A New Species of *Terebra* from the Moçambique Channel

BY

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(1 Plate)

A SPECIES OF *Terebra*, which has not been described previously, was received from Moçambique. The specimens were obtained through a supplier in the village of Mossuril, Moçambique, who got them from native fishermen. They were trawled in the Moçambique channel, where the fauna is semi-tropical and tropical from the influence of the southward flowing Moçambique Current. A strong Indo-Pacific component is present in this area, but as the present species has little resemblance to any previously described species, it may be that it is endemic to the Moçambique Channel.

With the advent of SCUBA diving and fishermen extending their operational range for trawling, this area may soon produce more taxa to be added to the faunal record.

Terebra ***lillianae*** Whitney, spec. nov.

(Figures *1* to *4*)

Description: Size medium; color shiny white with butterscotch brown banding on the anterior ⅓ of whorls; whorls slightly convex with convex white double subsutural bands marked by impressed suture and deep subsutural grooves forming the 2 subsutural bands; nucleus of 1½ dome-shaped glassy whorls; first postnuclear whorl translucent with almost straight ribs about equal to interspaces forming slight nodes toward the apical end and no noticeable subsutural band or spiral sculpture; in next 6 whorls axial ribs much wider than interspaces, forming rounded nodes with double subsutural band dividing whorls into approximate thirds; in next 7 whorls ribs become progressively wider spaced, with one inconspicuous spiral groove on anterior portion of whorl crossing ribs; subsutural bands now have a pronounced nodular appearance; ribs axially join lower subsutural band by elongated rib extension; penultimate whorl with weak spiral cords and axial ribs numbering 20, becoming more nodose on subsutural bands than on anterior portion of whorl; body whorl of medium length with butterscotch brown stripe and divided by spiral groove at periphery; anterior to periphery spiral grooves continue to cross axial ribs with somewhat cancellate appearance; aperture semi-quadrate; outer lip sturdy, white within; with 2 brown bands showing through from outside markings; columella white, twisted, broad, with 2 extremely weak plications; anterior canal broad, very twisted; length 42.2 mm; diameter 9.1 mm; 16 whorls plus nucleus.

Holotype: Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Type Collection No. 1724

Type Locality: The holotype and 2 paratypes were collected during 1974 off Mossuril, Moçambique, 14°55′S latitude, 40°41′E longitude.

Paratypes: One paratype, length 41.8 mm, width 8.0 mm in the R. A. Whitney collection, no. 66; the second paratype, length 41.0 mm, width 8.0 mm, is in the Douglas and Sherry Welker collection no. 2, in Decatur, Illinois.

Largest Specimen Examined: The holotype.

Discussion: This species shows little variation among the specimens examined. It has a striking and consistent pattern in both sculpture and coloration. The sculpture is extremely nodose on the 2 subsutural bands, only slightly less so on the anterior portion of the whorl, giving the shell a file-like appearance. The 2 subsutural bands are shiny white with the butterscotch brown color of the whorls slightly impinging on the subsutural band. The main difference exists in the number of spiral grooves on the anterior portion of early whorls. Among the specimens examined, the spiral grooves vary in number from 1 to 4.

Terebra ***lillianae*** has little resemblance to other species of *Terebra*; however, some superficial resemblance to other species should be considered in making identifications. The Japanese species, *T. torquata* Adams & Reeve, 1850, has the nodular appearance on the 2 subsutural

