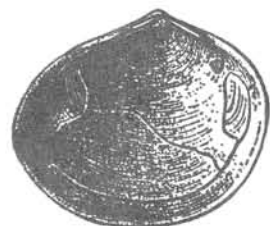




# *Caribbean*



# *Seashells*

**A guide to the Marine Mollusks of Puerto Rico and other West Indian Islands, Bermuda and the Lower Florida Keys**



by

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## Foreword

Since the appearance of *American Seashells* in 1954, it has become increasingly evident that a West Indian supplement was much needed to satisfy the growing interest in tropical American marine shells. No area within a few hours of the United States has attracted so many naturalists and shell collectors as has the Caribbean. Yet, no manual existed that could fulfill the need for ready identification of West Indian shells or serve as a shell-travellers' guide for the many thousands now venturing into the Antilles, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

Quite independently, the authors of this book sought to fill this need, and before long, joined forces to bring this handbook into being. The combination of effort could not have been more ideal — one of us was very familiar with molluscan habitats and local conditions in the field and had ready access to photographic facilities, while the other had study collections and a great conchological library at hand, as well as experience in guiding the production of a new book.

The emphasis in this book is, of course, on the marine mollusks of Puerto Rico, for the senior author has spent a large part of the last ten years in collecting and dredging in the vicinity of the Institute of Marine Biology at Mayagüez. Because Puerto Rico stands at the zoological crossroads of the West Indies, its fauna is a mixture of most of the elements of the tropical Western Atlantic — hence, this is as much a book about Caribbean shells as it is a near-complete census of the marine mollusks of Puerto Rico.



Spire with 4 or 5 spiral threads on each whorl, which are crossed by fine growth lines. Appears to be reasonably common on Mona Island (40 miles west of Puerto Rico). M. McDowell secured a beautiful live specimen from the reefs there, and we have received at least 20 beach-worn specimens from that same locality.

*Conus granulatus* Linné, 1758

Glory of the Atlantic Cone  
Plate 24 g

Southeast Florida and the West Indies.

1 to 1¾ inches in length, solid and fairly slender. Color pinkish white to orange-red or bright-red, flecked with brown, especially in the mid area of the body whorl and on the spire. Top of whorls rounded and with many fine spiral and axial threads. Sculpture consists of numerous, coarse spiral threads and fine axial lines. Several persons have reported finding fresh specimens on Mona Island, and beach-worn specimens are not uncommon there. It is a rare species in Puerto Rico.

Family TEREBRIDAE

GENUS *Terebra* Bruguière, 1789

*Terebra taurinus* Solander, 1786

Flame Auger  
Plate 3 i

Southeast Florida and the West Indies.

4 to 6 inches in length, elongate and slender. Color cream overlaid with axial reddish brown flames. Upper whorls axially ribbed and commonly lacking color. Each whorl is divided in 2 parts. The upper part is about 2/3 the length of the whorl; it is swollen and inscribed with a single incised line. This shell has been found living in about 35 feet of water. Animal colored yellow. *T. flammea* Lamarck is this species. Common on the northwest coast of Puerto Rico.

*Terebra hastata* Gmelin, 1791

Shiny Atlantic Auger  
Plate 25 a

Southeast Florida and the West Indies.

1¼ to 1½ inches in length. Color bright-yellow or light-brown with a white band below the suture. Sculptured with axial ribs which extend from suture to suture; there is no spiral sculpture. Obtained from shallow dredgings. Specimens are sometimes thrown up on the beaches in Puerto Rico.

*Terebra dislocata* Say, 1822

Atlantic Auger  
Plate 25 d

Southeastern U. S., Texas and the West Indies.

1½ to 2 inches in length, slender. Color grayish or yellowish orange. Sculptured with about 25 axial ribs per whorl. These are divided 1/3 to

1/2 their length by a deep, impressed, spiral line. There are spiral cords between the ribs. Uncommon in Puerto Rico but abundant in Florida.

*Terebra cinerea* Born, 1778

Gray Auger  
Plate 25 b

Southeast Florida and the West Indies.

1 to 2 inches in length. Color cream or light bluish brown. Sculptured with many (40 to 50 per whorl) small axial riblets which are prominent near the suture, but do not extend more than 1/3 to 1/2 way down the whorl. Surface covered with microscopic punctations. Apex sharp, pointed and white. Operculum light-brown, horny. A common shallow-water species.

*Terebra salleana* Deshayes, 1859

Sallé's Auger

North Florida to Texas and Colombia.

1 to 2 inches in length. Similar to *T. cinerea* but dark bluish gray to chocolate-brown in color, and with a dark blunt apex. Reasonably common in shallow water. This may be only a form of *T. cinerea*.

*Terebra juanica* Dall and Simpson, 1901

San Juan Auger  
Plate 29 r

Puerto Rico.

