenoidea taxa is the fringe area between freshwater and saltwater environments, resulting in this group receiving little attention and being left out of larger-scale treatments of marine (e.g. Roy et al. 2009) and freshwater molluscs (e.g. Bogan 2013; Böhm et al. 2021; Graf and Cummings 2021).

Traditionally, the classification of Cyrenoidea at the family level has mainly been based on the anatomy of gills, stomachs, hinge teeth and muscle scar arrangements, and the classification and identification of species are mainly based on comparative morphology of the shell and body (e.g. Newell 1965; Taylor et al. 1969; Beesley et al. 1998; Allen 2000; Schneider 2001; Williams et al. 2004; Taylor and Glover 2006; Valentas-Romera et al. 2019). Due to morphological convergences and phenotypic plasticity, shell morphology-based taxonomy and species synonymy in Cyrenoidea are often controversial (Gray 1853; Dall 1896; Liu 2008; He and Zhuang 2013) and this seriously hinders the assessment of species diversity and the enactment of protection measures for this group.

Over the past 20 years, the molecular phylogenetic framework for bivalves has been updated and improved based on the combined work of several researchers (e.g. Matsumoto 2003; Williams et al. 2004; Taylor et al. 2007, 2009; Sharma and Wheeler 2013; Bieler et al. 2014; Combosch et al. 2017) and the monophyly of Cyrenoidea has been strongly supported. However, previous molecular studies have been lacking in sampling of Cyrenoidea taxa. To date, only four Cyrenoidea (*Corbicula fluminea* (O. F. Müller, 1774), *Polymesoda caroliniana*, *Glauconome rugosa* and *Cyrenoida floridana* Dall, 1896) have been sampled in the latest bivalve trees (Lemer et al. 2019; Crouch et al. 2021). Therefore, a comprehensive phylogeny of Cyrenoidea is lacking and the species taxonomy and delimitation originally based on morphology and anatomy have not yet been thoroughly tested by molecular analyses.

To confirm the species validity, taxonomic position and phylogenetic relationships, we established three molecular datasets of the Venerida (Bivalvia: Heteroconchia), focusing on Cyrenoidea. A DNA barcoding (cytochrome *c* oxidase subunit I, *COI*) dataset was initially used. *COI* is commonly used for DNA barcoding and widely used for species delimitation and species discovery (Bolotov et al. 2017; Araujo et al. 2018; Wu RW et al. 2018; Smith et al. 2019). We expanded the *COI* dataset and explored the capability of resolving deeper nodes at the genus level based on a three-gene (i.e. the mitochondrial 16S rRNA and *COI*, and the nuclear 28S rRNA) dataset. Complete mitogenomes with conserved gene order and low recombination are particularly useful tools for higher taxonomy (Huang et al. 2013; Lopes-Lima et al. 2017; Froufe et al. 2020; Wu RW et al. 2021; Wu XP et al. 2022). Complete mitochondrial genomes might be valuable for enhancing the comprehensiveness of Venerida phylogeny.

The objectives of this study are to (1) determine the validity of the nominal species in Cyrenoidea Gray, 1840 using DNA barcoding; (2) resolve phylogenetic relationships of the eight genera of Cyrenoidea based on multi-locus data and revise the current taxonomy; and (3) produce comprehensiveness of Venerida phylogeny based on complete mitogenomes.

Materials and methods

Taxon sampling and generation of the three molecular datasets

Geloina coaxans (Fig. 1) (SXNU_22071001) was collected in the Dutou River (114.543513°E, 22.740437°N), Huizhou City, Guangdong Province, China. Two specimens of *Glauconome virens* (Fig. 2) (SXNU_22112301, SXNU_22112302) were collected in the Shankou Mangrove National Ecological Nature Reserve (109.116308°E, 21.448125°N), Beihai City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. Morphological identification of the species is based on publications (Gmelin 1791; Reeve 1843; Liu 2008) and the WORMS Web Site (MolluscaBase 2023a, 2023b). The identified specimens are deposited as vouchers in the Museum of Zoology, Shanxi Normal University, China.

To achieve the objectives of this study, three molecular datasets were constructed: (1) a DNA barcoding (*COI*) dataset (Table 1): we downloaded the currently available 56 *COI* sequences representing 21 nominal species in Cyrenoidea from GenBank and combined these with the newly obtained sequences in the present study to construct the DNA barcoding dataset and the sequences from two species in Veneroidea from GenBank were selected as outgroups; (2) we constructed a molecular dataset comprising 13 taxa from 8 genera in Cyrenoidea, using 3 genes (*COI*, 16S rRNA and 28S rRNA) to clarify phylogenetic relationships (Table 2)



Fig. 1. Shells of *Geloina coaxans*. View of shells from top to bottom: exterior of right and left valves, dorsal view of articulated valves, interior of right and left valves.

