

167. *Terebra benthalis* Dall, 1889

(Pl. 43, figs. 167a,b;  
pl. 44, figs. 167c,d)

1889 *Terebra (Acus?) benthalis* Dall, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard 18(2):65, pl. 29, fig. 6.

1889 *Terebra benthalis* Dall, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. 37:94, pl. 29, fig. 6.

1890, *Terebra (Acus) benthalis* var. *nodata* Dall, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 12(733):299, pl. 5, fig. 9.

1974 *Terebra (Fusoterebra* Sacco, 1891) *benthalis* Dall, Abbott, American Seashells, ed. 2:261, fig. 2856.

**Description:** Shell to 27 mm; color yellowish white to pale brown; outline of early whorls elongate, later ones moderately convex; protoconch 1½ whorls; subsutural groove absent on early whorls, shallow groove developing later; axial ribs weak, rising to a sharp node in middle of early whorls, moving to immediately anterior to groove from center of whorl, becoming progressively less sharp, in some individuals fading completely. Microscopic spiral grooves developing; aperture elongate; columella curved.

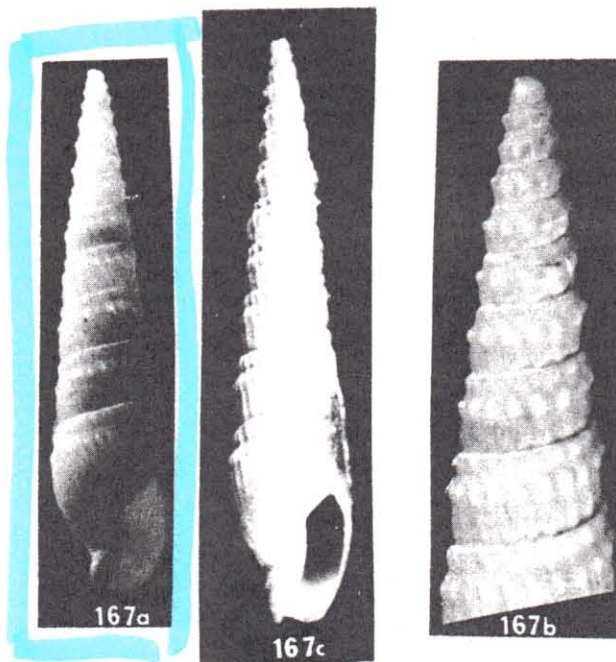
**Type locality:** *T. benthalis*, "Off Morro Light, Havana, Cuba, 100 to 400 fms;" *T. benthalis* var. *nodata*, "St. 2750, off St. Bartholomew, West Indies, 496 fms., bottom temp. 44° F."

**Distribution:** From Cuba and the Florida Straits to St. Bartholomew, West Indies; 200 to 992 m.

**Type:** *T. benthalis* holotype MCZ no. 7011, 21.0 × 5.9 mm; *T. benthalis* var. *nodata* holotype USNM no. 97099, 17.4 × 4.4 mm.

**Discussion:** There is no other Atlantic species with which this could be confused. Evidently Dall named the var. *nodata* from a very young specimen, as the younger and smaller the specimen, the more it resembles the *nodata* form.

B-167-6148



167a,b, *T. benthalis* Dall. 167a, **Holotype** Museum Comparative Zoology, Harvard No. 7011; 21.0 mm. 167b, Upper whorls.

FIGS. 167c,d, *Terebra benthalis* Dall. 167c, Paratype National Museum Natural History, Washington No. USNM-87226; 26.9 mm.

2856 *Terebra (Fusoterebra Sacco, 1891) benthalis* Dall, 1899  
 Florida Strait, 100 to 400 fms.

TA. ASS. 74 p 261

BENTHALIS (2)  
 DALL 1889

(V) (167)



2856

rayish; to approx.  
 8 mm. Offshore in deep  
 water. Specimen illus-  
 trated is the holotype.  
 USNM 87226)

*Terebra benthalis* Dall  
 FLORIDA STRAIT S.K.

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DOES NOT LOOK  
 LIKE THE SPECIMEN  
 ILLUSTRATED IN  
 B&C 81 (page 11)



T. BENTHALIS  
 DALL 1889 - U.S. NAT. MUS BULL 37

3 WHORLS FLAT OR CONVEX  
 6 SHELL SMALL, ACUTE, ELEVATE, COLUMELLA NOT WELLED.

Larger; early whorls with one row of pointed nodules, later whorls with a double row of crowded narrower ones in front of the suture separated by a depression; surface wholly finely spirally striate with (30-32) crowded narrow straight costae passing clear over the whorls on to the base; pale brown. Lon. 21.0, lat. 4.5 mm., whorls 12. *Acus benthalis* Dall. DALL 1889 p 64

*Terebra (Acus?) benthalis* DALL.

Plate XXIX. Fig. 6.

Shell pale brown, fading to white near the apex, slender, acute, twelve-whorled; nucleus swollen, glassy, white, smooth, of a whorl and a half; succeeding whorls with a peripheral row of pointed tubercles, behind which the whorl is smoothed off to the suture, while in front a rib proceeds from each tubercle to the next suture. These are gradually modified from whorl to whorl, by the increase in the number of ribs and their being crowded, and their prolongation backward to the suture where they end in a second fainter tubercle; on the last whorl the tubercles have become little more than faint swellings on parallel crowded riblets, which seem to have been ligatured between the two rows. The whole surface is finely spirally striate, the base is rounded; the canal short and much twisted, the mouth narrow, elongated, and without callus. Max. lon. of shell, 21.0; of last whorl, 8.2; max. lat. of shell, 4.5 mm.

Habitat. Off Morro Light, Havana, in 100 to 400 fms.

This shell has a deep-water aspect, and though the soft parts were not obtained I have no doubt it lived at the depth from which it was dredged.

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6. *Terebra (Acus) benthalis* Dall; 21.0. Page 65.

