

Terebra poppei sp. nov.
(figs f-j)

Type material:

Holotype: MNHN. 24.8 x 4 mm. Trawled at 240 m. Aliguay, Philippines.

Paratypes: **Paratype 1:** KBIN. IG n° 30020. 25.0 x 4.0 mm. Trawled at 240 m. Aliguay, Philippines. **Paratype 2 & 3:** GTP. 24.3-25.2 x 4.2-4.5 mm. Trawled 130 m. Davao Bay, Philippines. **Paratype 4:** YT. 27.8 x 4.1 mm. Trawled at 130 m. Davao Bay, Philippines. **Paratypes 5-26:** Dredged at 40 m. Hansa Bay, Papua New Guinea. **Paratype 5 & 6:** KBIN. IG n° 30020. 24.5-27.2 x 4.8-4.2 mm. **Paratype 7-11:** YT. 15.0-28.7 x 3.0-4.4 mm. **Paratype 12:** FRD. 24.4 x 4.0 mm. **Paratype 13-15:** MNHN. 14.5-16.5 x 3.0-3.2 mm. **Paratype 16:** NHM. Reg.No. 20030528. 14.7 x 3.0 mm. **Paratype 17:** NHMLAC. 15.1 x 3.0 mm. **Paratype 18:** ANSP. 13.8 x 2.8 mm. **Paratype 19:** NSMT. 14.2 x 3.1 mm. **Paratype 20:** AMS C.205269. 14.4 x 3.3 mm. **Paratype 21:** NMNH. 26.5 x 4.3 mm. **Paratype 22:** WAM. 19.1 x 3.6 mm. **Paratype 23:** PLC. 22.8 x 4.0 mm. **Paratype 24:** ZSM. 17.0 x 3.1 mm. **Paratype 25:** JC. 23.1 x 3.9 mm. **Paratype 26:** BA. 15.7 x 3.1 mm. **Paratype 27-31:** Dredged off Digos at 200-400 m. Davao del Sur, Davao, Philippines. **Paratype 27-30:** FRD : 17.3-24.7 x 3.3-4.2 mm. **Paratype 31 :** YT. 21.7 x 3.1 mm.

Other material studied:

FRD: 1 spm. Trawled at 100-200 m. Magellan Bay, Cebu, Mactan Island, Philippines.

FRD: 3 spms. Dredged off Digos at 200-400 m. Davao del Sur, Davao, Philippines.

KBIN: I.G. n° 26132, 18 spms. Dredged at 35 m. Hansa Bay, Papua New Guinea.

Type Locality: 240 m deep. Aliguay, Philippines.

Description: Shell light, small and slender, up to about 28 mm in length. Colour white to light yellowish brown with a darker, brown spiral band covering a sixth of the total width of a body whorl. Occasionally, a secondary brown spiral band is found

in specimens that have a yellowish base colour. Protoconch consists of 2-3 whorls, conical, translucent, colour white to yellowish white.

Outline of whorls slightly convex, measure of which is constant with number of whorls.

Axial sculpture consists of ribs, 14-16 in number, measured on the penultimate whorl of holotype and paratype 1-2.

Spiral sculpture of the body whorl consists of 18-20, irregular in width, irregularly spaced, ribs. The ribs on the upper body whorl are in general closer set than those on the bottom body whorl. On the lower third of the body whorl, the spiral ribbing tends to alternate in thickness.

Aperture elongate, outer lip thin with axial and spiral sculpture pattern showing through, columella curved, parietal callus slightly developed in some specimens.

Habitat: The specimens were retrieved from a sand/mud bottom. Bathymetrical range of about 100-250 m in the Philippines and already found alive at 40 m at Hansa Bay, N of Papua New Guinea.

Distribution: Only known from the south of the Philippines and the north of Papua New Guinea.

Derivatio nominis: *Terebra poppei* sp. nov. is named in honour of Guido T. Poppe, a famous conchologist, with an unmeasured love for shells and whose many travels around the world keep on revealing wonders of the sea.

