

Jumbo Augers from Midway

By ROGER SCHMELTZ

Midway Island's version of *Terebra thaunumi* Pilsbry, 1921, supposedly endemic to Hawaii, is rather unusual in both size and color. Consequently nearly one year passed before I could confirm its identification.

Of the specimens in my possession, the two largest measure 9.55 and 9.41cm. They were found in two meters of water half a mile north of Midway's old boat house — within 100 feet of each other, yet fourteen months apart. A third specimen (crabbed, however) measuring just under 9cm was found in the same area.

A third live specimen measuring 7.38cm was found by my wife, Elaine, beached on the south side of the main island. The operculum was intact.

In the figure, the smallest shell (included for comparison) is a typical Oahu (Hawaii) specimen in size and color.

Abbott and Wagner's *Standard Catalog of Shells* lists 6.06cm as the maximum on record, so the Midway specimens represent a substantial increase in size.

While en route back to the U.S. Mainland for a new assignment after a tour of duty on Midway Island in the North Pacific, HMS member Roger Schmeltz stopped in Honolulu long enough to add some names to his check list of Midway's molluscs (HSN Aug. 1978).

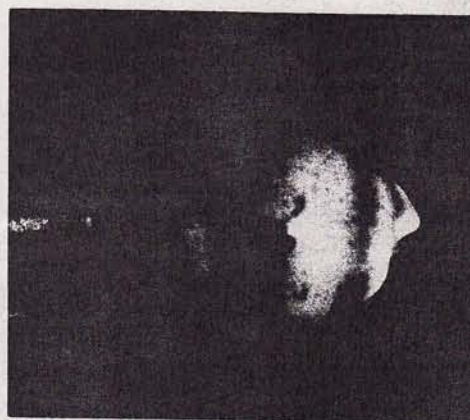
In addition to the twenty-some names that follow, Schmeltz reported that he had turned over a quantity of dredged material to Dr. E. Alison Kay of the University of Hawaii for identification. This may contribute another dozen or so species, he declared.

The definite additions follow. The asterisk (*) indicates that a single specimen was found. The # sign represents species dredged outside the Midway reef in 200 to 500 feet of water.

- Anadontia hawaiiensis* #
- **Conus aulicus* Linne
- C. miles* Linne
- C. omaria* Hwass
- C. tessellatus* Born #
- Cuspidaria hawaiiensis* D, B & R #
- Mitra waikikiensis* Pilsbry #
- Morula rugosa*
- Nassarius splendidulus* Dunker #
- Semivertagus nisioticus* #
- **Strombus gibbosus* Roding
- S. helli* Kiener #
- **S. otergaardi* (beach; fossil?)
- Terebra albula* (Münke)
- T. atrocostata* Hinds #
- T. babylonica* Lamarck
- T. chlorata* Lamarck
- T. thaunumi* Pilsbry #
- Dentalium* sp. #
- Xenophora* sp. #
- Epitonium* sp.

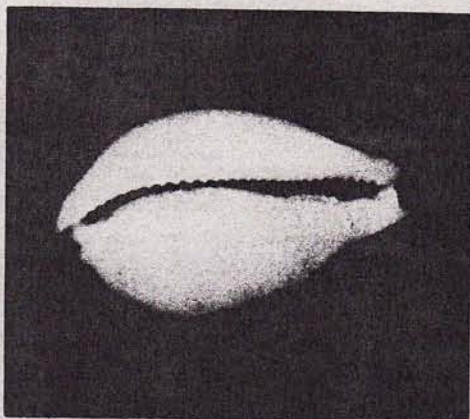
Cypraea queenslandica Making Appearance In Philippines Waters

HMS member Cid Derry of Fullerton, CA has sent two photos of a cowry from the Philippines which he believes to be a specimen of *Cypraea queenslandica* Schilder, 1966. Derry says he is well aware that many *cypraea* authorities consider *C. queenslandica* to be a



C. queenslandica Schilder approx. 1X.

Photo: Derry



synonym of *C. hirasei* Roberts, 1913 (HSN Dec. 1977). He feels, nevertheless, that the species is valid.

