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NOTES ON SOME SURINAM LAND SNAILS

by

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During my stay in Surinam (Dutch Guiana) in the first three months of 1963 most of my time was devoted to the study of the marine Mollusca, on which I shall report later. Now and then, however, I had an opportunity of collecting non marines. The following notes are the result of the study of some of the land snails in the material I collected.

SUBULINIDAE

Leptinaria (Luntia) insignis (E. A. Smith)

Luntia insignis Smith, 1898, Journ. Conchol. **9**: 28, fig. 8 (Trinidad); Pilsbry, 1906, Man. Conch. (2) **18**: 218, pl. 40 fig. 7; Hummelinck, 1940, Studies Fauna Curaçao &c. **2**: 98 (Aruba); **3**: 115, 116 (Aruba); Morrison, 1943, Nautilus **57**: 48 (British Guiana).
Varicella clappi [non Pilsbry], Meeuse & Hubert, 1949, Basteria, **13**: 18, pl. 3 fig. 15 (greenhouse in Botanical Gardens, Utrecht, Netherlands).
Varicella cf. *clappi*, v. R. Altena, 1960, Basteria **24**: 50 (Tambaredjo, Surinam).
Leptinaria (Luntia) insignis, Thiele, 1931, Handb. syst. Weichtierk. **1** (2): 552; Haas, 1962, Studies Fauna Curaçao &c. **13**: 53, pl. 11 fig. I, J (Saba).

The figure published by Haas enabled me to identify this species which Hubert & Meeuse thought to be *Varicella clappi* Pilsbry, and which I recorded from Surinam in 1960. Recently I had an opportunity of confirming this revised identification by comparison of Surinam specimens with the holotype of the species in the British Museum (Natural History).

I found *Leptinaria insignis* in two more localities in Surinam, viz., in the Botanical Gardens of Paramaribo, and at the base of the ruins of the synagogue at Jodensavanne, on the Surinam River, some 50 km south of Paramaribo. Morrison (1943) states that in British Guiana the species belongs to 'the smaller species of land mollusks that were found mostly on Kyk-over-al Island, and that in all probability have been accidentally introduced by

man in the past 300 years', while Hummelinck (1940) thinks that in Aruba it is probably introduced by human agency. The three Surinam localities are biotopes highly altered by man, and it seems, therefore, likely that *Leptinaria insignis* is a species introduced into Surinam. Its occurrence in a European glasshouse also shows that it is among those species of land snails which are easily transported over long distances. Fossil or exactly dated subfossil material only can prove what is the original area of *Leptinaria insignis*.

BULIMULIDAE

Eudolichotis aurissciuri (Guppy)

Plekocheilus auris-sciuri Guppy, 1866, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (3) **17**: 51 (Trinidad).
Bulimus distortus, Chemn. var., Schepman, 1887, Samml. Geol. Reichsmus. Leiden (2) **1**: 155, 164 (at the Marowijne).
Auris distorta [non Brug.], Vernhout, 1914, Notes Leyden Mus. **36**: 10 (coast-region of Surinam; environs of Paramaribo; Post Groningen).
Eudolichotus [sic] *aurissciuri,* Solem, 1963, Journ. Conchol. **25**: 193.

Recently Solem questioned the record of *Eudolichotis distorta* (Brug.) from Surinam by Vernhout, and tentatively referred the specimens studied by Vernhout to *E. aurissciuri.* As these specimens are in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, I could easily check their identification and found Solem's supposition to be correct.

E. aurissciuri seems to be the only species of the genus occurring in Surinam. The first record is by Schepman in his paper on the shells from the 'shell ridges' of Surinam. The 'shell ridges' are Holocene deposits of marine shells in the coastal area of Surinam. These are the only places in this area where the soil is rich in lime, and they have a rich fauna of land molluscs. Schepman's record is based on two shells in the Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie, Leiden (St. 31277). Although these shells are bleached and bear traces of having been partly covered by earth, it seems more probable that the animals lived on the ridge after its emergence from the sea than that they were deposited there earlier, together with the marine shells.

I could study specimens of *E. aurissciuri* from the following localities in Surinam. Except those from the last-mentioned locality they are all in the collection of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie.

Nickerie district: shell ridge near Cupido on the Maratakka.

Saramacca district: Karel François, shell ridge; Bethania 228, shell ridge exposed at the roadside; Groningen (young specimen recorded by Vernhout); Groningen, shell ridge near football ground; Garnizoenspad, shell ridge.

Suriname district: Leiding 5; Paramaribo and environment (specimens

mentioned by Vernhout); Paramaribo, Gravenstraat; Paramaribo, Botanical Gardens.

Commewijne district: Meerzorg.

Marowijne district: Wane Creek, Sarame wood, line km 6 (Surinam Expedition 1948-1949); at the Marowijne (specimens recorded by Schepman).

ODONTOSTOMIDAE

Tomigerus (Tomigerus) cumingii L. Pfeiffer

Tomigerus cumingii Pfeiffer, 1849, Zeitschr. Malakoz. **6**: 67 (prope Para Brasiliae); Pilsbry 1901, Man. Conch. (2) **14**: 108, pl. 7 fig. 64, 65, 66.

Of this species I found eight somewhat bleached, but probably recent shells on a shell ridge exposed at the roadside at Bethania 228, near Groningen, district of Saramacca. As far as I could ascertain the species has not been recorded before from the Guianas.

The Surinam specimens have the following dimensions: height 6¼-6½, maximal diameter 6¾-7, minimal diameter 5-5¼ mm. They belong to the typical form of the species. The var. *venezuelensis* Pfeiffer (Pilsbry, 1901, Man. Conch. (2) **14**: 109), which may be a geographical subspecies, is slightly smaller. Two of the specimens from Margarita Island, Venezuela, recorded by Richards & Hummelinck (1940, Not. Nat. **62**: 7) were deposited in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie. They belong to that smaller form, their measurements being: height 5-5¾, maximal diameter 6½, minimal diameter 4½-4¾ mm.

BRADYBAENIDAE

Averellia (Trichodiscina) coarctiliata (Deshayes)

Helix coarctiliata 'Férussac' Deshayes, 1839, Hist. nat. part. Moll. terr. fluv. **1**: 18, pl. 72 fig. 1-5 (Nicaragua, environment of Real Llegos; 'Touspan, Pérou', fide Bequaert error for Tuxpan, Veracruz, Mexico).

Averellia coarctiliata, Bequaert, 1957, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. **116** (4): 224 (with list of references).

An empty shell, with the original colouring and hairy periost well preserved, was found on a shell ridge near the village of Cupido on the river Maratakka, district of Nickerie. The identification was checked by comparison with Mexican specimens in the British Museum (Natural History).

According to Bequaert the species has been recorded from several localities in Mexico, from Guatemala, British Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela and Trinidad. This appears to be the first record from the Guianas.