

A NEW TEREBRA HONORS E. R. CROSS

By TWILA BRATCHER

While dredging at the Honolulu side of Pearl Harbor Entrance in 1969, E. R. Cross brought up an unusual *Terebra* from about 300 meters.

After thoroughly researching it, I concluded it to be a new species. It was so extremely different from any previously described that I decided to publish it. I submitted a manuscript then reconsidered and withdrew it for two reasons: it was a unique specimen, and it had no protoconch.

For quite a few years it rested with some other unidentified *Terebra*, the only one of its kind as far as I knew. Then, within a short period, I received others of the same species from several sources and from different areas. One was from New Guinea, two were from Guadalcanal, in the Solomons, and one was from Okinawa.

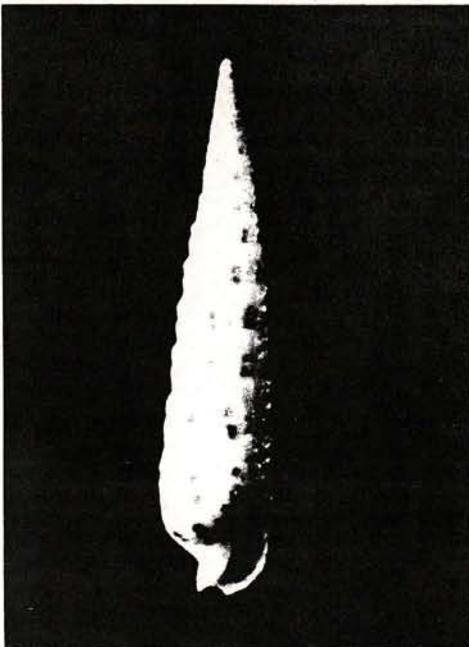
When I visited the Solomons, Brian Bailey kindly let me have several to donate to museums as paratypes. While I was rewriting the manuscript to include the additional specimens and localities, I discovered another among the terebrids sent me by the Smithsonian Institution for identification. This one was from Madagascar.

A full ten years after Cross' discovery in July 1969, the species was finally published in *The Veliger* 22 (1):65. The following is from the original manuscript:

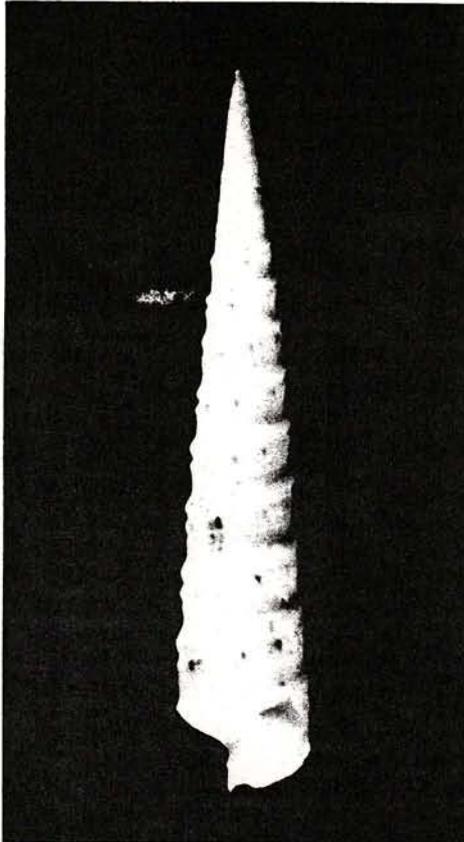
Because E. R. Cross was the instructor of my first course in underwater safety and is a longtime friend, because of his years as editor of *Hawaiian Shell News*, and because he discovered the first specimen of this new species, I now take pleasure in naming it in his honor.