Less than 1/4 inch. Color brown with a paler band just below the suture. Highly polished. Sculptured with rather strong axial ribs which run from suture to suture. Rare. Dall and Simpson reported and described this beautiful little *Terebra* from San Juan, Puerto Rico. We have found only 2 specimens in drift sand at Arecibo.

*Terebra protexta* Conrad, 1845

Fine-ribbed Auger  
Plate 25 c

North Carolina to Texas, and the West Indies.

Shell 3/4 to 1 inch in length, with 13 to 15 whorls. Color tan to brown. Sculptured with 16 to 22 fine axial ribs which run from suture to suture; these are crossed by 7 to 9 weak spiral lines. The uppermost line is about 1/4 the way down the whorl. Common from shallow dredgings.

*Terebra nassula* Dall, 1889

Puerto Rico.

Reported from Mayagüez, Vieques, and Culebra by Dall and Simpson.

*Terebra limatula* var. *acrior* Dall, 1889

Plate 29 n

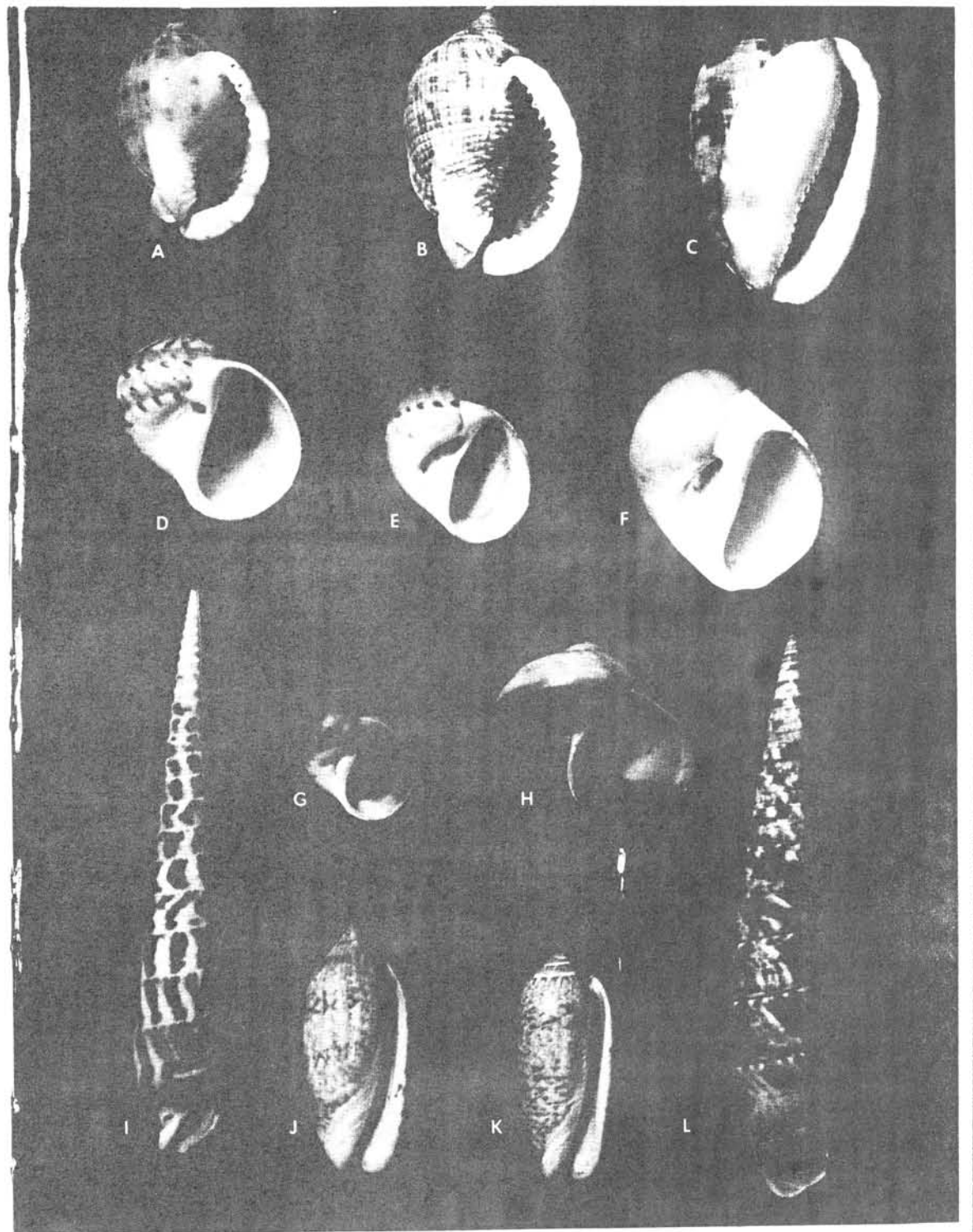
Puerto Rico.