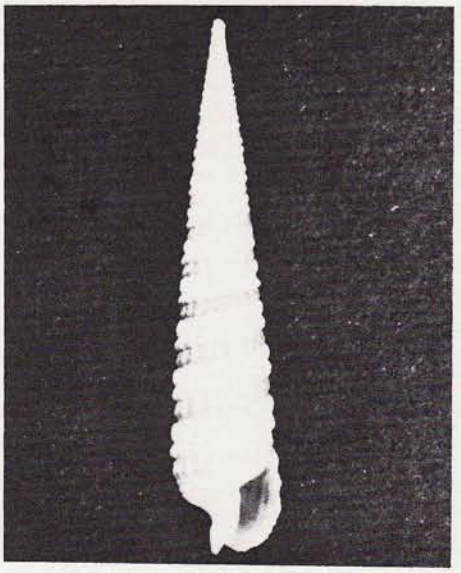

Figure 1

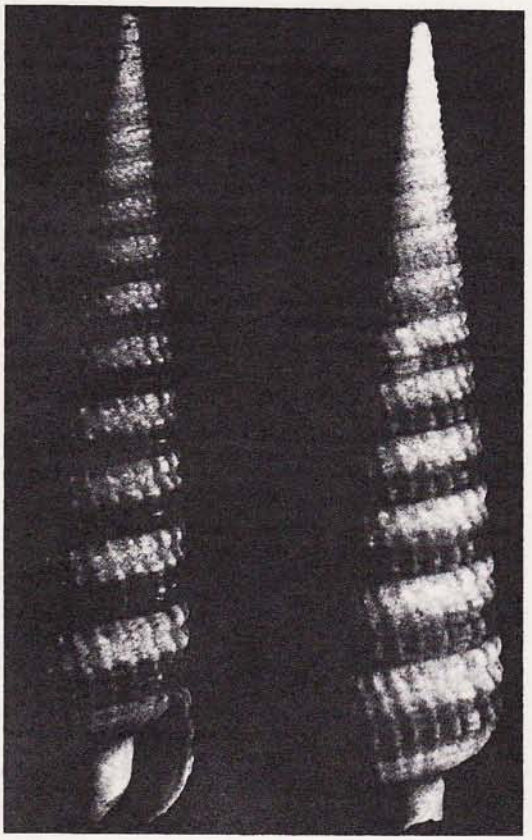

Figure 2

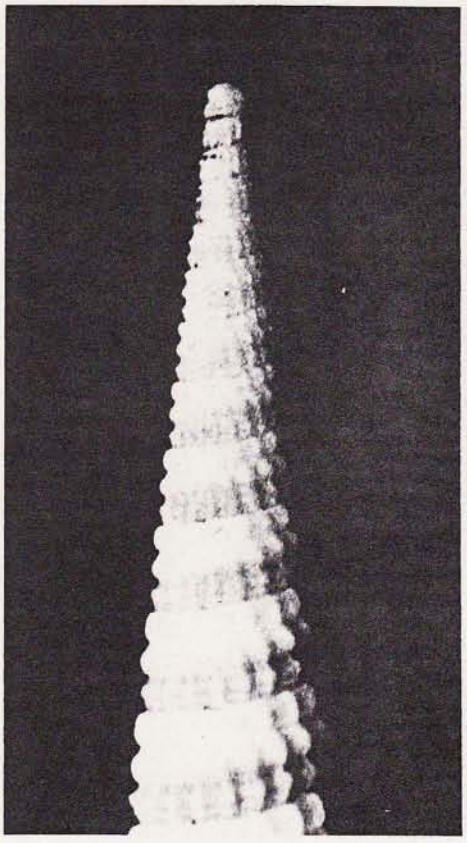

Figure 3

Figure 4

bands, but the anterior portion of whorls is crossed with spiral cords, giving a cancellate appearance, whereas in *T. **lillianae*** the anterior portion of whorls is quite nodose. *Terebra cracilenta* Li, 1930, is quite nodose, but has only one subsutural band, and is a uniform pale flesh color, whereas *T. **lillianae*** has 2 subsutural bands and is a striking striped bicolor. *Terebra hancocki* Bratcher & Burch, 1970, might also be compared, although this species is consistently broader and the coloration is a shiny pale beige with irregular blotches of reddish brown.

The new species is named in honor of Mrs. Lillian Whitney of Decatur, Illinois, in appreciation for her encouragement of, and assistance in, the author's study of Terebridae.

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Explanation of Figures *1* to *4*

*Terebra **lillianae*** Whitney, spec. nov.

Figure *1*: Holotype, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History type no. 1724

Figure *2*: Paratypes; Whitney specimen on left. Welker specimen on right × 2.6

Figure *3*: Enlargement of protoconch and early whorls, Paratype in Whitney Collection × 5

Figure *4*: Enlargement of Aperture of Holotype × 5.5