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Terebra aikeni sp. nov., a new *Terebra* (Gastropoda: Conoidea) from the Solomon Islands

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Abstract: *Terebra aikeni* sp. nov. is here proposed and described as new to science. It is compared with its morphological relative *Terebra quoygaimardi* Cernohorsky & Bratcher, 1976.

Introduction: For a number of years, morphospecies labelled as *Terebra quoygaimardi* Cernohorsky & Bratcher, 1976 have been under intensified study, both morphologically and molecularly. At present a species kindred to *T. quoygaimardi*, of which additional material was made available only recently, is described as *Terebra aikeni*.

Abbreviations:

DM: Private collection David Monsecour, Belgium.

JW: Private collection Jonathan Welsh, UK.

MNHN: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France.

SA: Private collection Simon Aiken, UK.

SH: Private collection Steve Hubrecht, Belgium.

UA: Private collection Umberto Aubry, Italy.

YT: Private collection Yves Terryin, Belgium.

Systematics

The systematics for the species described and discussed in the present paper follows the system as proposed in Fedosov et al. (2020).

Class **Gastropoda** Cuvier, 1797
Order **Neogastropoda** Wenz, 1938
Superfamily **Conoidea** Fleming, 1822
Family **Terebridae** Mörch, 1852
Subfamily **Terebrinae** Mörch, 1852
Genus ***Terebra*** Bruguière, 1789

Terebra aikeni sp. nov.

Pl. 1, Figs 1-6

Type Material: Holotype: MNHN-IM-2000-35297, 27.9 mm. **Paratypes 1-10:** YT, from type locality, 24.4-30.1 mm; **Paratypes 11-13:** YT, Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, Honiara, off Ranandi, 35.4-37.7 mm; **Paratype 14:** SA, from type locality, 24.0 mm; **Paratypes 15-16:** JW, idem, 22.5-28.4 mm; **Paratype 17:** SH, idem, 28.7 mm; **Paratype 18:** DM, idem, 30.8 mm; **Paratype 19:** UA, idem, 23.4 mm.

Type locality: Solomon Islands. Marau Sound. Siwairuka Island.

Description (holotype): Shell length 27.9 mm. Base colour whitish with a yellowish-pinkish hue; subsutural band and first spiral band below with white nodes. The protoconch consists of about 2 whorls, with small nucleus and the second whorl elongated. Outline of whorls straight. Subsutural band ornamented with axially elongated, flattened nodes, a feature continued on the first spiralling band below the subsutural band in a minor degree, giving the impression of a double subsutural band. Axial sculpture absent except for irregularly spaced growth striae. Spiral sculpture on remainder of whorl of

numerous (6-7) fine continuous spiral incisions resulting in a ribbed impression on the whorl. Columella straight; aperture elongate quadrate.

Animal/anatomy unknown.

Habitat: All specimens were found on sand and/or coral rubble in shallow water (2-6 m).

Distribution: Known from the Solomon Islands (Marau and Ironbottom Sounds).

Remarks: The features of the holotype are constant throughout the studied material. The species only shows minor variability in shape or apical angle. Specimens collected in the Ironbottom Sound (paratypes 11-13), however, show a high degree of variation in apical angle from extremely slender (Pl. 1, Fig. 6) or a regular apical angle with coarse subsutural sculpture (Pl. 1, Fig. 2) to a rather wide apical angle (Pl. 1, Fig. 3); all other features are identical to the type's. This variability, from extremely slender to the more common wider-shaped specimens, is also observed in *T. quoygaimardi*. This slender variation is illustrated on Pl. 1, Figs 10 & 13 and the wider one on Pl. 1, Fig. 11

Comparison and discussion: *Terebra aikenii* sp. nov. is morphologically similar to *T. quoygaimardi* Cernohorsky & Bratcher, 1976, but the latter usually has a larger adult size, a usually broader apical angle, a heavier shell, usually orange in colour and coarser nodes on a broader subsutural band. Additionally, the remainder of the whorl is either smooth or usually with only 2 (rarely 3) spiral incisions and a somewhat larger and more bulbous-shaped protoconch.

To our knowledge, *T. aikenii* has not yet been figured by past authors. For a discussion on the type and taxonomic history of *T. quoygaimardi*, see Cernohorsky & Bratcher (1976, 1987) and Dodge (1956).

Derivatio nominis: *T. aikenii* sp. nov. honours English malacologist, explorer, adventurer and close friend of both authors, Dr Simon Aiken, who discovered the species in the collection of a local fisherman on one of his trips to the Solomon Islands.

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general **Terebridae** collection of the MNHN and for continuous support; Dr Felix Lorenz (Germany) for providing additional key juvenile material (with un-eroded and intact protoconchs) of *T. quoygaimardi* (and many other species) from Mauritius.

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Plate 1

1-6: *Terebra aikenii* sp. nov.

- 1:** Holotype, MNHN-IM-2000-35297, Solomon Islands. Marau Sound. Siwairuka Island, 27.9 mm (details 1b & 1c at equal magnification as 14a & 14b).
- 2:** Paratype 11, YT, Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Ranandi, 35.9 mm.
- 3:** Paratype 12, YT, idem, 37.8 mm.
- 4:** Paratype 7, YT, from the type locality, 28.4 mm.
- 5:** Paratype 3, idem, 28.4 mm.
- 6:** Paratype 3, YT, Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Ranandi, 41.0 mm.

7-14: *Terebra quoygaimardi* Cernohorsky & Bratcher, 1976

- 7:** *Terebra monile* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833, holotype, MNHN, "Marianas and Caroline Islands", 43.8 mm.
- 8:** YT, Japan, Amami Islands, Okinawa, Onna Reef, dived at 3-8 m, 42.5 mm.
- 9:** YT, Japan, off Kochi Prefecture, 37.9 mm.
- 10:** YT, Philippines, Luzon, Zambales, 37.9 mm.
- 11:** YT, idem, 48.5 mm.
- 12:** MNHN, New Caledonia, Koumac, Stn DR1305, 39.3 mm.
- 13:** YT, Papua New Guinea, Wongat Island, 44.8 m.
- 14:** YT, Mauritius, dredged at approx. 100 m, 31.4 mm (details 14a & 14b at equal magnification as 1b & 1c).

Plate 1

