CHICOREUS (NAQUETIA) TRIQUITER VOKESAE SUBS. NOV., A NEW NAME FOR A MISIDENTIFIED SPECIES GASTROPoda : MURICIDAE).

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RESUME:

L'espèce trouvée dans le Nord-Ouest de l'Océan Indien et généralement identifiée comme Chicoreus (Naquetia) triquerter (Born, 1778) est nommée ici comme sous-espèce nouvelle, sur base de différences conchyliologiques, surtout de la coquille larvaire.

INTRODUCTION:

The subgenus Naquetia was recently studied by the author (Houart, 1985). Further comparative study of the protoconchs lead to the discovery of an unidentified subspecies, occurring in the Western Indian Ocean, which is here named. Chicoreus (Naquetia) triquerter vokese subs.nov. .........................Figs. 1-2.

DESCRIPTION:

Shell medium-sized for the subgenus, to 70 mm. Elongate and fusiform.


Spire high, consisting of two rounded, smooth nuclear whorls and nine elongate post-nuclear whorls. Suture impressed.

Body whorl bearing three low rounded varices. Terminal varix ventrally squamous, anteriorly ornamented with a varical flange extending on the siphonal canal. Other axial sculpture consisting of three to five low ridges crossed by twelve to fifteen spiral cords, each flanked by fine spiral threads.

Varices of spire whorls sometimes bearing small carinal open spines.

Siphonal canal short and broad, narrowly open and slightly bent backwards.

Color cream to light brown with darker spiral bands. Axial ribs also darker colored. Aperture white.

MATERIAL STUDIED.

Holotype n° H213, Natal Museum; 1 paratype Natal Museum n° F6528, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H213, South East Nacala Bay, Mozambique.

1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1391, S.Shore, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1392, North-East Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1393, S.W. Lunga, Mozambique;

1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1394, S.E. Memba Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1396, S.W. Lunga Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1397, S.E.Shore, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1399, Nacala Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1401, S.E. Lunga Bay, Mozambique; 6 paratypes Natal Mus. n° H1404, Condencia Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H7298, Nossi-Bé, Madagascar; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° J5426, Porto Amelia, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° J9879, Zanzibar; 2 paratypes Natal Mus. n° J9880, Tanzania; 1 paratype n° 27035, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Mozambique; 5 paratypes Natal Mus. n° H5575, Conducia Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype I.R.S.N.B. n° 27035, North Reef, Dar-Es-Salaam,
Tanzania; 1 paratype Musée d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris, S.W. Condicia Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype R. Houart coll., North Condicia Bay, Mozambique.

**TYPE LOCALITY.**
Northern Moçambique, South East Nacala Bay, dredged from gravelly bottom with sparse Cynodocea, 9 meters.

**DISCUSSION.**

In a recent monograph of this subgenus (Houart, 1985) I showed the differences between various species, but like every one else, I made no distinction between the typical *N. triquiter* and this form from the Western Indian. Dr Vokes (in litt.) drew my attention to the different protoconchs (one illustrated in my article, the other from a specimen in her collection, now paratype I.R.S.N.B.). Differences between both forms are minimal but the observation of very different nuclear whorls (see figs. 2B-3B) makes it evident that the Indian form constitutes a distinct subspecies. I prefer to treat it as a subspecies rather than a species, as the differences are minimal, except on larval whorls.

In addition to the protoconch (paucispiral for *N. triquiter vokesae*; conical, multispiral with a fine carina for *N. triquiter*), the new subspecies has a more convex outline; its axial sculpture is shallower and consists of more numerous and lower cords on the spire whorls. Spiral sculpture is weaker.

The specimen illustrated by Vokes (1978: pl. 5, fig. 4) is *Naquetia triquiter vokesae* (and not *N. triquiter*). It is here designated as the holotype.

No other species may be compared. *Triplex flexuosa* Perry, 1811 (type locality: "New Zealand" is *N. triquiter*; Vokes (1974: fig. 2) illustrated a hypotype from Papua New Guinea. The type locality for *T. flexuosa* is obviously erroneous. *Murex roseotinctus* Sowerby, 1860, from the Philippines, is a juvenile of *N. triquiter*. It is a pleasure for me to name this shell for Dr. Emily H. Vokes, who first noticed the differences in the nuclear whorls.

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY.**


Vokes, E.H., On the identity of *Murex triquiter* Born (Gastropoda : Muricidae). *The Veliger* 16 (3) : 258-263, 5 figs.

1 - 1B: Chicoreus (Naquetia) triqueter vokesae subsp. n. holotype 66 x 31 mm
2: Chicoreus (N.) triqueter vokesae subsp. n. paratype IRSNB 35.2 x 16.1 mm
2B: Protoconch of Chicoreus (N.) triqueter vokesae subsp. n. - X 39-
3: Chicoreus (N.) triqueter (Born, 1778) Houart coll., Papua New Guinea 55.5 x 26 mm
3B: Protoconch of Chicoreus (N.) triqueter - X 30-