A REVISION OF AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTONICIDAE (GASTROPODA: MOLLUSCA)

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SUMMARY

The family Architectonicidae consists of three subfamilies, Architectonicinae, Heliacinae and Pseudomalaxinae.

In the subfamily Architectonicinae five Recent species are included in the subgenus Architectonica (Architectonica); two Recent, three fossil (one new but unnamed) in the subgenus A. (Discotectonica); two Recent species in the subgenus A. (Solatisonax); one Recent species in the subgenus Philippia (Philippia); two Recent and one new fossil species (Philippia (Psilaxis) mitchellana Garrard) in the subgenus Philippia (Psilaxis); one Recent species is included as Architectonicinae sp.

In the subfamily Heliacinae, six Recent species, one of which (Heliacus (Heliacus) hedleyi Garrard) is new, and one new Recent subspecies (Heliacus (Heliacus) cerdaleus ponderi Garrard) are included in the subgenus Heliacus (Heliacus); 10 Recent species, one of which (Heliacus (Torinista) corallinus Garrard) is new, and one new fossil species (Heliacus (Torinista) darraghi Garrard) are included in the subgenus H. (Torinista); one Recent and two fossil species, one of which (Heliacus (Awarua) otwayanus Garrard) is described as new, and the other un-named, are included in the subgenus H. (Awarua); seven Recent species, one of which (Heliacus (Claraxis) colmani Garrard) is new, two unnamed and three fossil species, one of which (Heliacus (Claraxis) morningtonensis Garrard) is new and one unnamed, are included in the subgenus H. (Claraxis).

In the subfamily Pseudomalaxinae, two Recent species, including one new species (Pseudomalaxis (Pseudomalaxis) thetidis Garrard) and two fossil species are included in the subgenus P. (Pseudomalaxis); one Recent species is included in the subgenus P. (Spirolaxis).

INTRODUCTION

This revision has been compiled for the purpose of placing on record all Recent and Tertiary fossil species now known to occur in Australia. It must be noted that it is based only on shell morphology, together with opercula where possible. No attempt has been made to include anatomical or biological data as this could not have been obtained from the large majority of the species dealt with herein.

The Architectonicidae, commonly known to collectors as "sundial" shells, is the only family of Gastropoda possessing hyperstrophic protoconchs and broad conical teleoconchs, varying from moderately tall to flatly depressed; all species possess an umbilicus which varies from deep and narrow to very wide and perspective.

Records of The Australian Museum, 1977, Vol. 31 No. 13, 506-584, Figures 1-12.