

Buccinum murinum

1758, Systema naturae, ed. 10, p. 742, no. 421.
1767, Systema naturae, ed. 12, p. 1206, no. 488.
LOCALITY: "Ad Africam" (1758, 1767).

"B. testa turrata, anfractibus subangulatis, striis tribus muricatis . . . Testa nigra, basi gibba, anfractibus saepe basi alba."

This species must be left as undetermined. The synonymy consists of a single figure (Gualtieri, pl. 57, fig. P) which does not at all conform to the characters described. The description is, in fact, longer than most of the others in this group, but it is not possible to tie its details to any known *Terebra*, or to any other species.

Hanley (1855, pp. 263-264) described the Gualtieri drawing as showing "a livid and cancellated *Terebra*-like shell," a fairly accurate description, although the figure does not suggest any *Terebra* known to me. It does not, for instance, show the characteristic *Terebra* base. In any case it is not the *murinum* of the description, as the whorls shown are not angulated or provided with the three "striis muricatis" noted by Linnaeus.

There is evidence in Linnaeus' notes in his copy of the twelfth edition that he had intended to move the species to *Strombus* in his proposed "revised" edition, which suggested to Hanley that it might be a *Cerithium*, although there is only one species of *Cerithium* in *Strombus* Linné.

The name *murinum* was on Linnaeus' tenth-edition list of owned species, but not in his twelfth-edition list, which possibly indicates that he had lost his specimen or that he had based his description on a borrowed shell or on a description furnished by a colleague.

Hanley suggested that, of all the specimens in the collection, the only one that resembled the description of *murinum* was a specimen of *Cerithium granulatum* Bruguière, 1792, a shell that has a triple row of tubercles. This would be a reasonable suggestion if it were not for the fact that Linnaeus probably did not own the type of *murinum* at the time of his death, as it had been omitted from his last list, and the specimen of *C. granulatum* may have been added later, as we know that some additions to the collection were made while it was in the possession of Sir James Smith. Moreover, the specimen does not answer to the coloring mentioned in the subdescription of *murinum*. Hanley concluded that, while the identity of *murinum* with *C. granulatum* "is not so improbable," it could not be proved.

Tryon (1879-1888, vol. 7, p. 39) suggested that the shell might be a *Triton*, but on what reasoning I do not know.

While most of the earlier post-Linnaean writers merely copied Linnaeus' description and synonymy, P. L. S. Müller (1773-1776, vol. 6, p. 473) gave a more expanded description: "Here the whorls are somewhat angular and the shell has three spiny ribs [dornige Striche]. It is black and the aperture expanded, and often the lower part of the whorl is white." It is readily seen that this is a mere paraphrase of the Linnaean description, and I question whether Müller had ever seen the shell he described.

The name has been dropped from the literature and is very properly regarded as standing for an undetermined species.

DODGE 1916

N. D. O. S.

MURINUM
Bosc 1801 ← LINNÉ 1758

Buccinum murinum, Linn. Syst. Nat. ed. 12. p. 1206.

Espèce Linnéenne douteuse fondée sur une figure très-incorrecte de Gualtieri (pl. 57. f. P.). La description est tellement brève qu'elle ne peut suppléer à l'insuffisance de la figure. M. Hanley n'ayant pas trouvé l'espèce dans la propre collection de Linné n'a pu faire cesser le doute à son égard.

DÉS H 1859 p 319

murinum, 139. B. spirae anfractibus subangulatis; striis tribus muricatis. Gualt. test. t. 57. f. P.

Habitat ad Africam, testa nigra basi gibba, anfractibus saepe basi albis.

GML 1751 p 3502

There still remain to notice the following species, which were referred by the old authors to that section of *Buccinum* which is now regarded as synonymous with *Terebra*, but which there is much difficulty and doubt in referring to any shells at the present time in our collections:—*Buccinum murinum*, Linn.; *B. acus*, Chemnitz; *B. hecticum*, Gmelin; *B. bifasciatum*, Petiver; *B. concinnum*, Gualtier; *B. succinctum*, Chemnitz; *B. geminum*, Linn.; *B. proximum*, Linn.; *B. monile*, Linn.; *B. sinuatum*, Linn.; and *B. phallus*, Chemnitz, is since known as *Pleurotoma buccinoides*.

HMS 444 p 168

murinu. 421. B. testa turrata, anfractibus subangulatis, striis tribus muricatis.

Gualt. test. t. 57. f. P.

LIN 1758 p 742

Habitat ad Africam.

Testa nigra basi gibba, anfractibus saepe basi albis.

murinum. 488. B. testa turrata, anfractibus subangulatis, striis tribus muricatis.

Gualt. test. t. 57. f. P.

Habitat ad Africam.

Testa nigra, basi gibba, anfractibus saepe basi albis.

LINNE 1767 p 1206

Murinum (Buccinum), Linn. Syst. Nat., ed. 12, p. 1206.

Undetermined, 39

TR 405 1925

MURINUM. 151. Shell turreted; whorls somewhat angular, with three muricated striae.

Buccinum murinum. Linnaeus Syst. Nat. p. 1206. Schroeter Einl. i. p. 356. Gmelin, p. 3502.

Gualter, t. 57. f. P.

Inhabits Africa. Linnaeus.

Linnaeus, to the above specific character and reference to Gualter, has only added that the shell is black, gibbous at the base, and the whorls often white at the base. Gualter's figure is about an inch and a half long, and one fifth as broad, and I cannot find that the species has been ascertained by any subsequent author.

DICW. 1817 p 660

NOT IN B&C 87

Vis murine, *Terebra murina*.
Les tours despire un peu anguleux; trois stries épineuses.
Buccinum muricatum. Linn. — Gualt.
Test. tab. 57. fig. P.
Se trouve dans les mers d'Asie.
Gmelin 1768 p 16