

by TWILA BRATCHER

Terebra commaculata (Gmelin, 1791) is one of a confusing group of long slender *Terebra* with brown markings. Most of them have double subsutural bands and more or less cancellate sculpture. Most of them are rare. This article is an effort to straighten out this complex for *Terebra* collectors.

An example of the general confusion surrounding the *Terebra* was the response to a picture appearing in the October 1972 issue of *Hawaiian Shell News*, with a request for help in identification. The shell, a *Terebra*, had been trawled in about 100 feet of water in Tayabas, Philippines.

I responded, identifying the species as *T. fujitai* Kuroda & Habe, 1925; someone identified it as *T. pretiosa* Reeve, 1849. Obviously, the confusion needed to be straightened out, but I procrastinated until Franz Steiner sent me a collection of *Terebra* trawled off Madras, India including specimens of *T. commaculata*.

Here are the facts on this confusing group:

Terebra fujitai Kuroda & Habe, 1925 could easily be confused with *T. pretiosa*. The color markings are similar, and only by careful examination can one see the differences. The greatest difference is that *T. fujitai* has one broad subsutural band with the ends of the axial ribs swollen just beneath the band but not cut through by a spiral groove. *T. pretiosa* has a double subsutural band, the posterior being broader and more pronounced.

T. fujitai is more turreted, regularly stepped and less flat in outline. The sculpture consists of strong, quite regular axial ribs about the same width as the interspaces. The numerous spiral cords rarely cross the ribs, so the sculpture does not look cancellate. The sculpture of *T. pretiosa* cuts the ribs more and therefore looks more cancellate.

T. fujitai Kuroda & Habe, 1925. Turreted outline, sculpture not cancellate, strong axial ribs weakly spirally sculptured, single broad subsutural band.

HSN, APR 73



TEREBRA FUJITAI
(Kuroda & Habe,
1925) 140 mm.
Cebu, Philippines
In aqua profunda

AUBREY PPS

14. フジタギリガイ



14

Myurella fujitai Habe & Okutani

OKUTANI 85

[Wakayama Pref., Japan]

FUJITAI (1)

KURODA & HABA (1925)

(= PRETIOSA)

(43)

fujitai Kuroda and Habe sp. nov. P:33-35
for *Terebra pretiosa* Reeve (pars), 1860,
Conch. Icon. f. 30 b. (1196)

43b, Type-figure of

T. fujitai Kuroda & Habe, from Reeve, 1860, pl.8,

BRAT 87



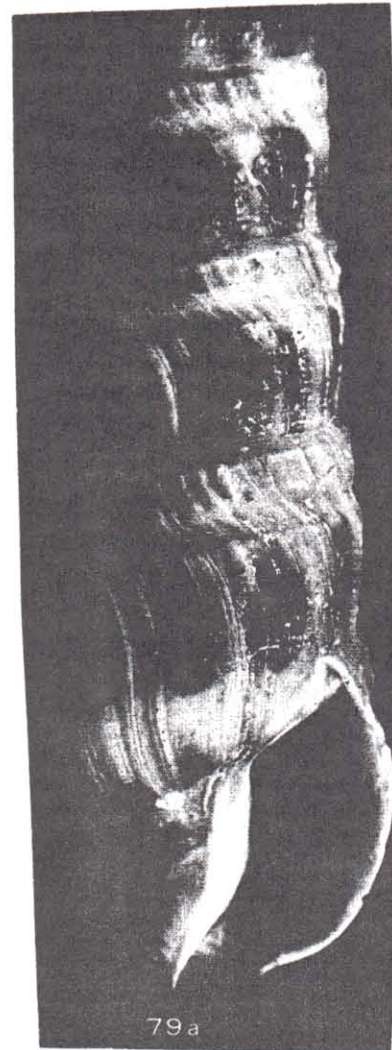
43b



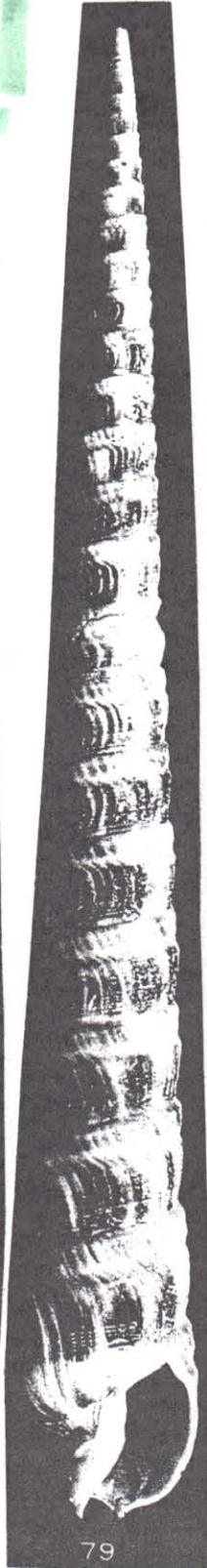
20

EIS 81

20. TEREBRA FUJITAI Kuroda & Habe.
Tai.-Japan, ca.90-110-115-130mm. VS. EIS 81



79a



79

79 Myurella fujitai Kuroda and Habe, 1925

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This is an elongated shell with about 28 volutions of teleoconch in whitish yellow color, each whorl has irregular squarish brown blotches and distinct axial ribs, there are about 10 weaker spiral threads interstitially not overlapping the ribs and striae under sutures. The aperture is small and narrow.

Mostly dead collected by coral boats in imperfect condition, size up to 150mm.

NE off Taiwan.

135.6mm

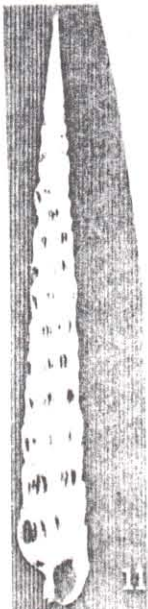
T.C. LAN 1980 f. 144

FUJITAI (2)

KURODA & HABE 1952

= PRETIOSA

(43)



Terebra fujitai Kuroda and Habe, 1952 (pl. 11, f. 11)

- 1952 *Terebra fujitai* Kuroda and Habe. Check List Bibliog. Rec. Mar. Moll. Jap., p. 89.
1960 *Terebra (Myurella) fujitai*: Azuma, Cat. Shell-bearing Moll. Tosa, p. 57, sp. 1067.
1963 *Terebra (Myurella) fujitai*: Shikama and Horikoshi, Select. Shells World, 1: 126, pl. 102, f. 9.
1965 *Terebra (Myurella) fujitai*: Nakayama, Cat. Moll. Tosa (Kochi), p. 63, sp. 1491.
1979 *Myurella fujitai*: Lan, Rare Shell Taiwan Col., p. 83, sp. 79.
1979 *Myurella fujitai*: Matsumoto, Moll. Shells Mie Pref., p. 69, sp. 1203.

Hitherto known localities: Sagami Bay~Kii Peninsula~Tosa Bay, Japan; East China Sea.

The present material, measured 128.1 × 15.9 mm, was collected at Chibishi Point, Okinawa Main Island at about 35 m deep. **KOSUGE 1985** BULL. INST. Zool. Toku 40 2(1) p. 27