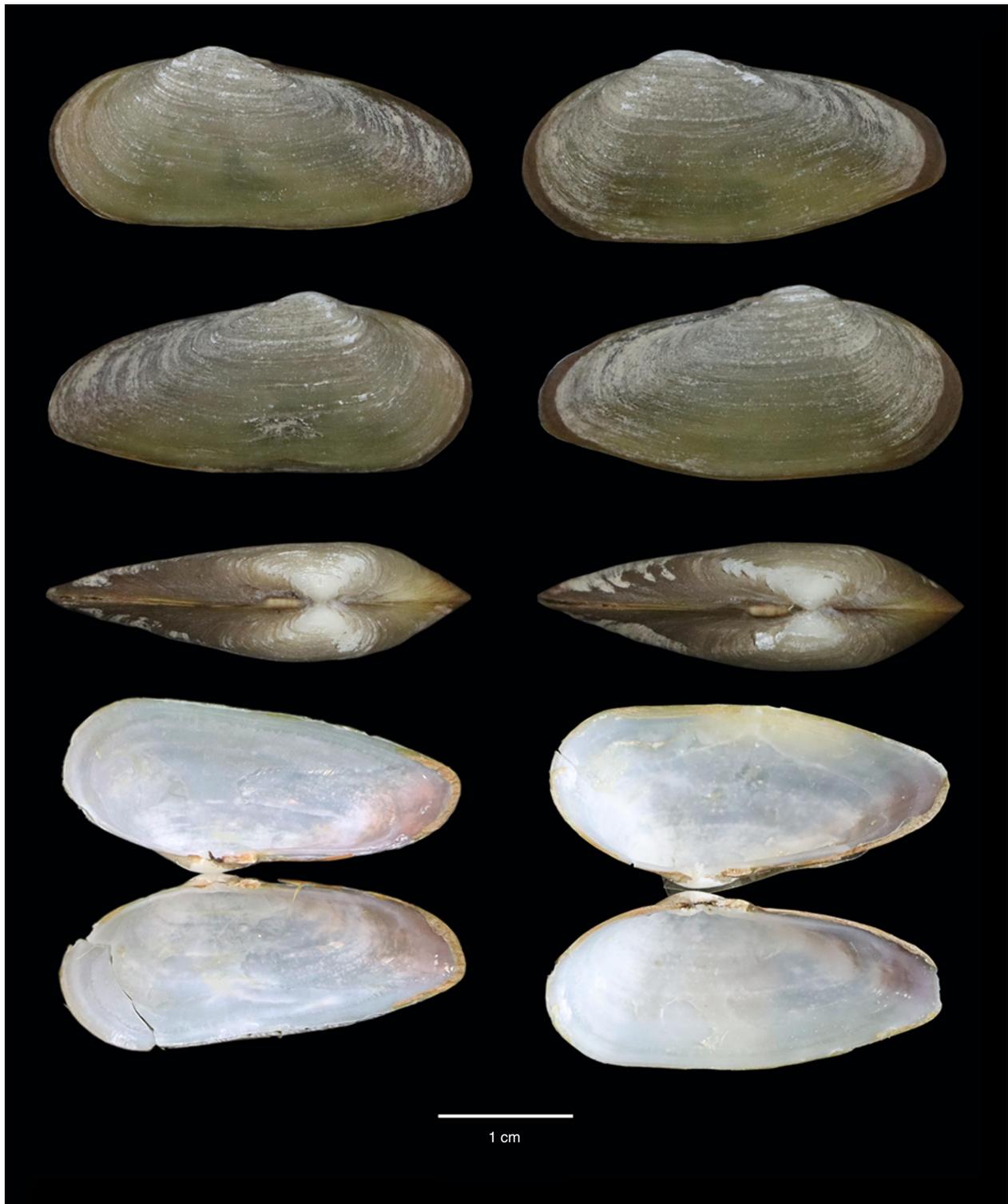


Fig. 2. Shells of *Glauconome virens*. View of shells from top to bottom: exterior of right and left valves, dorsal view of articulated valves, interior of right and left valves.

and 5 species sequences in Veneridae, Sphaeriidae, Arctiidae and Pharidae were also downloaded from GenBank as out-groups; (3) all 53 complete available mtDNA sequences

representing 8 families in Venerida (not including unverified sequences) and 2 Cardiida taxa, i.e. *Acanthocardia tuberculata* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Cerastoderma edule* (Linnaeus,

Table 1. List of COI sequences used for species delimitation.

| Order | Superfamily | Species | GenBank numbers | References |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Venerida Gray, 1854 | Cyrenoidea Gray, 1840 | <i>Corbicula fluminea</i> | MK308235 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Corbicula leana</i> | AB845591 | Yamada <i>et al.</i> (2014) |
| | | <i>Corbicula leana</i> | MN746814 | Bespalaya <i>et al.</i> (2021) |
| | | <i>Corbicula sandai</i> | AB845590 | Yamada <i>et al.</i> (2014) |
| | | <i>Corbicula sandai</i> | OM912155 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Corbicula sandai</i> | OM912165 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Corbicula madagascariensis</i> | OM912260 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Batissa violacea</i> | DQ837726 | Glaubrecht <i>et al.</i> (2006) |
| | | <i>Batissa violacea</i> | DQ837727 | Glaubrecht <i>et al.</i> (2006) |
| | | <i>Villorita cornucopia</i> | MH593260 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Villorita cornucopia</i> | MH593261 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Villorita cornucopia</i> | MH593262 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Villorita cyprinoides</i> | JQ773442 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Villorita cyprinoides</i> | KT347297 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Villorita cyprinoides</i> | MH593257 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Villorita cyprinoides</i> | MH593258 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Villorita cyprinoides</i> | MH593259 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome angulata</i> | OM292862 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome angulata</i> | OM292863 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome chinensis</i> | DQ184851 | Mikkelsen <i>et al.</i> (2006) |
| | | <i>Glauconome chinensis</i> | OL877112 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome chinensis</i> | OL877113 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome chinensis</i> | OL877114 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome rugosa</i> | KC429140 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome rugosa</i> | DQ184852 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome straminea</i> | MN608341 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Glauconome virens</i> | OQ569915 | This study |
| | | <i>Glauconome virens</i> | OQ569916 | This study |
| | | <i>Geloina coaxans</i> | OQ569914 | This study |
| | | ' <i>Geloina expansa</i> ' | AB722087 | Unpublished |
| | | ' <i>Geloina expansa</i> ' | AB722090 | Unpublished |
| | | ' <i>Geloina expansa</i> ' | MN608338 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina erosa</i> | OM791690 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina erosa</i> | OM791691 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina erosa</i> | OM791692 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina erosa</i> | OM791693 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina erosa</i> | OM791694 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | AB498812 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | AB722089 | Unpublished |

(Continued on next page)

Table 1.(Continued)

| Order | Superfamily | Species | GenBank numbers | References |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | MW311111 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | MW311112 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | AB722088 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | OM791695 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | OM791696 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | OM791697 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | OM791698 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina expansa</i> | OM791699 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina</i> sp. | KX608980 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina</i> sp. | KX608982 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina</i> sp. | KX608983 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina</i> sp. | MK481951 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Geloina</i> sp. | MK481952 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Cyanocyclas limosa</i> | AF196277 | Siripattrawan et al. (2000) |
| | | <i>Cyrenoida floridana</i> | KC429123 | Sharma et al. (2013) |
| | | <i>Cyrenoida</i> sp. | MK308013 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Cyrenoida</i> sp. | MK308062 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Cyrenoida</i> sp. | MK308266 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Cyrenoida</i> sp. | MK308305 | Unpublished |
| | | <i>Polymesoda caroliniana</i> | AF196276 | Siripattrawan et al. (2000) |
| | Veneroidea | <i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i> | KX713477 | Combosch et al. (2017) |
| | Rafinesque, 1815 | <i>Chamelea striatula</i> | KY547747 | Unpublished |

1758), selected as outgroups were downloaded from GenBank. Two complete new mtDNA sequences (i.e. *Geloina coaxans* and *Glaucanome virens*) were obtained from this study, of which *G. virens* is the first mitogenome in the family Glauconomidae. Finally, a mitogenomic dataset was constructed for 57 sequences.