"Recently I received a specimen of *C. queenslandica* from Bohol, Philippines," he wrote. "This is surely a range extension and the first I have heard about."

"The cowry is a flawless gem, though slightly sub-adult. It is definitely not *C. hirasei* or *C. sakuraii*, even though it was sent to me as *C. sakuraii*. It is a little small for *C. queenslandica*, but still within the size range, being 51mm."

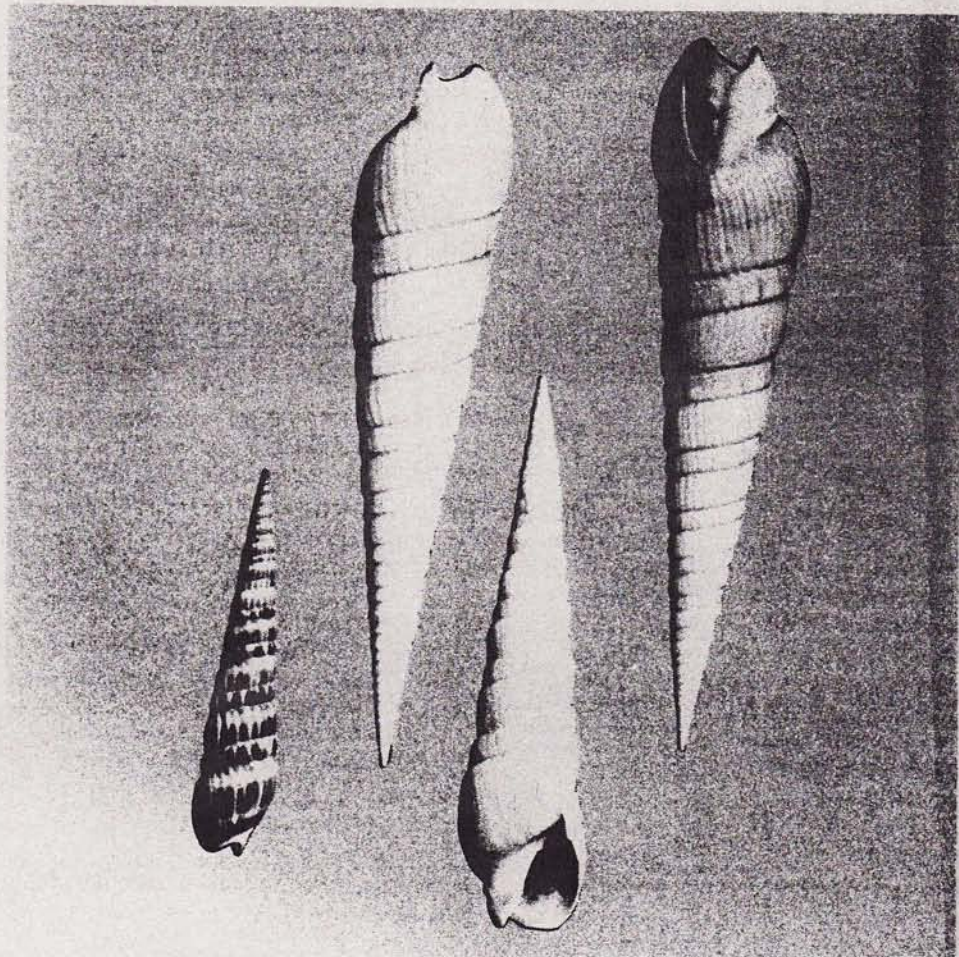
"The data received with it say '150 feet from bottom net off Bohol.'"

"The base and walls (both columellar and labial) are a faint to lemon yellow as *C. queenslandica* is supposed to be, not the stark white of *C. hirasei*. No pinkish color shows on the anterior or posterior terminals, and it is much more inflated than *C. hirasei*."

I have been informed that Victor Dan in Manila also has a gem specimen of what he regards as *C. queenslandica*. It, too, came from the Central Philippines.

Elmer G. Leehman

VOID RALBOJO MARIANA
Hirasei PHILIPPINA.!!



(Oahu)

T. thaunumi Pilsbry

(Midway)