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## A new and unique *Euthria* (Gastropoda: Buccinidae) from Somalia

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**Keywords:** GASTROPODA, BUCCINIDAE, *Euthria*, new species, Indian Ocean, Somalia.

**Abstract:** A single shell, dredged offshore the Somalian coast by the R/V Anton Bruun in 1964, is described as new: *Euthria vokesi* sp. nov. Conchological differences in sculpture, shape and pattern serve to distinguish this species from *Euthria poppei* Fraussen, 1999 (Mozambique), its closest congener, *Euthria somalica* (Parth, 1999) (Somalia), as well as from the similarly coloured, sympatric species, "*Buccinulum*" *brunobrianoi* Parth, 1993.

**Introduction:** The Recent fauna of the genus *Euthria* is mainly concentrated in the Cape Verde Archipelago (about 20 species), off New Caledonia (4 species), and the continental shelves in the Indian Ocean, from South Africa to Indonesia (more than 10 species). The species described as new in the present paper is an addition to this final group. New Zealand is the hotspot for *Buccinulum*, with more than 50 names (taxa and forms) described, which we mention here because some species from New Zealand and elsewhere assigned to *Buccinulum* may belong to *Euthria*. The geological centre of *Euthria* (and *Buccinulum*) is situated around the Indonesian archipelago (Beets, 1986). For a discussion of the use of *Euthria* as a genus and for a comparison with radulae of related genera we refer to Shuto (1978: 358-361), Beets (1986: 92-93), Fraussen (1999: 73), Fraussen & Hadorn (1999: 120-121) and Rolán, Monteiro & Fraussen (2003: 125-126). For a brief discussion of the infraspecific variability we refer to Fraussen & Rolán (2003: 83-84).

Many new molluscan species have been found in the Indian Ocean off the East African coast (Gulf of Aden, Somalia, Mozambique) among shells trawled by fishermen, as well as during scientific surveys by vessels from the former Soviet Union. Within the **Buccinidae** we can list: *Euthria poppei* Fraussen, 2000, *Euthria somalica* (Parth, 1999) and "*Buccinulum*" *brunobrianoi* Parth, 1993. In the present paper one more species from Somalia is added to the genus *Euthria*. The single specimen representing this new species was obtained by Dr. Harold E. Vokes during a 1964 expedition in the Indian Ocean on board the R/V Anton Bruun, a vessel acquired by the National Science Foundation and refitted for science. The specimen remained in Dr. Vokes' collection for more than 30 years before it was donated to the second author, where it remained unnamed for another decade. We are pleased to describe it here as *Euthria vokesi* sp. nov.

## SYSTEMATICS

Family: **BUCCINIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815

Genus: *Euthria* M. E. Gray, 1850

Type species by original designation: "*Fusus lignarius* Chiaje" (this is *Fusus lignarius* Lamarck, 1816, a junior synonym of *Murex corneus* Linnaeus, 1758) from the Mediterranean, Recent.

### *Euthria vokesi* sp. nov.

Figs 1-3

**Type material:** Holotype, 31.7 mm, Somalia, 2°24'-29' N, 51°35'-36' E, 150 m deep, dredged by R/V Anton Bruun, in Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, MNHN-20940.

**Type locality:** East Africa, Somalia, 2°24'-29' N, 51°35'-36' E, in 150 m.

**Range and habitat:** Only known from the type locality. Sympatric with "*Buccinulum*" *brunobrianoi* Parth, 1993. The specimen figured (Fig. 6) was caught in the same haul as the holotype of the new species.

**Description:** Shell of medium size for genus, 44 mm in length, thick and solid, broadly fusiform, spire high. Suture distinct. Colour faded, ground colour white or pale yellowish; pattern consisting of fine, reddish brown, equally spaced, interrupted spiral lines or dashes on top of spiral cords, well visible in axial interspaces, eroded on axial ribs. Shell eroded, upper spire whorls covered with small holes. Protoconch intact but transition to teleoconch undetectable. Total number of whorls 7 1/2 (protoconch and teleoconch together). Spiral sculpture consisting of fine primary spiral cords of equal strength, regularly spaced; interspaces as wide as or slightly broader than cords; approximately 10 such cords on fourth whorl, and at least 12 on penultimate whorl. Body whorl with approximately 26 fine spiral cords; cords slightly broader on base and on siphonal canal. Axial sculpture consisting of 9 or 10 broad axial ribs on each whorl; ribs as wide as interspace. Aperture ovate; outer lip thick, with 13 internal lirae; edge sharp, smooth; columella smooth without apertural denticles or folds; callus thin, smooth, white; siphonal canal short, narrow, open; aperture and siphonal canal slightly higher than 1/2 of total shell length.

Animal and operculum unknown.

**Comparison:** *Euthria vokesi* sp. nov. is characterised by the thick and heavy shell, broad axial ribs, a pronounced labral varix, weak subsutural concavity and a pattern consisting of fine, interrupted spiral lines.

*E. poppei* Fraussen, 1999 (Figs 4-5) (type locality: Southern Mozambique, Maputo Region, trawled, 100 m.) is similar in shape but grows larger, has weaker and more numerous axial ribs, a weaker labral varix, a smooth body whorl (instead of fine spiral cords), a more concave subsutural slope, a more concave base, a longer and narrower siphonal canal, fewer whorls in proportion to size and a colour pattern which is usually absent or occasionally consists of indistinct, pale brownish, quite broad spiral lines.

*E. somalica* (Parth, 1999) (type locality: Somalia, Mogandishu, 150-200 m deep) grows larger, has a slender shape with high spire and long siphonal canal, a finer axial sculpture on the upper spire whorls in combination with a smooth body whorl, a thin shell and a pattern consisting of brown blotches. Only the holotype is known.

“*Buccinulum*” *brunobrianoi* Parth, 1993 (Fig. 6) (type locality: “deep waters off the Somalian coast”) is similar in pattern but grows larger, has a slender shape with higher spire, a finer axial sculpture which is only present on the upper spire whorls, smooth lower teleoconch whorls, a thinner shell and a thinner outer lip which is slightly curled outwards (instead of having a sharp edge).

**Etymology:** It is a pleasure to name this species for Harold E. Vokes, formerly of Ponchatoula, Mouisiana, USA, to honour his many important contributions to malacology and paleontology. This *Euthria* species was one of several hundred shells he presented to the second author.

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### Plate

**1-3.** *Euthria vokesi* sp. nov., holotype, 31.7 mm, Somalia, 2°24'-29' N, 51°35'-36' E, in 150 m, in Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris nr. MNHN-20940.

**4-5.** *Euthria poppei* Fraussen, 1999, paratype 6, 48.9 mm, Southern Mozambique, Maputo Region, trawled in deep water, coll. Koen Fraussen nr. 2815.

**6.** "*Buccinulum*" *brunobrianoi* Parth, 1993, 82 mm, Somalia, 2°24'-29' N, 51°35'-36' E, in 150 m, coll. Emilio F. Garcia nr. EFG 10246.