Terebra elliscrossi Bratcher, 1979

DIAGNOSIS: A medium to large sized white *Terebra* with small fulvous dots, cancellate



T. waikikiensis



T. elliscrossi

Photo: Bratcher

sculpture, and a double subsutural band.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLOTYPE: Shell size medium, color white with small round fulvous dots, usually in pairs, scattered at random; outline of whorls slightly concave with double convex subsutural band, anterior one being smaller; protoconch missing, but protoconch of paratype having 3½ slightly convex embryonic whorls; sculpture of early whorls of teleoconch consisting of narrow subsutural band with small nodes, followed by slightly curved axial ribs; spiral sculpture developing about 3rd whorl; posterior end of ribs swelling into nodes, forming second subsutural band about 5th whorl; sculpture of later whorls cancellate, with spiral and axial cords of about equal strength, forming small nodes at intersections, axial cords beginning at nodes of anterior band; double band occupying about half of whorl; cancellate sculpture continuing on body whorl to row of slightly enlarged nodes at periphery; spiral cords continuing anterior to periphery, axial sculpture becoming obsolete; aperture quadrate, columella recurved, with moderate parietal callus and scarcely visible plication, siphonal fasciole striate, with moderate keel.

DIMENSIONS: Holotype 42.0 x 7.2mm. Paratypes from 21.4 x 5.4mm to 82.9 x 13.1mm.

DISCUSSION: Some individuals of this species have finer sculpture, and the intersections of axial and spiral sculpture may be less likely to form nodes at the intersections. The larger specimens tend

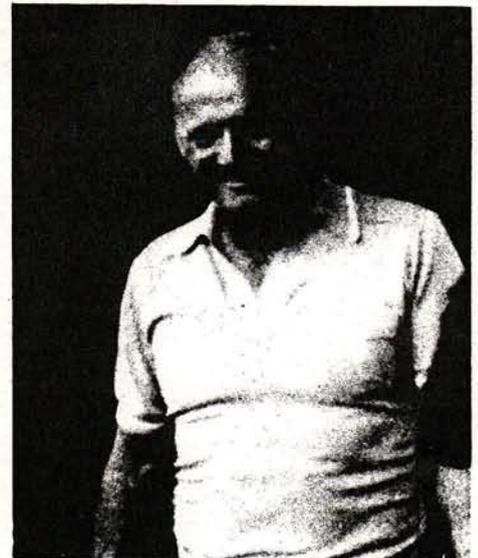
to become less coarsely sculptured in later whorls. Some specimens have many tiny fulvous dots; others have few, scarcely noticeable ones.

Terebra elliscrossi should be compared with several other Indo-Pacific species. *Terebra waikikiensis* Pilsbry, 1920, an endemic Hawaiian species, is also shiny white with pairs of small fulvous dots, but it has a turreted outline and is smaller, to 35mm. The dots, always in pairs, are placed at regular intervals.

Terebra elliscrossi has a concave outline with convex subsutural band, is larger, to 82.9mm, and the dots, paired or individual, are scattered at random.

Terebra insalli Bratcher & Burch, 1967, bears some resemblance to *T. elliscrossi* but has a smaller, more slender beige shell without the fulvous dots. *Terebra triseriata* Gray, 1834, has a much more slender shell, and that of *T. cumingii* Deshayes, 1834, has more numerous and shorter whorls, neither showing the fulvous dots. *Terebra amanda*, also without dots, is longer whorled and has a wider apical angle.

Terebra floridana Dall, 1889, a western Atlantic species, has a shell remarkably similar to that of *T. elliscrossi*, except that it has more numerous and shorter whorls with no dots, and is beige instead of white.



Ellis R. Cross

NATAL SHELL SOCIETY

DURBAN — At a special general meeting in August, the Natal Group of the South African Conchological Society unanimously decided to form a society of their own, to be known as the Natal Shell Society.

This society welcomes contact with any shell group, club or society with the views of exchanging information and ideas. Anyone desiring contact with them can do so by writing to S.B.D. NEVILL, Flat No. 8, Sonning, 355 Innes Road, Morningside, DURBAN 4001, SOUTH AFRICA