DNA extraction, PCR sequencing and mitogenome assembly

The total genomic DNA of specimens was extracted from the dissected somatic tissues using TIANamp Marine Animals DNA Kit (Tiangen Biotech, Beijing, China) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

For the newly acquired specimens, *COI* (LCO22me2 5'-GGTCAACAAAYCATAARGATATTGG-3' and HCO700dy2 5'-TCAGGGTGACCAAAAAAYCA-3', ~680 bp) (Walker et al. 2007), *16S* rRNA (16SarL 5'-CGCCTGTTTATCAAAAACAT-3' and 16SbrH 5'-CCGGTCTGAACTCAGATCACGT-3', ~500 bp) (Wu RW et al. 2019) and *28S* rRNA (D23F 5'-GAGAGTTCAA GAGTACGTG-3' and D4RB 5'-TGTTAGACTCCTTGGTCCG

TGT-3', ~420 bp) (Park and Ó Foighil 2000) were amplified and sequenced. PCR conditions were as follows: 98°C for 10 s, 35 cycles 94°C for 1 min, 50°C for 1 min, 72°C for 1 min and a final extension of 72°C for 7 min, following the TaKaRa Ex manufacturer's protocol. Amplified PCR products were purified and sequenced by Sangon Biotech (Shanghai). The newly obtained sequences have been uploaded to GenBank (OQ569914–OQ569916 for *COI*, OQ570956–OQ570957 for *16S*, OQ608005–OQ608006 for *28S*).

The quality of genomic DNA was detected by agarose gel electrophoresis. We sent samples of high-quality DNA to Novogene Co., Ltd (China) for library construction and sequencing. Paired-end reads of 2 × 150 bp were generated on the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 sequencing platform. Raw data filtration, cleaning and assembly were performed using the CLC Genomic Workbench (ver. 12.0, Qiagen). Mitochondrial genome sequences were designated from resulting contigs using BLAST (ver. 2.14.1, see <http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) and concatenated into the complete mitogenome using Geneious (ver. 11, Biomatters, see <https://www.geneious.com/>). Mitogenomes were annotated by MITOS WebServer

Table 2. Three-gene dataset used for molecular analyses and corresponding GenBank numbers.

| Order | Supfamily | Family | Species | COI | 16S | 28S | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Venerida Gray, 1854 | Cyrenoidea Gray, 1840 | Cyrenidae Gray, 1840 | <i>Corbicula fluminea</i> | MK308235 | MG759516 | DQ343848 | |
| | | | <i>Corbicula leana</i> | AB845591 | JX399587 | AB661754 | |
| | | | <i>Corbicula madagascariensis</i> | OM912260 | AF152022 | KM598271 | |
| | | | <i>Corbicula sandai</i> | AB845590 | NC_061685 | AB661660 | |
| | | | <i>Batissa violacea</i> | DQ837726 | KU318348 | – | |
| | | | <i>Villorita cyprinoides</i> | JQ773442 | KF638716 | – | |
| | | | Glaucnomidae Gray, 1853 | <i>Glaucnome rugosa</i> | KC429140 | KC429302 | KC429500 |
| | | | | <i>Glaucnome virens</i> | OQ569915 | OQ570957 | OQ608006 |
| | | | | <i>Glaucnome chinensis</i> | DQ184851 | DQ184753 | DQ184798 |
| | | | | Cyrenoididae H. Adams & A. Adams, 1857 | <i>Cyrenoida floridana</i> | KC429123 | KC429280 |
| | | | <i>Geloina coaxans</i> | | OQ569914 | OQ570956 | OQ608005 |
| | | | <i>Cyanocyclus limosa</i> | | AF196277 | AF152025 | AF131012 |
| | | | <i>Polymesoda caroliniana</i> | | AF196276 | KX713250 | KX713425 |
| | | | <i>Chamelea striatula</i> | | KY547747 | KY547771 | KX713366 |
| | | | Veneroidea Rafinesque, 1815 | Veneridae Rafinesque, 1815 | Arcticidae Newton, 1891 | <i>Arctica islandica</i> | KX713445 |
| Sphaeriida Lemer, Bieler & Giribet, 2019 | Sphaerioida Deshayes, 1855 | Sphaeriidae Deshayes, 1855 | | | | <i>Musculium indicum</i> | KF483411 |
| Adapedonta Cossmann & Peyrot, 1909 | Solenoida Lamarck, 1809 | Pharidae H. Adams & A. Adams, 1856 | <i>Pisidium costulosum</i> | KF483422 | KF483323 | KU376194 | |
| | | | <i>Sinonovacula constricta</i> | AB076949 | AB751361 | AB746907 | |

Species with sequences obtained in this study are in bold.

(ver. 2.0, see <http://mitos2.bioinf.uni-leipzig.de/index.py>; Donath *et al.* 2019) and submitted to GenBank using BankIt (Accession numbers: OQ595194–OQ595195).

