

SEA SHELLS
OF
THE WEST INDIES

A guide to the marine molluscs of the Caribbean

■

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COLLINS
ST JAMES'S PLACE, LONDON

piral cords of unequal size. Shoulder extended and mildly concave. This species in Jamaican waters. It is commonly dredged in about 150 feet bean, and may yet turn up locally.

and Abbott 1951 Clark's Cone
bean. **pl. 21**
Very similar to *C. austini* but rather strong spiral cords.

oo specimens of this and the preced-
e in fact the same species. We were
eries of over 50 intergrades, but a
ubstantiate this.

Mouse Cone **pl. 21**
dies.

Colour grey or white, with extensive
terior of the outer lip is purplish-
al white band. There are irregular
body whorl. Sculpture of numerous
ark brown, thick and persistent.
mon *Comus* in Jamaica, and possibly
occurs on and under algae-covered
own to about 5 feet, all around the
at Prospect and Robins Bay (where
fresh water springs emerge into the
most beaches where there are rocks or

374 Maze's Cone **pl. 21**
ndies.

Colour white with numerous small,
nged in spiral rows. Sculpture of
er the entire body whorl. There are
The shell is thin, rather fragile, and
s have a smooth surface.
pecies usually found below 600 feet.
scovery Bay, in about 1,800 feet, on
ot uncommon at that depth in that
n similar depths along the south

CONUS DOMINICANUS Hwass 1792

Antillean Cone

The lower Caribbean.

pl. 21

Description: Length $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Colour variable, usually white with irregular brownish-yellow patches, often arranged in two spiral bands. Sculpture of spiral rows of minute raised beads. The shoulder of the body whorl is usually nodulous. This species closely resembles *C. regius* in many respects, and for this reason is often incorrectly identified even in reputable museum collections.

Occurrence: This species does not occur in Jamaica, and is apparently confined to the lower Caribbean (the type specimen came from Dominica). Records from the Bahamas are almost certainly in error. It is found at depths of 20 to 60 feet, on and under rocks, and dead shells are occasionally washed ashore. It is included here as a matter of interest.

Note: This is the once much coveted 'cedo-nulli', which fetched high prices at European shell auctions in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

FAMILY TEREBRIDAE

Members of this family are long, narrow, brightly coloured shells with many whorls and sharp apices. There are some 300 species, most of which live in shallow, sandy areas of tropical seas.

Like the *Comidae*, these molluscs are equipped with a venomous stinging apparatus. All of them are carnivorous. They should not be confused with the *Turritellidae*, some of which share a similar shape but have circular operculums. *Terebridae* bear claw-like operculums.

Genus *Terebra* Bruguière 1789

TEREBRA TAURINUS Solander 1786 Flame Auger **pl. 20**
South-east Florida and the West Indies.

Description: Length 4 to 6 inches. Colour cream overlaid with axial brown markings. Sculpture of axial ribs on the upper whorls; later whorls usually show only rather coarse growth lines. The shell is narrow and the apex sharp.

Occurrence: This beautiful species is very rare in Jamaica. Our specimens came from a depth of 40 feet off the Bogue Islands, and this is the only local record we know of. Shrimp trawlers operating south of Trinidad occasionally find them in quite large concentrations. They

prefer soft mud or sand substrate, and usually bury themselves just below its surface.

TEREBRA HASTATA Gmelin 1791

Shiny Atlantic Auger

pl. 20

South-east Florida and the West Indies.

Description: Length 1 to 1½ inches. Colour light brown with a white band below the suture. Sculpture of axial ribs; there is no spiral sculpture. The shell is polished.

Occurrence: Uncommon in 30 to 70 feet in Lucea harbour, Montego Bay, and at Yallahs (St Thomas). The mollusc lives buried just below the surface of mud or sand bottoms. Beach specimens are locally common after rough weather.

TEREBRA DISLOCATA Say 1822 Atlantic Auger pl. 20

South-east U.S., Texas, and the West Indies.

