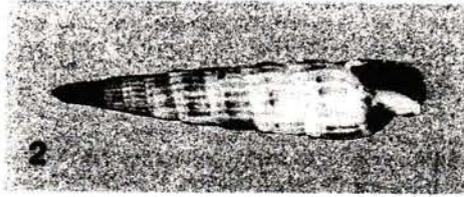
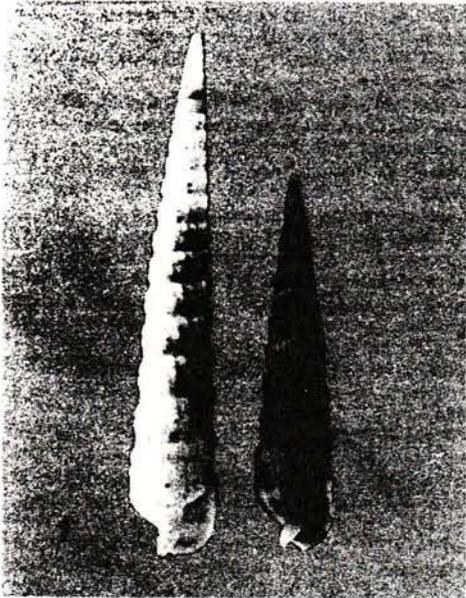


# An Update on Four of Hawaii's Terebrids

By RICH SALISBURY

Several new species of *Terebra* have been described recently. Two of these are found around the Hawaiian Islands. HSN Aug. 1978 listed approximately 50 *Terebra* species. *Hawaiian Marine Shells* by Dr. Alison Kay lists 43. Both sources will be used as references for this update.

*Terebra elliscrossi* Bratcher, 1979 (Fig. 1) is figured here with *Terebra waikikiensis* Pilsbry, 1921 (small shell). The specimen of *elliscrossi* was dredged in 200 fathoms, while the smaller species is



typically found at 50 fathoms. Both species can be found in deep water off the island of Oahu (Honolulu).

Another *Terebra* pictured in HSN Aug. 1978 and erroneously identified as *Duplicaria australis* E. A. Smith, 1873 has since been described as a new species, *Duplicaria baileyi* Bratcher & Cernohorsky, 1982 (Fig. 2). It was described from the Solomon Islands. The authors do not picture or explain exactly how *australis* became confused with this new species. They do list several references containing "*australis*" under the bibliography for their new species. *Terebra australis* should be removed from the list of Hawaiian *Terebra*.

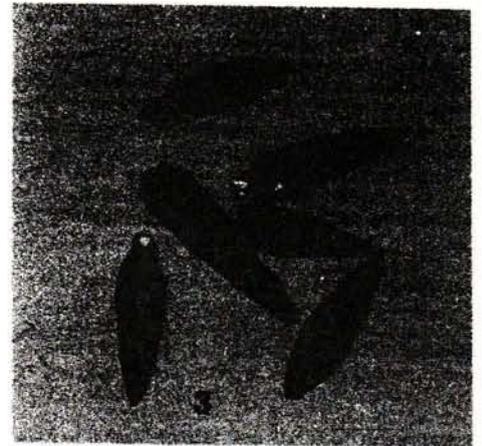
Several terebrids figured in HSN Aug. 1978 were not identified. The 1978 Species #3 — shown here as Fig. 3 — was identified in *Hawaiian Marine Shells* as *Hastula tiedemani* Burch, 1965. These shells are found in colonies. I suspect that these tiny *Hastula* are juveniles of *Hastula matheroniana* (Deshayes, 1859).

Also to be noted is Dr. Kay's inclusion of *Terebra triseriata* Gray, 1834 as a new record from the Pele Expedition dredgings near Hawaii.

Many uncertainties remain in the search for a complete listing of Hawaii's *Terebra*. At least three shells represent so-far-undescribed species or have been placed in synonymies that I regard as dubious. Continued study is necessary.