Alignments, partitioning strategies and model selection

Protein-coding genes (PCGs) were translated to the corresponding amino acid under the invertebrate codon translation mode in MEGA (ver. 7.0, see <http://www.megasoftware.net>; Kumar *et al.* 2016) and aligned based on the amino acid sequences using the built-in MUSCLE (ver. 5.0, see <http://www.drive5.com/muscle>; Edgar 2004) with default settings. The ribosomal genes 16S rRNA and 28S rRNA were aligned using MAFFT (ver. 7.2, see <https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/>; Katoh and Standley 2013) with the L-INS-i algorithm. Ambiguous alignment areas were trimmed by Gblocks (ver. 0.91b, see <http://molevol.cmima.csic.es/castresana/Gblocks.html>; Castresana 2000), the parameter ribosomal gene block with a minimum length was set to 2 base pairs (bp), allowed gap position was selected with half; the minimum length of protein-coding gene block was set to 3 bp, allowed gap position was also selected with half.

The COI sequence fragment length was 657 bp after alignment and trimming for the barcoding dataset. The COI, 16S rRNA and 28S rRNA sequences were 459, 1069 and 576 bp respectively after alignment and trimming for the three-gene dataset. The resulting alignment of 2104 nucleotides was concatenated in Phylosuite (ver. 1.2.3, see <http://phylosuite.jushengwu.com/>; Zhang *et al.* 2020).

We analysed two data sets for the mitogenomic data: (1) nucleotide sequences of 12 PCGs (NUC dataset); and (2) amino acid sequences of 12 PCGs (AA dataset). The concatenated NUC and AA datasets consisted of 10 698 bp and 3566 aa. *Atp8* was removed for the mitogenomic dataset due to high sequence variation and a lack of annotation in some species.

The multi-locus dataset was performed with five partition schemes based on genes and codons, i.e. COI (3 codons) + 16S rRNA + 28S rRNA. PartitionFinder (ver. 2.1.1, see <http://www.robertlanfear.com/partitionfinder/>; Lanfear *et al.* 2012) was used to select Bayesian inference (BI) analysis models for partitioning schemes. ModelFinder (ver. 1.4.2, see <http://www.iqtree.org/ModelFinder/>; Kalyaanamoorthy *et al.* 2017) was used to select the maximum likelihood (ML) analysis models in IQ-TREE. The selection for best-fit models was

based on the corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc). Substitution models assigned to each partition by PartitionFinder and ModelFinder are listed in Supplementary Table S2.

The mitochondrial genome NUC dataset was partitioned into 36 partitions according to the codon position and each PCG; and the AA dataset was partitioned into 12 partitions according to each PCG for phylogenetic analyses. Selection for best-fit models using ModelFinder and PartitionFinder was based on AICc. The best-fit partitioning schemes and subset models were shown in Supplementary Table S3.

Neighbour-joining clustering and species delimitation approaches

Molecular species delimitation is mainly determined by the barcode gap and for this purpose, we performed a neighbour-joining (NJ) analysis of the *COI* dataset. An NJ tree based on *p*-distances was generated in MEGA (ver. 7.0; Kumar *et al.* 2016) with 1000 bootstrap replicates (Minh *et al.* 2013) using the 'Pairwise deletion' option to treat gaps and missing data.

To view the validity of the nominal species and examine the possible presence of cryptic species, we implemented the following three species delimitation tools on the barcoding data: Automatic Barcode Gap Discovery (ABGD), multi-rate Poisson Tree Processes (mPTP) and Species Tree And Classification Estimation, Yarely (STACEY).

ABGD analyses (Puillandre *et al.* 2012) were performed at the webserver (see <http://www.wabi.snv.jussieu.fr/public/abgd/>) using the default value of prior intraspecific divergence values ($P_{\min} = 0.001$ and $P_{\max} = 0.1$); relative gap width (X) was set to 1.0; the matrix computes of pairwise distances were selected *p*-distances models. mPTP analyses (Kapli *et al.* 2017) were performed on the NJ tree of *COI* data using the online server (<http://mptp.h-its.org>). STACEY (ver. 1.2.4, see <https://beast2.blogs.auckland.ac.nz/tag/stacey/>; Jones 2017) was implemented in BEAST (ver. 2.0, see <http://www.beast2.org/>; Bouckaert *et al.* 2014); and parameter settings included collapse-height = 0.0001, simcutoff = 1.0 and burn-in 50%.

Phylogenetic analyses

We employed both Bayesian inference (BI) and maximum likelihood (ML) methods with various software packages to produce a robust set of phylogenetic hypotheses based on the comprehensive three-gene and mitogenome datasets.

Bayesian analysis was performed using MrBayes (ver. 3.2.6, see <http://nbisweden.github.io/MrBayes/>; Ronquist *et al.* 2012). Four simultaneous runs with four chains each were run for 10 million generations, sampling every 1000 trees. The first 25% of these trees was discarded as burn-in when computing the consensus tree (50% majority rule). Sufficient mixing of the chains was considered to be reached

when the average standard deviation of split frequencies was below 0.01.

IQ-TREE (Nguyen *et al.* 2015) was used for ML tree reconstruction, using partition models with 1000 ultrafast bootstrap replicates (Minh *et al.* 2013). Additionally, a ML analysis was conducted in RAXML (ver. 2.0, see <https://antonellilab.github.io/raxmlGUI/>; Stamatakis 2014), with the search strategy including rapid bootstrapping. Clade support was evaluated by 1000 bootstrap replicates, assuming a generalised time reversible (GTR) + gamma (G) + proportion of invariable sites (I) model for each partition.

Gene arrangement comparisons

We batch-downloaded 53 complete mitochondrial genomes in Venerida from GenBank using PhyloSuite (Zhang *et al.* 2020) and assessed genomic features and gene order. All complete mitogenome sequences were also re-annotated by MITOS (Donath *et al.* 2019) to avoid the influence of different annotation methods on the analysis results.

Phylograms and gene orders were visualised in iTOL (ver. 6.0, see <https://itol.embl.de/itol.cgi>; Letunic and Bork 2007). For visualisation, we arbitrarily designated the beginning of the *COI* gene as position 1 in each genome (pointing in the direction of *COII*).

Results

Species delimitation

We examined the *COI* dataset of 59 sequences representing 21 nominal species in Cyrenoidea. The three species delimitation analyses consistently identified 19 OTUs (molecular operational taxonomic units) (Fig. 3).

Based on ABGD, the barcode gap distance was 0.04. Estimates identified that OTU divergence (*p*-distances) ranged between 0.06 (*Corbicula madagascariensis* v. *Corbicula* spp.) and 0.26 (*Corbicula madagascariensis* v. *Polymesoda caroliniana*) within Cyrenoidea.