Description: Length 1½ to 2 inches. Colour greyish, or yellowish-orange. Sculpture of about 25 axial ribs per whorl, divided by a deep spiral line. There are spiral cords between the ribs.

Occurrence: This is a very uncommon species in Jamaica, and is occasionally found on the beaches at Negril and Port Henderson. We have not found any living examples.

TEREBRA CINEREA Born 1778 Gray Auger pl. 20

South-east Florida and the West Indies.

Description: Length 1 to 2 inches. Colour grey, bluish-brown or orange-cream. Sculpture of numerous small axial riblets, which do not extend below the centre of each whorl. The surface is pitted with minute punctuations. The apex is sharp and white.

Occurrence: This species lives in the sand of soft beaches at the point where the waves break. As the wave recedes, the shells are often momentarily exposed above the sand, and this is the time to collect them. The species is common at Green Bay (St Catherine) and at Negril. It preys on the little bivalve *Donax denticulatus*, and is usually found in association with it.

TEREBRA PROTEXTA Conrad 1845

Fine-ribbed Auger

pl. 20

North Carolina to Texas, and the West Indies.

Description: Length ¾ to 1 inch. Colour cream to brown. Sculpture of 16 to 22 fine axial ribs, crossed by 7 to 9 weak spiral lines.

Occurrence: Uncommon in about 10 feet on mud or sand bottoms, at Port Henderson and Negril. It has also been dredged off Rio Bueno and Discovery Bay in about 800 feet, and may occur in still deeper water.

FAMILY TU

Members of this family are a highly acropod, which occur at various depths in the ocean. There are numerous small abyssal species.

The family is characterised by the presence of a distinct notch on the upper part of the operculum which is degenerate or absent, and the siphon is cum. A few possess a neurotoxic poison and are to be carnivorous.

SUBFAMILY T

Genus *Polystira* W

POLYSTIRA ALBIDA Perry

White Giant Turret

South Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indies.

Description: Length 3 to 4 inches. Colour white. Shell is globose and sharply pointed, and the siphonal opening is distinct notch on the upper part of the shell.

Occurrence: Uncommon on mud bottoms in about 50 feet. This species has also been found on the coast, but we have never seen a living example. It is generally found more or less buried in the sand.

SUBFAMILY COCH

Genus *Ancistrosyrinx*

ANCISTROSYRINX RADIALIS

Common Star Turret

South Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indies.

Description: Length ½ to ¾ inch. Colour brown. Shell is globose with a row of sharp, triangular spines on the siphonal opening. The siphon is high and sharp, and the siphonal opening is distinct notch on the upper part of the shell.

Occurrence: We have one record of this species in Negril in about 80 feet. It is more common in about 800 feet. It was recently taken off Discovery Bay in about 800 feet, and may occur in still deeper water.