Reported from Mayagüez by Dall and Simpson.

PLATE 3

SCOTCH BONNETS, MOONS, AUGERS AND OLIVES

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- b. SCOTCH BONNET, *Phalium granulatum* Born, 1½ to 4 inches, p. 98.
- c. RETICULATED COWRIE-HELMET, *Cypracassis testiculus* Linné, 1 to 3 inches, p. 99.
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SCOTCH BONNETS, MOONS, AUGERS AND OLIVES

Plate 25

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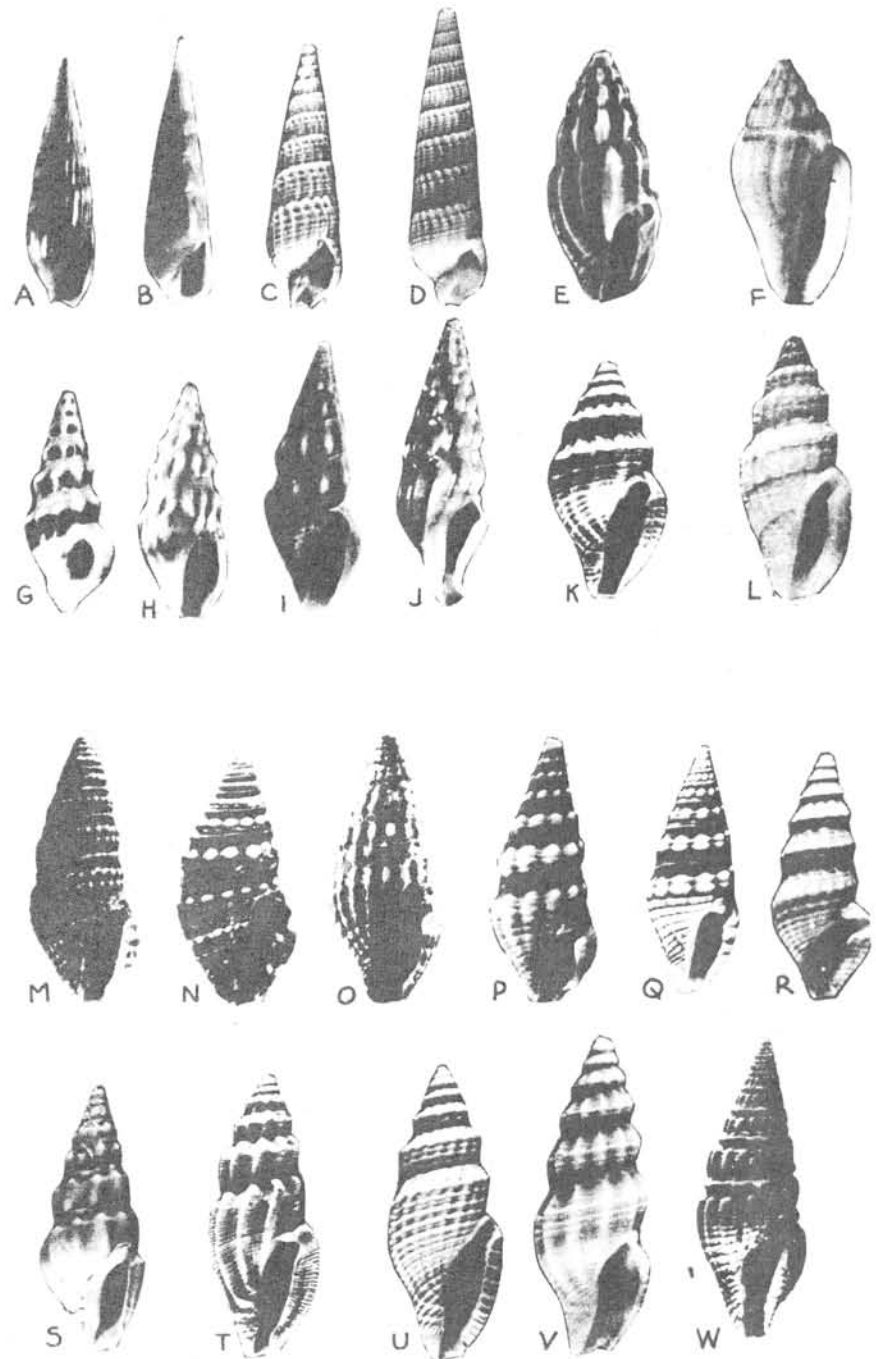


Plate 29

- a. INSULAR GOULD CLAM, *Gouldia insularis* Dall and Simpson,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, p. 189.
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