The following congeneric species were indistinguishable according to these methods: *Villorita cornucopia* + *Villorita cyprinoides* (divergence = 0.02) and *Corbicula fluminea* + *Corbicula leana* + *Corbicula sandai* (average divergence = 0.01), providing evidence that there are possible errors in synonymisation from previous taxonomists. Interestingly, the *Geloina expansa* sequences retrieved from GenBank were clustered into four distinct clades and the *Geloina coaxans* specimens identified in this study formed a shallow branch with one of these clades.

Phylogenetic relationships of Cyrenoidea

BI and ML analyses based on the three-gene dataset showed a congruent topology (Fig. 4). Cyrenoidea was the sister-group to Arcticoidea with strong support (BS = 80%, PP = 0.98).

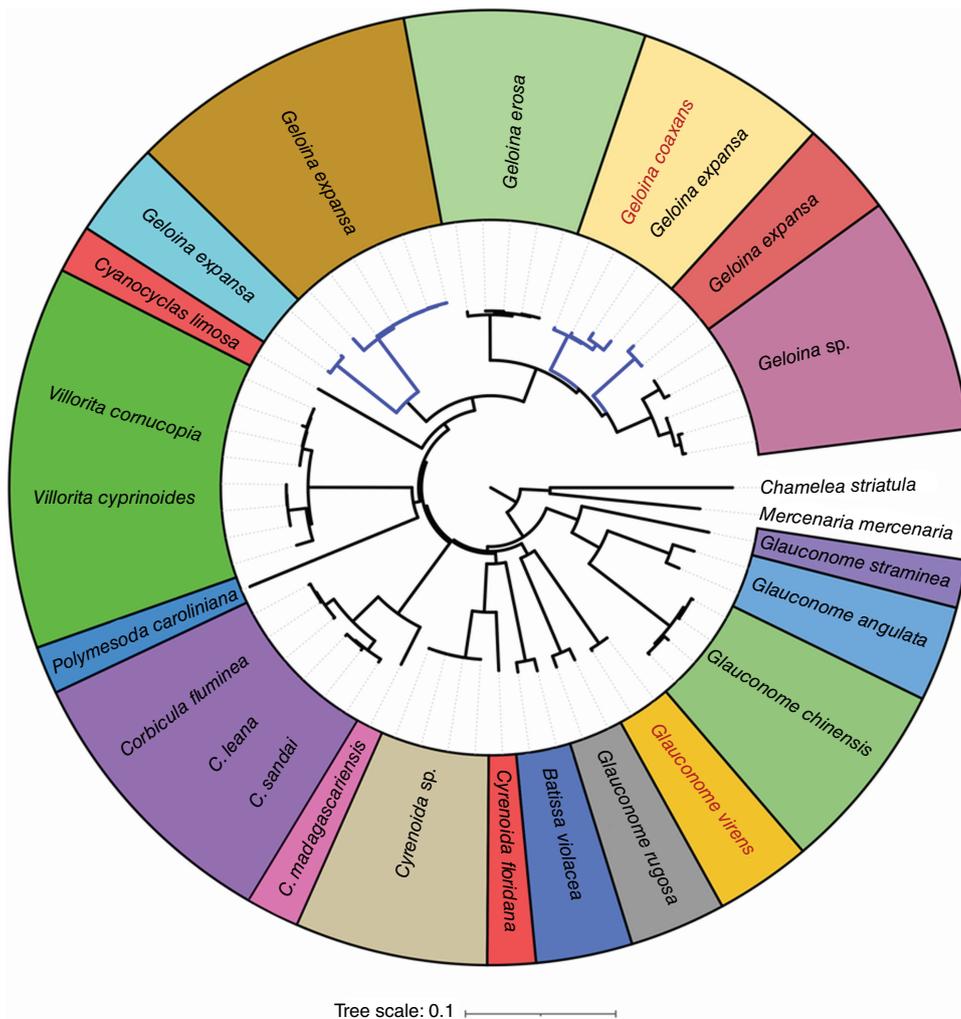


Fig. 3. Neighbour-joining tree inferred from 59 *COI* sequences representing 21 nominal species in Cyrenoidea based on *p*-distances. Taxa marked in red were obtained in this study. Taxon blocks represent the OTUs defined by three delimitation analyses. The blue branches represent four clades separated by the *Geloina expansa* complex, each of which corresponds to an OTU.

Both phylogenetic trees confirmed that the currently recognised family Cyrenidae was polyphyletic. *Geloina coaxans*, *Polymesoda caroliniana* and *Cyanocyclas limosa*, previously classified in the family Cyrenidae, formed a sister group relationship with *Cyrenoida floridana* that belongs to the family Cyrenoididae (Fig. 4). With the exception of *Batissa violacea* and *Cyrenoida floridana*, our taxa contained type species for each genus. BI and ML trees showed that the phylogenetic relationships among genera were as follows: (((*Batissa* + *Villorita*) + *Corbicula*) + (*Glauconome* + (*Cyrenoida* + (*Geloina* + (*Cyanocyclas* + *Polymesoda*)))) (Fig. 4).

Mitogenomics

We constructed five phylogenetic trees inferred from 12 mitochondrial protein genes. ML and BI analyses of the NUC data and ML analyses of the AA data yielded congruent topologies. Most relationships across the Venerida were well-supported, with most nodes having high bootstrap support values and Bayesian posterior probabilities (BS \geq 75%, PP \geq 0.95;

Fig. 5). The AA-based BI tree differed from the abovementioned topology and the only distinction was the position of *Ruditapes decussatus* (Supplementary Fig. S1). In all phylogenetic trees, Cyrenidae, Cyrenoididae and Glauconomidae formed a clade with strong nodal support (BS = 100%, PP = 1.0) and obtained topologies consistent with the three-gene dataset.