One such specimen was figured in HSN Oct. 1965 (page two). Unidentified, it was a deepwater shell dredged by the research vessel *Pele I*, operated by HMS's late benefactor Mrs. Mariel King. Recently, additional specimens of this shell have been dredged from 700 feet off the Keehi Lagoon entrance, Honolulu.

Two unidentified specimens figured in HSN Aug. 1978 and referred to there simply as Specimens 1 and 6 continue to puzzle me. Both have been synonymized with *Terebra funiculata* Hinds, a determination with which I do not agree.



## Shelling Is Alive and Well on Guam

By WESLEY THORSSON

Late last year I visited Guam for three weeks of shelling, diving and general malacological inquiry. It was my longest stop there since a busy tour of duty with the U.S. Coast Guard nearly 30 years ago, and it gave me a welcome opportunity to see what changes had taken place in the interval.

Perhaps the most welcome change was a striking reduction in the number of sharks sighted in Agana harbor and adjacent waters. The shell population seemed to be smaller, also.

A second difference is in the presence of two shell clubs on the island — both quite active. I was in contact with members (many also belong to the Hawaiian Malacological Society) and attended meetings of both.

Let me report first on the shelling scene. I'll come back to the clubs.

A substantial decrease in shell populations is apparent on Guam, as in Hawaii. The large, popular showy specimens (particularly the cones and cowries) have disappeared from shallow, accessible waters. Shells suitable for jewelry and ornaments — even the once-ubiquitous *Cypraea moneta* — are especially hard to find now.

One's initial reaction is to attribute this to over-collecting, as we routinely do in Hawaii. After more discussion and a few days of diving, I came to question this explanation, however. The more

obscure shells — the kind that live in coral or in deeper water and which interest few Guam collectors — have suffered a decline, also. I suspect that the island's molluscs are going through a natural cycle, or that they are caught up in some other chain of events.

Interestingly, the trend is not universal. Some other families of shells — the Terebridae, for example — seem to be holding their own.

In three weeks of daily (and sometimes nightly) shallow-water diving, Bob Purtymun of California and I identified 27 *Conus* species, 23 *Cypraea*, 27 species of Mitridae and Costellariidae, and 16 terebrids, plus a mess of miscellaneous specimens. That doesn't sound like molluscan genocide.

I couldn't help noting that *Cypraea mappa* were scarcer than five years ago. We found a few each day, including a dwarf specimen measuring less than two inches.

Among the cones, I lucked into one live and two dead *C. aureus* Hwass.

As I recalled from earlier times, there are many places to dive in and near Agana harbor. The existence of protecting jetties makes them available on most days, regardless of the weather. A number of protected areas behind the fringing reefs are also deep enough to warrant the use of scuba.

Definitely, Guam is a top shelling area — particularly if you have a host such as Norman Meese, a

fellow member of HMS and of the National Capital Shell Club in Washington.

Both the Guam Shell Club and the Reef Roamers meet on U.S. military bases and include a preponderance of service personnel.

I already was aware that Guam holds some extremely successful shell fairs, but I was amazed when I got details from the people who actually pull them off. Unlike Hawaii's, Guam's shell fairs depend heavily on the sale of shells and shell jewelry. Table sales are a big thing. What is most amazing is the profit from these functions. Recent fairs, I was told, cleared amounts ranging from \$7,000 to \$14,000.

The Guam clubs stock their fairs by going out and buying shells for resale. Members visit the Philippines, Taiwan, Palau and other sources, dealing directly with the wholesalers. Emphasis is on large "showy" shells, the kind that run \$50 and up in dealers' lists. Eventual sale prices are close to what mail-order dealers ask.

Proceeds support scholarship programs that have totalled between \$9,000 and \$10,000 in a single year.

### DO A FRIEND A FAVOR!

HMS Members: Nonmembers will receive a complimentary copy of *Hawaiian Shell News* (with a membership application) if you send the Corresponding Secretary their full name and address.