

A New Species of *Meretrix* from Taiwan (Bivalvia: Veneridae)

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Key words: *Meretrix*, Veneridae, New species, Taiwan.

Introduction

In September 2004, several small *Meretrix* clams were trawled by the fishing boats from off Taichung in Taiwan Strait. Because their shell markings are so unique and peculiar, they are recognized to be a new species and described in this paper.

Taxonomy

Family Veneridae Rafinesque, 1815

Subfamily Meretricinae Gray, 1847

Genus *Meretrix* Lamarck, 1799

Meretrix tigris n. sp.

Description:

Shell more or less thin, medium in size, up to 46 mm in length, but it is the smallest species in the genus. Oval-subtriangular in shell shape, and less inflate than other species of *Meretrix*. Umbo small, close to the center, and slightly prosogyrous. Outer surface smooth and glossy, yellow-grey in color, with many black commarginal streaks, which arranged

somewhat irregular. Because these black streaks are so peculiar, the new species differs from all other *Meretrix* species in marking pattern. Lunule not distinct and yellow in color. Escutcheon broad and grey in color. Ligament short, external posteriorly situated, and dark-brown in color. Internal surface white, with a purple mark at posterior margin near to posterior adductor scar. Hinge plate narrow, with three cardinal teeth on each valve, bearing two anterior lateral teeth on right, one anterior lateral tooth on left. Dimyarian, pallial sinus short and semicircular. It is said the animal is pink in color.

Type materials and measurements:

Holotype: 40 mm (L) × 32 mm (H). National Taiwan Museum (TMMT 0681)

Paratype No. 1: 46 mm (L) × 38 mm (H). Nien's collection

Paratype No. 2: 38 mm (L) × 32 mm (H). Nien's collection

Type locality: Taiwan Strait off Taichung, shallow sand bottom.

Discussion

All species of Genus *Meretrix* known to the authors are figured here. Because the shell shape of *Meretrix* species is variable, these photographs are only some examples and cannot cover all varieties.

However, the shell of *Meretrix pethechialis* (Lamarck, 1818) is tallest and more rounded in the genus. The shell of *Meretrix meretrix* (Röding, 1798) is similar, but slightly lower and more triangular. *Meretrix lusoria* (Röding, 1798) is most variable in shell shape and in shell marking, but usually the postero-dorsal margin is somewhat straight and much longer than antero-dorsal margin. The shell of *Meretrix lyrata*

Sowerby, 1851 is unique with commarginal ribs. The shell of *Meretrix lamarckii* Deshayes, 1853 is longer, lower, and more triangular than any other species of *Meretrix*.

The new species *Meretrix tigris* has a small umbo close to the center and the shell is less inflat, and more importantly, the shell markings are so peculiar with many black streaks like a tiger.

References

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- Oyama, K. 1958. The Molluscan Shell (II). Science & Photography Club, Tokyo, Japan, 60 pp.



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Meretrix tigris* n. sp.

圖一・虎斑文蛤的正模式標本。



Fig. 2. Paratype No. 1 of *Meretrix tigris* n. sp.

圖二・虎斑文蛤的副模式標本 1 號。



Fig. 3. Paratype No. 2 of *Meretrix tigris* n. sp.

圖三・虎斑文蛤的副模式標本 2 號。



Fig. 4. Specimen of *Meretrix pethechialis*.

圖四・中國文蛤。



Fig. 5. Specimen of *Meretrix meretrix*.

圖五・臺灣文蛤。



Fig. 6. Specimen of *Meretrix meretrix*.

圖六・臺灣文蛤。



Fig. 7. Specimen of *Meretrix lusoria*.

圖七・普通文蛤。



Fig. 8. Specimen of *Meretrix lusoria*.

圖八・普通文蛤。



Fig. 9. Specimen of *Meretrix lyrata*.

圖九・皺肋文蛤。



Fig. 10. Specimen of *Meretrix lamarckii*.

圖十・韓國文蛤。

臺灣產新種文蛤—虎斑文蛤 (雙殼綱：簾蛤科)

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2004 年 9 月，臺中港附近漁船所撈獲的淺海產文蛤類中，我們發現花紋特異的數枚文蛤，是文蛤屬的新種，牠們具有奇特的黑色粗條紋，類似虎斑，今以本文描述之，並命名為虎斑文蛤 *Meretrix tigris* n. sp.，本種模式標本：長 40 mm，高 32 mm，保存於國立臺灣博物館 (TMMT 0681)。副模式標本 No. 1：長 46 mm，高 38 mm 及副模式標本 No.2：長 38 mm，高 32 mm，均由粘詠恭保存。

關鍵詞：文蛤，簾蛤科，新種，臺灣。