Within Venerida, BI and ML analyses revealed the phylogenetic relationships of eight families as follows: ((((((Glauconomidae + Cyrenoididae) + Cyrenidae) + Arcticidae) + (Veneridae + Vesicomidae)) + Mactridae) + Sphaeriidae). Cyrenoidea was the sister group to Arcticidae. Sphaeriidae was the sister group to all the remaining Venerida in all IQ-TREE, MrBayes and RAxML analyses (Fig. 5, Supplementary Fig. S1).

Novel mitochondrial gene arrangements

Mitogenomes of *Geloina coaxans* and *Glauconome virens* were newly generated in this study. Both sequenced mitogenomes displayed a typical structure composed of 13 protein-

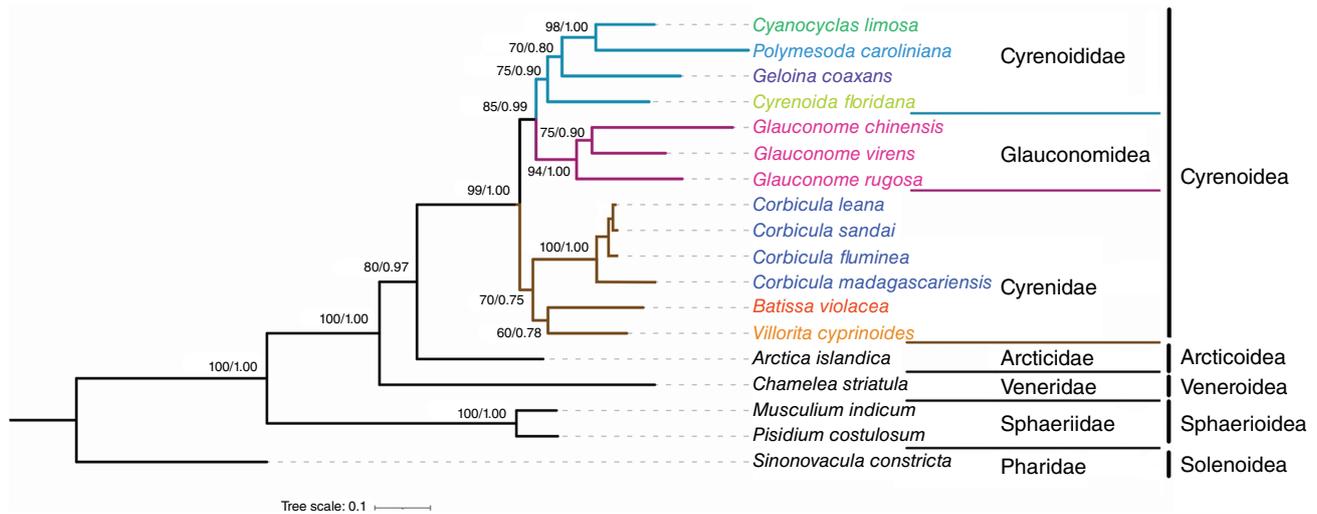


Fig. 4. Maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian inference (BI) trees of Imparidentia based on the three-gene dataset (five partitions: three codons of *COI* + *16S* rDNA + *28S* rDNA). BI tree generated by Bayesian analysis and ML tree generated by IQ-TREE analysis and RAxML produce completely congruent topology. We only show bootstrap values executed by IQ-TREE here because bootstrap values inferred from RAxML are less than 50 in some nodes. Numbers at nodes are statistical support values for ML (bootstrap support, BS)/BI (posterior probability, PP). Three clades representing three families within Cyrenoidea are coloured accordingly. The colour-coded taxa represent the corresponding eight genera in Cyrenoidea.

coding genes, 22 tRNA genes and 2 rRNA genes (Fig. 5). All 37 genes were located on the plus strand. The mitogenomes ranged from 15 136 bp in *Geloina coaxans* to 18 473 bp in *Glauconome virens*. The base composition of *G. coaxans* was $A = 23.57\%$, $T = 45.98\%$, $C = 7.87\%$ and $G = 22.58\%$ that showed a high AT-bias (69.55%). The base composition of *virens* was $A = 26.47\%$, $T = 42.45\%$, $C = 9.01\%$ and $G = 22.08\%$, also with an AT-bias of AT (68.92%). AT skews in sequenced *G. coaxans* and *G. virens* mitogenomes were -0.32 and -0.23 respectively. GC skew values were similar and these were 0.48 for *G. coaxans* and 0.42 for *G. virens*.

Geloina coaxans exhibited the identical gene rearrangement as that previously reported for *Geloina erosa* (Liao et al. 2020). However, we found a novel and unique mitochondrial gene order in *Glauconome virens* that differed significantly from the gene order reported for other species in Venerida (Fig. 5). We mapped the gene order of these mitogenomes onto the Venerida phylogeny based on 12 PCGs.

Discussion

Species delimitation

OTU results obtained from the three methods (ABGD, mPTP and STACEY) suggest that species may require revision, including the possible existence of a species complex in the currently known *Geloina expansa*.

Based on morphological similarities, Huber (2015) proposed *Villorita cornucopia* as a variant of *Villorita cyprinoides*.

V. cornucopia is currently accepted as a synonym of *V. cyprinoides* in the World Register of Marine Species (<https://www.marinespecies.org>). Our species-delimitation methods using *COI* sequences also support this synonymisation.

The genus *Corbicula* is of great concern for malacologists worldwide due to the high invasive potential (e.g. Pigneur et al. 2014; Gomes et al. 2016; Benson and Williams 2021; Bespalaya et al. 2021, 2023). Species descriptions in this group were typically based on slight differences in shell shape, size and colouration (e.g. Lamarck 1818; Dall 1903; Ota and Ohta 1970). At present, 91 species of the genus *Corbicula* have been described globally (Bieler and Mikkelsen 2019; Graf and Cummings 2021; MolluscaBase, see <https://www.molluscabase.org>). Although subsequent studies have attempted to clarify the nominal species, the validity of many of these remains controversial (Okamoto and Arimoto 1986; Park and Kim 2003; Benson and Williams 2021). In our study, the divergences of *Corbicula fluminea*, *Corbicula leana* and *Corbicula sandai* were so small that the three methods employed for species delimitation failed to distinguish among these species. Our analysis focused exclusively on the molecular data of these species without considering voucher-specimen information. We do not support synonymising species based on a single locus analysis. The aim of this study was not to provide integrative evidence to resolve the synonymisation of the *Corbicula* complex. Rather, we intend this group to remain in the spotlight, awaiting comprehensive examination, after our casual molecular analysis.