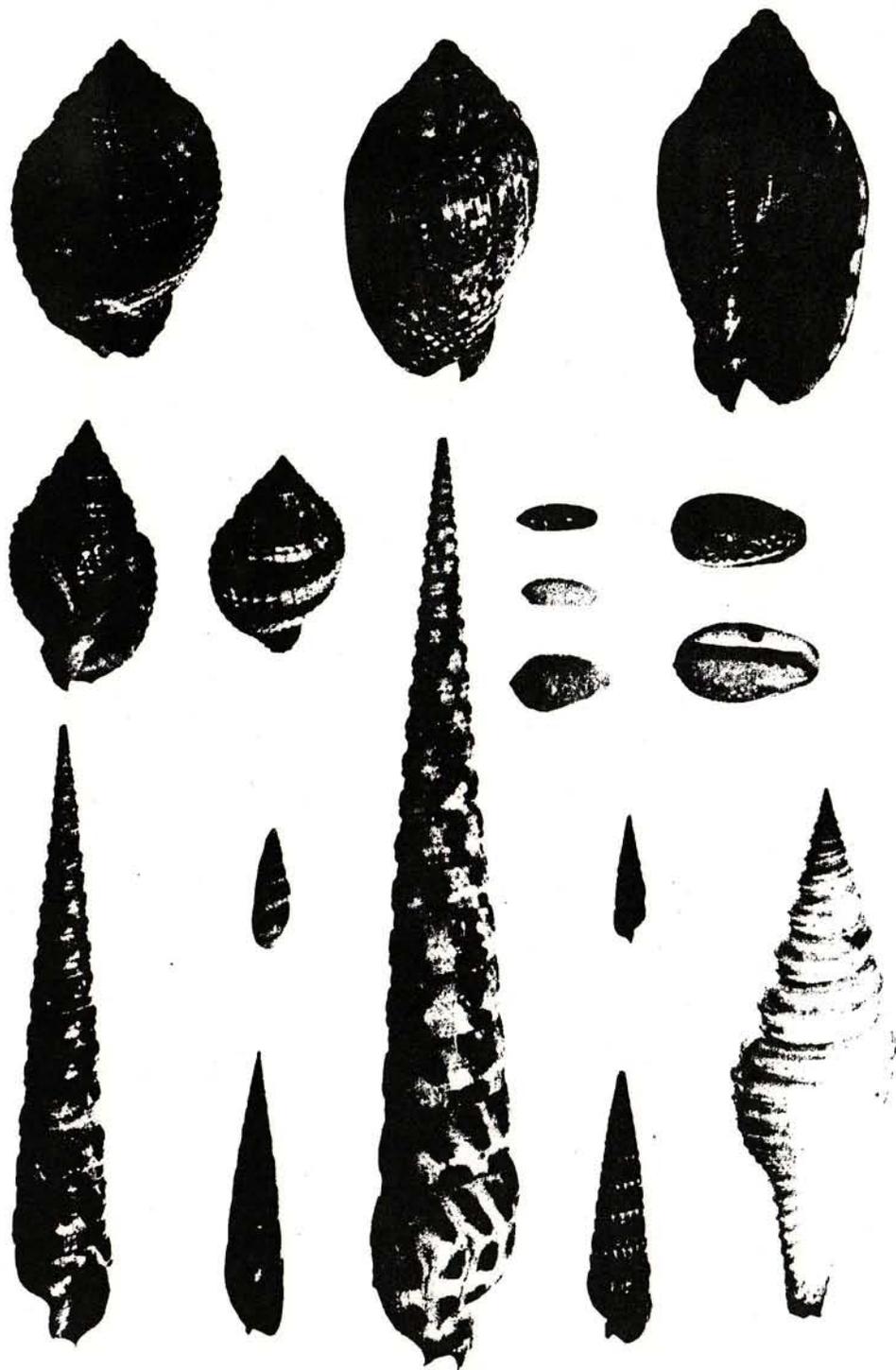


Plate 20 VOLUTES, NUTMEGS,
MARGINELLAS,
AUGERS, TURRET
SHELLS

Scale: natural size

- | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|
| 1. <i>Cancellaria reticulata</i> | 169 | | |
| Linné Common
Nutmeg | | | |
| 2. <i>Cancellaria conradiana</i> | 169 | | |
| Dall
This 'species' is probably
a form of 1. 2a, dorsal
view. | | | |
| 3. <i>Voluta musica</i> | 168 | | |
| Linné
Music Volute
3a, ventral view. | | | |
| 4. <i>Hyalina avena</i> | 170 | | |
| Kiener
Orange-banded
Marginella | | | |
| 5. <i>Hyalina tenuilabra</i> | 171 | | |
| Tomlin
Pale
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| Menke
Common
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| Dillwyn
White-spotted
Marginella
7a, ventral view. | | | |
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| Solander
Flame Auger
8a, dorsal view. | | | |
| 9. <i>Terebra hastata</i> | 180 | | |
| Gmelin
Shiny
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| Born
Gray Auger | | | |
| 11. <i>Terebra protexta</i> | 180 | | |
| Conrad
Fine-ribbed
Auger | | | |
| 12. <i>Terebra dislocata</i> | 180 | | |
| Say
Atlantic Auger | | | |
| 13. <i>Polystira albida</i> | 181 | | |
| Perry
White Giant
Turret | | | |

