Notes & News

Notes on the Nomenclature of Certain Mitrid Species

BY

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It has come to my attention that a few unintentional errors or omissions have appeared in papers I have published in this journal during the past year. I wish to correct them or comment on them, as follows.

1. 1960. The Veliger, 3(2): 49. For Mitra nigra (Schröter, 1788), read Mitra nigra (Gmelin, 1791). A note regarding this correction has been published by R. T. Abbott (The Veliger, 4(4): 213).

2. 1961. The Veliger, 4(1): 4-8; ibid., 4(2): 76-85. For each citation of Vexillum regina (Sowerby, 1825), read Vexillum regina (Sowerby, 1828). This part of Sowerby's Genera of Shells was actually published three years after the date printed on the flyleaf of the first part. He did cite V. regina in 1825 in the Tankerville Catalogue, but this is a nomen nudum.

3. I have been reminded that Vexillum taeniatum (Lamarck, 1811) has supposedly been replaced by V. ornatum (Link, 1807) on the basis of a note by Tomlin in the Nautilus (1920, Nautilus, 33: 134). Tomlin's statement follows:

"Voluta ornata Link. No fig. quoted, but I do not think that there can be any doubt that the description is a clear and accurate one of taeniata Lamarck as now understood. Mitra ornata will therefore supersede M. taeniata."

For several reasons I did not attempt in my papers (1961, op. cit.) to include complete synonymies for the various species discussed; hence, it seemed unnecessary to refer to the Tomlin notice. It is my opinion that Link's rather vague discussion of Voluta ornata (1807, Beschreibung der Naturalien-Sammlung der Universität zu Rostock, p. 128) does not constitute a valid species description according to the rules of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, and that Tomlin's statement, therefore, may be disregarded. Although a good figure of Vexillum taeniatum appears in the Encyclopédie Méthodique (1797, Pl. 373, Figs. 7a, 7b) that could presumably have been cited as an illustration, Link made no reference to any figure, as Tomlin pointed out. Lacking such a reference, Link's description could apply to any of several mitrid species, of which the six discussed in J. Cate (1961, op. cit.) are only a few.

A literal translation of Link's description (for which I am indebted to Dr. Rudolf Stohler) says only this: "V. ornata. Similar to the preceding one, ["V. elegans (= V. plicaria$_{\beta}$") J. C.] but less striped, and the base not recurved. Each whorl is yellow above, then follows a brown band and the lower portion is white; close to the base the yellow fields and brown bands alternate." It would be difficult to prove that Vexillum taeniatum (Lamarck) was the species Link meant by this sketchy description and not V. vittatum (Swainson) or V. compressum (Sowerby), to mention only two possibilities. I consider V. taeniatum (Lamarck, 1811) the first name validly applied to the species in question, until more conclusive proof can be found that this name should be superseded by any other.

A Range Extension for Two Species of Hawaiian Terebridae (Gastropoda)

BY

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Hastula lauta (PEASE, 1869) p 55

Through the courtesy of Dr. Arthur H. Clarke, Jr., Malacologist, National Museum of Canada, I recently had the opportunity to examine a large number of Terebridae taken by divers in waters of six to ten feet off Alabat Island, Philippines (Latitude 14° 20' N., Longitude 122° 0' E.). These specimens were collected by the Norton Expedition, 1959, and donated to the Museum by one of the expedition members, Mr. Pedro de Mesa, Quezon City, Philippine Islands. These specimens bear the National Museum of Canada catalogue number 12 002.

This material included a number of Terebridae species recorded as indigenous in various areas of the Indo-Pacific; however, the following among them have been recorded from Hawaii: Terebra columellaris Hinds, 1843; T.

babylonia Lamarck, 1822; T. chlorata Lamarck, 1822; T. plumbea Quoy & Gaimard, 1832; T. affinis Gray, 1834; T. funiculata Hinds, 1843; Hastula verreauxi (Deshayes, 1857); H. casta (Hinds, 1843); and H. lauta (Pease, 1869).

Recent references have recorded Hastula lauta as a species endemic to Hawaii and have reported the habitat to be deep water.

Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison of Honolulu and Mr. and Mrs. Crawford N. Cate of Los Angeles have generously loaned a large number of specimens of Hastula lauta taken from several Hawaiian localities, and comparison of these with the Alabat Island specimens shows them to be identical. The Hawaiian specimens display a range of color forms not duplicated in variety by the Alabat Island shells; however, the color is identical in many individual specimens. Unless marked, mixed specimens from the two areas cannot be separated; color-pattern, size, apical angle, sculpture, rib-count, and other pertinent characteristics being compatible. According to collection data accompanying specimens of H. lauta in both the Harrison and Cate collections, it has been taken alive at depths ranging between 6 and 100 feet.

Hastula lauta can be expected to occur westward from Hawaii to Alabat Island in the Philippines. This major range extension (in degrees Longitude) of the species has been accomplished while maintaining a relatively narrow range in Latitude (less than 7°).

Additional specimens of Hastula lauta collected off Alabat Island can also be found in the collections of Mr. J. E. Norton and Mr. Pedro de Mesa of the Philippines and in the Burch collection of Terebridae.

A number of Hastula species have a superficial resemblance to H. lauta, and a series of each of the following Indo-Pacific species has been considered as comparison material: H. diversa (E. A. Smith, 1901); H. lepida (Hinds, 1843); H. verreauxi (Deshayes, 1857); H. mera (Hinds, 1843); and H. strigillata (Linnaeus, 1787).

Terebra contigua Pease, 1871

The generosity of Mr. W. C. DeWitt of Freeport, Texas, has recently made available to me a number of Terebra specimens which had been collected at Canton Island in the Phoenix Island Group, rounded to the nearest degree as Lat. 3° South, Long. 172° West. These were a part of the collection made at that island by Mr. Raymond C. Naumann of Angleton, Texas; during March through August, 1942. Mr. Naumann has since furnished additional collection data for these specimens which show them to have been littoral or dredged off the east and south beaches of Canton Island.

Of the three Terebra species collected by Mr. Naumann at Canton Island, all have been recorded from Hawaii as follows: T. dimidiata (Linnaeus, 1758), one specimen, an albino of this species dredged on the south side of the island; T. cancellata Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, two specimens littoral on the east beach; T. contigua Pease, 1871, three specimens littoral on the east and south beaches.

Terebra contigua has been recorded as a species endemic to Hawaii where it is considered as rare; however, it can be expected to occur southward and westward from Hawaii to Canton Island.

Terebra contigua is a very distinctive species, difficult to confuse with others of the small Terebras; however, several species have some superficial resemblance to it. Series of a number of Indo-Pacific species in my collection have been compared in establishing this identification and range extension; among these are the following which have been recorded from Hawaii: T. plumbea Quoy & Gaimard, 1832; T. nitida Hinds, 1843; T. clappi Pilsbry, 1920; and T. rosacea Pease, 1869.

Acknowledgment

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Clarke for having provided his Alabat Island specimens and for his permission to cite them. The interest and generous assistance of Elizabeth Harrison and Crawford and Jean Cate in loaning their collections of Hawaiian Terebridae is acknowledged with gratitude. Mr. de Mesa's original contribution of specimens and his subsequent kindness in confirming the collection data is very much appreciated. My friend, Bill DeWitt, has been of great assistance with the Canton Island specimens, as well as with other species cited here; while Mr. Naumann has been patient with his time and generous with specimens from his collections.

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