The species validity and synonymy of *Geloina coaxans*, *G. erosa* and *G. expansa* have been controversial since

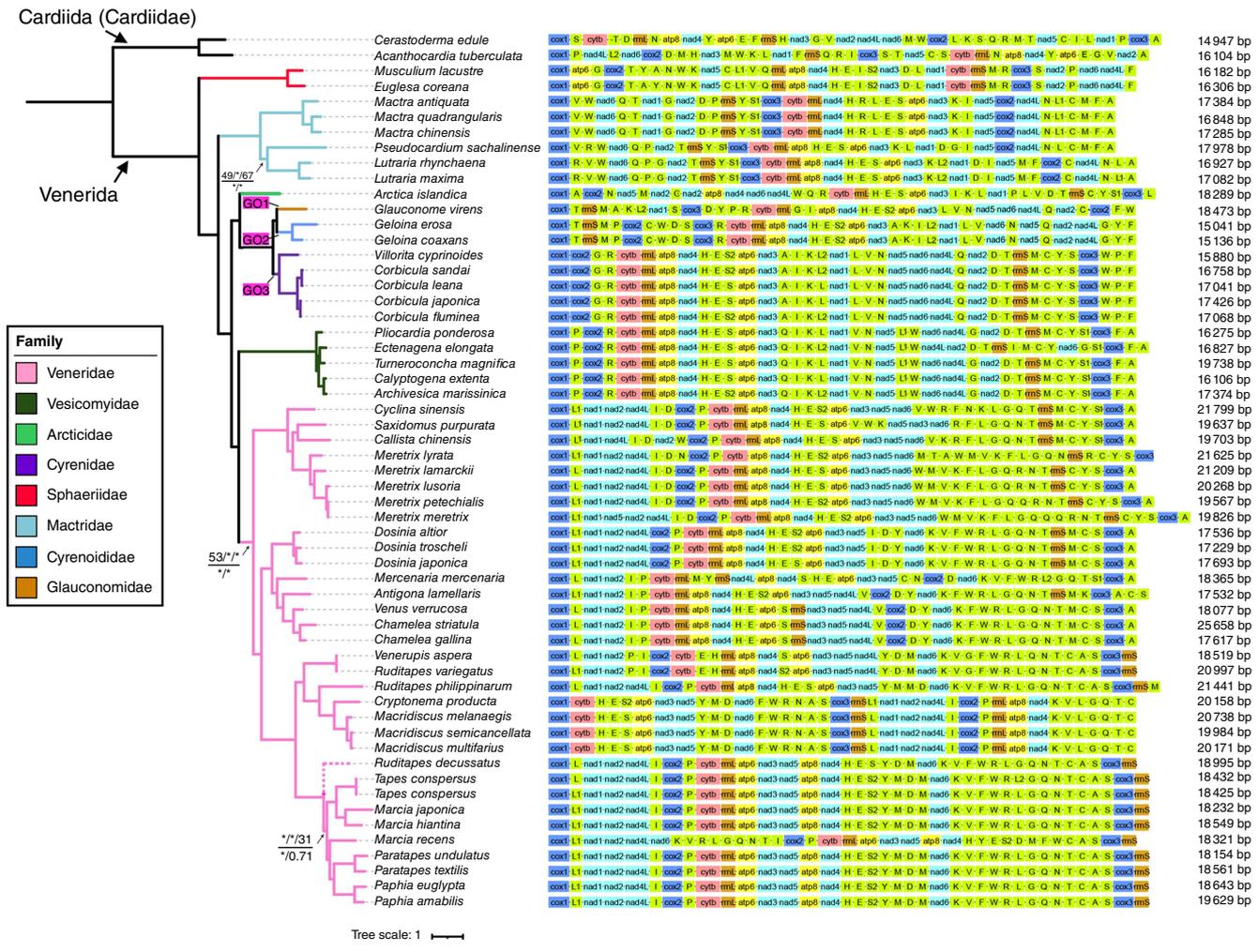


Fig. 5. Gene arrangement of the complete mitogenomes of Venerida mapped on the phylogenetic trees that were inferred from 12 mitochondrial protein genes (except *atp8*). We show the consistent phylogenetic tree built by Bayesian Inference (BI) based on the NUC dataset and Maximum Likelihood (ML) analyses conducted by IQ-TREE based on both NUC and AA datasets, and RAxML based on the NUC dataset. The dotted lines represent the branch at which the BI tree based on AA data is topologically inconsistent with other trees. Numbers close to the branching points indicate ML bootstrap support (BS) values (above, AA_IQ-TREE/NUC_IQ-TREE/NUC_RAxML) and Bayesian posterior probabilities (PP) (below, AA/NUC). Nodes without support values and an asterisk (*) are 100 BS/PP across all five analyses. The newly generated mitogenomes are marked by red star signs. Coloured clades represent the corresponding families in Venerida. GO, Gene order. The number after the gene arrangement is the complete mitogenome length.

descriptions were typically inferred only from shell characters in the absence of comparative soft-anatomy and molecular data (e.g. Morton 1976; He and Zhuang 2013; Huber 2015). Morton (1976) and He and Zhuang (2013) believed that *G. erosa* was not morphologically distinct from *G. coaxans* and regarded *G. erosa* as a variety of the latter. But Huber (2015) proposed *G. erosa* as a junior synonym of *G. expansa* by comparing the conchological characters. Currently, two of the world's most comprehensive bivalve species websites, i.e. World Register of Marine (<https://www.marinespecies.org>) and the MUSSEL Project (<http://www.mussel-project.net/>), support inconsistent species synonyms. We downloaded all available barcode data of

Geloina from GenBank and combined with sequences of *G. coaxans* obtained in this study, species delimitation supported the validity of *G. erosa* and *G. coaxans* and the existence of multiple cryptic species in the *G. expansa* complex.

