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The Distribution of the Genus *Tomichia* BENS. in Africa

by Bernard VERDCOURT

The writer has described (VERDCOURT, 1950) a species of *Hydrobia* from material collected in the E. Belgian Congo. A more detailed examination of its radula has shown that it is undoubtedly congeneric with the species of the very closely related genus *Tomichia* previously known only from the coastal districts of South Africa. This close relationship was unfortunately not suspected when the species was first described, and it is now necessary to transfer it.

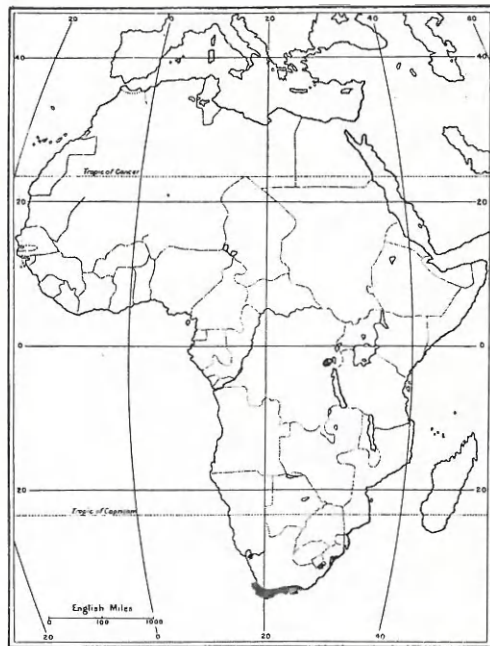
***Tomichia hendrickxi* (VERDCOURT) comb. nov.**

Hydrobia hendrickxi VERDCOURT in Rev. Zool. Bot. Afric., XLIII, pp. 213-215 (1950).

The genus *Tomichia* is characterised by the peculiar raised basal projection of the central tooth. In *Hydrobia* the base is produced but not raised and no transverse line is to be seen at the anterior end of this projection such as is found in *Tomichia*. This new species was collected by Dr. HENDRICKX in a small stagnant hot-water pond (temperature 35-40° C.) at Kakondo in July 1946. Kakondo is situated on the shores of L. Kivu, about 31 km. north of Costermansville. The place is the site of volcanic activity which causes warm water springs to fall into the lake where they form travertines. The pond is covered with *Lemna polyrrhiza* L., a species of duckweed. Dr. HENDRICKX has very kindly supplied this additional information.

This record very considerably extends the known range of the genus by about 2000 miles. As far as the author is aware the genus was previously only known from South Africa, where the species are practically restricted to the coastlands of Natal and Cape Province. The S. African species are divided into two groups based on differences

in the basal projection of the central tooth (WATSON in CONNOLLY 1939). The new species is more closely related to those with it broader than long but there is not much difference in the dimensions. Further new discoveries may still further obscure the differences, between the two groups *T. hendrickxii* is related to *lirata* TURTON, *cawstoni* CONN., *differens* CONN. and *natalensis* CONN., but the junction between the



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body whorl and adjacent peristome is quite different judging by WATSON's figures. The radula is closer to that of *differens* than to those of the other three, but it differs from all the species which have previously had preparations made of their radulae by possessing a much larger number of transverse rows (115-130). It seems unlikely that no species occur in the intervening territory and further collecting is almost certain to bring some to light.

REFERENCES.

- VERDCOURT, B., 1950. — Rev. Zool. Bot. Afric., 43, pp. 213-215.
WATSON, H. in CONNOLLY, M., 1939. — Ann. South African Museum, 33, 570-586.