

**Additional records of several rare Indo-Pacific species of the family Nassariidae
(Gastropoda, Prosobranchia: Neogastropoda)**

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The study of unidentified lots of Nassariidae in several museum collections revealed that some species, of which only a few specimens were known, are represented in these collections. This is the case for *Nassarius nobilis* (Thiele, 1925) and *N. sumatranus* (Thiele, 1925). Another rare species, *N. fidus* (Reeve, 1853), is possibly overlooked in collections.

Key words: Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Nassariidae, *Nassarius*, taxonomy, Indonesia, Java, Sumatra, Philippines, Mindoro, Cebu.

The following two species are represented in museum collections of unidentified Nassariidae.

Nassarius (Aciculina) nobilis (Thiele, 1925) figs. 1a, b

In the unidentified collection of the National Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Leiden, I encountered a lot of ten specimens of this species from Tuban, between Surabaya and Rembang, Java, Indonesia, collected by W. C. Van Heurn, 31.VIII.1935, and another lot of four specimens, also from Java, Kapuran near Lasem, collected by F. Willemse, 22.II.1949. In the identified part of the collection of this museum I found another lot from Surabaya, consisting of six specimens of this species, labeled as *Nassa (Hima) tringa* Sow., donated by D. J. Kienjet. According to Cernohorsky (1982: 17-235 and 1984: 176) this is a synonym of *Nassa paupera* (Gould, 1850) and is therefore a misidentification.

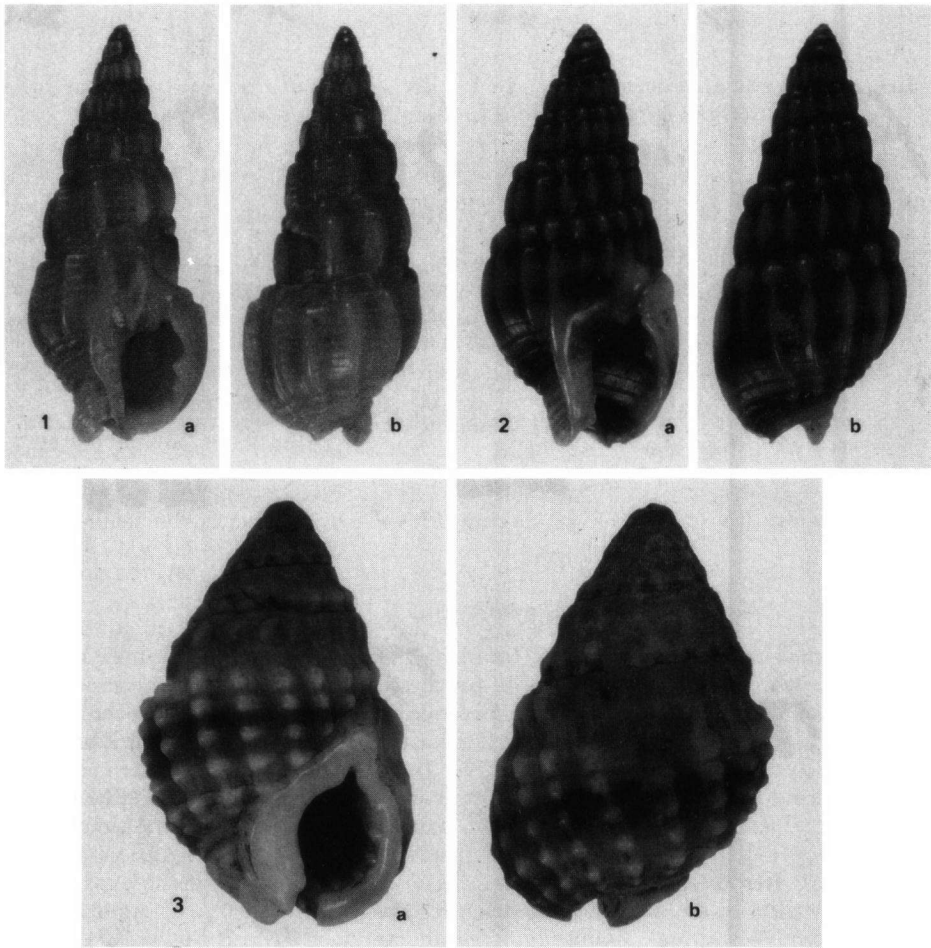
In the collection of the Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam (ZMA), I found a worn specimen from West Java, Tjilintjing, collected by L. J. M. Butot in 1947 (No. 12410).

Cernohorsky (1984: 194) remarks that "Apart from the type, no specimens of *N. nobilis* have been seen in any Museums or private collections". The type locality is Padang, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Nassarius (Aciculina) sumatranus (Thiele, 1925) figs. 2a, b

The unidentified collection of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) contains three lots of this species, all from Calapan, Mindoro, Philippines, under the lot numbers 302582 (8 specimens), 302583 (2 specimens) and 302584 (3 specimens), collected by P. de Mesa, 28.VI.1931.

Cernohorsky (1984: 195) mentions that "The species must be rather rare since only 6 specimens have been seen". The type locality is Padang, Sumatra, Indonesia, and only one specimen was known from Mindoro Island (coll. Norton).



Figs. 1-3. Shells of rare Indo-Pacific species of *Nassarius*. 1a-b, *N. nobilis* (Thiele, 1925), Indonesia, Java, Tuban, between Surabaya and Rembang (RMNH), length 8.6 mm. 2a-b, *N. sumatranus* (Thiele, 1925), Philippines, Mindoro, Calapan (MCZ 302582), length 8.7 mm. 3a-b, *N. fidus* (Reeve, 1853), Philippines, Cebu (H.H. Kool colln.), length 13.4 mm.

Nassarius (Niotha) fidus (Reeve, 1853) figs. 3a, b

In October 1991, I met a shell dealer whose collection contained several specimens of *Hebra subspinosa* labeled as "*Nassarius subspinosa*" from Cebu, Philippines. My attention was drawn by a specimen that lacked the tubercles. I took it home and after examination under a microscope I concluded that this specimen belongs to the species *N. fidus*. Several months later I met another shell dealer and in his collection, too, I found a lot under the same name, from southern Cebu, Philippines. There were only a few specimens left, but, to my surprise, there was also one specimen without tubercles that I could identify at first sight as *N. fidus*.

Cernohorsky (1984: 113) remarks that two syntypes are in the British Museum (Natural History), London, No. 197113, and that "no other specimens of this species have been sighted". Type locality and distribution are unknown. The species is figured on plate 19 fig. 9, and is also pictured by Kaicher (1985: card 4161).

The description of the species in Cernohorsky is detailed, but can be enhanced by adding one word: the well-bordered callus is *regularly* plicate along its entire length. This regularity can be seen on fig. 3a.

N. gruneri (Dunker, 1846) differs in the irregularity of the plicae on the callus and in the three regular rows of tubercles on the penultimate whorl of this species.

The difference with non-echinate specimens of *Hebra subspinosa* (Lamarck, 1822) is that the siphonal fasciole of this species is more recurved, pointing towards the aperture (Cernohorsky: 1984, pl. 44 fig. 9).

Although I agree with Cernohorsky that *N. fidus* closely resembles some forms of *N. gruneri*, there is no doubt that further studies will confirm the validity of the species.

Study of the lots of *Hebra subspinosa* in collections can possibly lead to the conclusion that *Nassarius fides* is not really the rare species it is believed to be. However, this is not confirmed by recent checks of the collections of MCZ, RMNH, and ZMA.

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