Remarks: It appears that the material originating from Papua New Guinea was collected at relatively shallow depths (up to 80 m) while the Philippine population was retrieved at depths of 100-240 m. This is probably due to the difference in sampling/fishing techniques in both areas. The commercial shell-fisheries in the Philippines are known to use tangle nets and trawls starting from a depth of around 100 m. While the sampling in Papua New Guinea was mainly focused on trawls or dredges at depths ranging from 30-80 m. It is highly probable that in both areas the bathymetrical range is continuous from 30 m to 240 m or deeper.

Although both species have yet only been recorded from two localities i.e. the southern Philippines and north-eastern Papua New Guinea, it is most likely that the distribution area is continuous and more expanded as in most Indo-Pacific Terebridae Both are uncommon and seem to coexist.

The pattern of *T. dedonderi* sp. nov. tends to diminish in large specimens (20-25 mm). Large specimens seem to lack the secondary brown spiral band on the last and penultimate whorl but is still visible in earlier whorls and is most often covering the whole first body whorls of the teleoconch.

Internal characteristics such as radula and operculum could unfortunately not be studied because all the material provided to me at this moment are dried or cleaned specimens, with either the animal removed or completely retracted.

There is no doubt that these species belong to the genus *Terebra* Bruguière, 1789 but their subspecific status has been left unrecorded as the revision of the systematics of Terebridae is an ongoing study in its initial stages.

Discussion: The first specimens that I studied of both species were juveniles and at that stage they are easily confused with one another and with juveniles of other species, it is only after closer observation of the microstructure, that one can distinguish both species due to their difference in sculpture.

T. poppei sp. nov. can easily be distinguished from *T. dedonderi* sp. nov. by its straighter outline and lack of subsutural groove. Furthermore *T. poppei* sp. nov. lacks in most cases the secondary brown spiral band often found in *T. dedonderi* sp. nov. and by its much shorter protoconch.

T. dedonderi sp. nov. can easily be distinguished from its closest relative *T. fuscotae-niata* Thiele, 1925 by its more convex whorls, specific sculpture and more numerous axial ribs.

T. poppei sp. nov. differs from its closest relatives, *T. polygyrata* Deshayes, 1859 and *T. textilis* Hinds, 1844, by its lack of a subsutural groove, its less broad outline and protoconch. The protoconch of *T. polygyrata* Deshayes, 1859 is dome-shaped and bulbous and consists of only 1.5 whorls. The protoconch of *T. textilis* Hinds, 1844 is similar in shape of that of *T. poppei* sp. nov. but can be unmistakably differentiated from *T. textilis* Hinds, 1844 by its lack of a subsutural groove.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Guido T. Poppe, Belgium, and Fernand De Donder, Belgium, for bringing these species to my attention and for giving me the opportunity to study their material. I would also like to express my gratitude towards Dr. J.L. Van Goethem, KBIN, for giving me access to the material retrieved from Papua New Guinea and for critically re-reading this manuscript. I would like to thank Dr. Philippe Bouchet, MNHN, for critically re-reading this manuscript and for the

unlimited access to the Terebridae-types and -collection of the MNHN. Thanks also to Kathy Way and Amelia McLellan, both NHM, for offering me the opportunity to study some types as comparative material. I would also like to thank my good friend Bruno Anseeuw, Belgium, for his continuous support and aid, without which it would be impossible for me to study this family of shells.

Selected references:

- Abbott, R. T., 1952. A New *Terebra* from the Philippines. *Nautilus*, 65(3): 77-80.
 Bratcher, T., 1981. Four previously undescribed Indo-Pacific terebrids (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *The Veliger*, 23(4): 329-332.
 Bratcher, T. & Cernohorsky W.O., 1982. Six new species of Indo-Pacific *Terebridae* (Gastropoda). *Nautilus*, 96(2): 61-66.
 Burch, R.D., 1964. Notes on the *Terebridae* of the Philippine Islands. *The Veliger*, 6(4): 210-218.
 Cernohorsky, W.O. & Bratcher T., 1987. *Living Terebras of the World*. Madison Publishing Associates, New York, NY, USA. 240 pp. And references therein.
 Cernohorsky, W. O. & Jennings A., 1966. The *Terebridae* of Fiji (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *Veliger*, 9(1): 37-67.
 Hinton, A., 1972. *Shells of New Guinea and the central Indo-Pacific*. R. Brown and Associates Pty. Ltd., Port Moresby, 94 pp.

