

## A THIRD SPECIES OF NESOPUPA (MOLLUSCA: PUPILLIDAE) IN KENYA

By

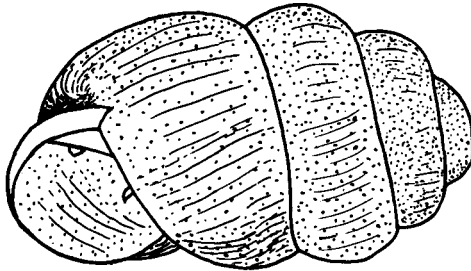
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Whilst sitting in the shade of a baobab tree on the Likoni side of Mombasa Island in September 1961, I noticed a minute snail on the tip of the leaf of an Indigofera. An intensive search failed to yield any more specimens although it produced certain other species of mollusc including Pupoides coenopictus samavaensis (Palad.), Edouardia tumida (Taylor), Opeas lamoense M. & P., Opeas spp., Succinea concisa Morelet and Trochonanina sp. cf. mozambicensis (Pfr.).

The minute snail was clearly a member of the genus Nesopupa which is widely spread throughout the tropics. Two species are already known from East Africa, both only found once. Unfortunately the single specimen obtained was not fully adult. In its dentition and roughened periostracum, caused by striation mixed with a shagreening of small dots, it comes very close to the Mauritian species N. peilei Madge. I have shown the specimen to both Dr. Adam, the expert on the family Pupillidae, and Dr. Madge, the expert on the snails of Mauritius, and both agree that it is very close to N. peilei but too immature for certain determination. N. peilei of which I have examined the holotype in the British Museum (Nat.Hist.) has a broader form and, when adult, a thickened peristome.

Further material is required; it is of course possible that the shell was introduced. Minute and even quite large shells are readily spread about the world by commerce.

Can no shell collector on our coast be coaxed away from the blatantly coloured and vulgar marine species and tempted to collect minute land shells?!



— 1mm. —

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