Synonymising species or proposing new species in controversial congeneric species would be tentative, solely relying on shell morphological variation and insufficient molecular evidence. The addition of unlinked markers and integration of reproductive characteristics, and ecological and behavioural data should be undertaken to further clarify the above concept of species before a comprehensive taxonomic classification of the group can be established.

Phylogenetic relationships and taxonomic revision

Valentas-Romera *et al.* (2019) conducted a comprehensive review of the anatomical data of Cyrenoidea and provided a succinct summary of the relevant research history. The monophyly of the superfamily Cyrenoidea including the freshwater–brackish water families Cyrenoididae, Cyrenidae and Glauconomidae in Imparidentia has been confirmed (Taylor *et al.* 2009; Sharma *et al.* 2012; Bieler *et al.* 2014; Combosch *et al.* 2017). Subsequent studies (Rahuman *et al.* 2020; Crouch *et al.* 2021) further confirmed the close relationship of three families in Cyrenoidea as (Cyrenidae + (Cyrenoididae + Glauconomidae)). More recently, the transcriptomic study conducted by Lemer *et al.* (2019) included representatives from Cyrenidae (*Corbicula fluminea* (O. F. Müller, 1774) and *Polymesoda caroliniana* (Bosc, 1801)), Glauconomidae (*Glauconome rugosa* Hanley, 1843) and Cyrenoididae (*Cyrenoida floridana*). Notably, *P. caroliniana* grouped with *G. rugosa* instead of *C. fluminea* (Lemer *et al.* 2019), indicating that the monophyly of the Cyrenidae is questionable and requires revision.

In this study, we collected 13 taxa, representing the currently recognised eight genera, to construct the most comprehensive phylogenetic framework of Cyrenoidea (Fig. 4). Multi-locus phylogenetic analyses provide compelling evidence to question the traditional taxonomy based on shell characteristics. *Geloina coaxans*, *Cyanocyclus limosa* and *Polymesoda caroliniana* as type taxon of the respective genera have been classified in the family Cyrenidae based on shell morphology (e.g. Gray 1840; Keen and McLean 1971; Turgeon *et al.* 1998). Our study shows that these three species are more closely allied to *Cyrenoida floridana* that belongs to the family Cyrenoididae, rather than *Corbicula fluminea*, the type taxon of the family Cyrenidae (Fig. 4). Previous phylogenetic studies (González *et al.* 2015; Kondakov *et al.* 2020) based on different datasets also showed that *P. caroliniana* was more closely related to *C. floridana*, albeit with a sampling strategy not designed to resolve cyrenoidean relationships. Incorporating the type species of Cyrenoididae, *Cyrenoida dupontia* Joannis, 1835 from West Africa, into the molecular analysis would have been preferable. However, no suitably preserved specimens were available. Taylor *et al.* (2009) compared the shell characteristics of *C. floridana* and *C. dupontia*, including shell sculpture, cardinal teeth and lateral teeth, and were convinced that these were members of the same group.

Consequently, with the reinforcement of the three-gene dataset, our phylogenetic studies provide strong evidence to transfer *Geloina*, *Cyanocyclus* and *Polymesoda* from the family Cyrenidae to the family Cyrenoididae. Multi-locus phylogeny and mitochondrial phylogenomics consistently support the family-level placement of the newly delimited Cyrenoididae as sister group to Glauconomidae (Fig. 4 and 5).

Gene rearrangement of Venerida

In contrast to the conserved mitochondrial gene order observed in most vertebrate groups, bivalves exhibit a remarkably diverse mitochondrial gene arrangement (Boore and Brown 1994; Boore *et al.* 1999; Kurabayashi and Ueshima 2000; Froufe *et al.* 2020) that is attributed to various mechanisms such as gene transpositions and reverse, tandem duplication and random loss events (Boore 2000; Wu RW *et al.* 2021). Although homoplastic rearrangements have been reported in some invertebrate groups, such as insects (Dowton and Austin 1999; Babbucci *et al.* 2014), the complete mitochondrial gene order of bivalves exhibits a unique and specific diagnostic signal that can provide powerful indicators for inferring phylogenetic and evolutionary relationships (Yuan *et al.* 2012; Lv *et al.* 2018; Froufe *et al.* 2020).

In this study, the mitochondrial genomes of *Geloina coaxans* and *Glauconome virens* were obtained for the first time. Notably, *G. virens* represents the first complete mitochondrial genome of Glauconomidae. In terms of length and nucleotide composition, the mitochondrial genome of *G. virens* in Venerida is not atypical; however, this does possess a distinctive gene arrangement structure. Consequently, three distinct mitochondrial gene orders (GO1, GO2 and GO3) are identified in Cyrenoidea, each of which is shared by the different families: Glauconomidae, Cyrenoididae and Cyrenidae (Fig. 5). We anticipate that these three mitogenome gene orders may serve as a diagnostic tool for family-level classification but further validation will be required through incorporating additional mitogenomes for this group in the future.

In conclusion, we establish a first modern phylogenetic framework for the superfamily Cyrenoidea and revise the taxonomic placement of three genera using a multi-locus phylogeny. We clarify the phylogenetic relationship of the family within Venerida based on mitochondrial phylogenomics and describe a novel gene arrangement from the complete mitochondrial genome of the *Glauconome virens*. Cyrenoidea has a wide distribution range that covers marine, brackish- and fresh-water habitats. This diversity of habitats could constitute a sound model for understanding transitions from ocean to freshwater habitats in bivalves. In addition, due to the imbalance in bivalve studies around the world, the multiple data of type taxon *Batissa tenebrosa* (Hinds, 1842) from Fiji (Hinds 1842) and *Cyrenoida dupontia* Joannis, 1835 from the Senegal River (De Joannis 1835) were only conchological descriptions. We are committed to exploring the morphological diagnosis, character evolution and biogeographic history of Cyrenoidea by expanding the sampling and strengthening international cooperation.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material is available [online](#).

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Data availability. The sequences obtained through this study have been uploaded in the GenBank Nucleotide Database and the accession numbers are OQ569914–OQ569916 for *COI*, OQ570956–OQ570957 for *16S*, OQ608005–OQ608006 for *28S* and OQ595194–OQ595195 for complete mtDNA.

Conflicts of interest. The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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