

A new *Macroceramus* from Puerto Rico.

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On a recent collecting, a distinctive *Macroceramus* was collected at Guánica at the southwestern end of Puerto Rico, that apparently is undescribed.

Macroceramus loeryi n. sp.

Diagnosis An exceedingly ventricose *Macroceramus* of the group *M. tenuiplicatus* (PFEIFFER) from Puerto Rico, differing decidedly in shape from the other macroceramids of that island.

Description: The narrowly rimate, ovate-fusiform shell is moderately large for the genus, widest at the middle of the shell. The ground color is whitish cream or light slate color above, turning rust-color on the body whorl, sometimes decorated on the spire with axial, irregularly placed slate-colored or pale brown bands of unequal width, becoming fainter or obsolete on the later whorls. These axial bands are confined to the first three postnuclear whorls in some specimens. Nuclear whorls $2\frac{1}{2}$, glassy, horn color, microscopically pitted; postnuclear whorls finely and regularly striate with slightly wavy, retractively slanting riblets, visible under slight magnification, becoming more numerous and approximated on later whorls and continuing on the base to the rimate umbilicus. Whorls 10, slightly inflated, tapering rapidly to the apex; sutures lightly impressed. No basal keel is present but a narrow, dark purplish-brown, clearly defined band issues from the inner posterior end of the aperture and continues across the base almost to the center of the outer lip. Columella with a narrow, slightly twisted fold; parietal area with a thin enamel wash. Aperture slightly oblique, suboval, rather flat at parietal wall, light colored at outer edge, but dark brown in throat and showing part of the basal line inside. Lip simple, thin, more or less widely interrupted at parietal wall, slightly expanded but not reflected.

Type locality Bosque Insular de Guánica, on shore road about 1 mile west of the recreation area, Puerto Rico, on tree trunks. Dr. WILLIAM H. LOERY collector, September 20, 1954.

Types The holotype (U.S. National Museum no. 614576) is decollated and has a little more than nine whorls; it measures height 14.8 diameter 7.0, aperture 4.4 mm. The figured paratype (U.S.N.M. no. 614577) from the same locality has 9 whorls after decollation, and it measures, height 14.7, diameter 7.1, aperture 4.2 mm. Other paratypes are in the collection of the Senckenberg-Museum (SMF 153332/1) and of the author and collector.

After the present paper was almost completed, two lots of this new species were found in the collection of the United States National Museum, Dr. PAUL BARTSCH collector, May 16, 1923. The author will be ever grateful to Drs. ABBOTT, REHDER and MORRISON of the Museum staff who most generously placed the two lots (U.S. N.M. 364928 and 364951) at his disposal and who urged him to proceed with this work, even though, for reasons readily apparent, he was at first strongly tempted to give it up. The shells collected by BARTSCH were taken at Punta Meseta at the entrance

to Guánica Harbor, about one mile west of the locality where Dr. LOERY made his collection. The former differ somewhat from the recreation area colony in the average height and obesity index, some of them approaching *M. formosus* (WOOD) in shape. The ten specimens collected by Dr. LOERY have an average height of 13.8 mm and an obesity index of .534, whereas the 23 good specimens from Meseta had an average height of 15.2 mm and an obesity index of .484. The average of all shells from both colonies is: height 14.5, obesity index .509. In spite of this difference, neither Dr. TUCKER ABBOTT nor the author feel that there is sufficient reason to separate the colonies as subspecies since, even though the averages differ, there are specimens in the Meseta colony that in proportion correspond very closely to some of those in the recreation area.

The new species differs markedly from its associate, *M. microdon shuttleworthi* MARTENS and from *M. microdon microdon* (PFEIFFER) in that it is shorter and stouter, somewhat cerionid in shape. Nor is it as shiny and it has its postnuclear whorls more inflated. There were no signs of intergrades.

Affinities The affinities of the new species seem to be Hispaniolan. Apparently it fits into the group of *M. tenuiplicatus* of PILSBRY (1903: 126f.) and can be placed close to *M. formosus* (WOOD). From the latter the new species differs in its more ventricose shape and in the possession of the basal line. Moreover, the color areas of *formosus* are frequently broken by rather large white spots, whereas in *loeryi* the colored axial lines, though indistinct, are solid. *M. subcylindrica* PILSBRY from the Dominican Republic is higher, more cylindrical and less swollen. The new species has the rimate umbilicus, the smooth nepionic whorls, the striate spire and the incomplete peristome of the genus. The radula was extracted by Dr. JOSEPH P. E. MORRISON and was found to be typical of the genus.

In some specimens from Punta Meseta the basal line tends to be broken and more or less discontinuous, but in no case is it entirely wanting. Occasionally in shells from both localities the parietal wash is opaque enough to cover over the insertion of the basal line into the posterior end of the aperture.

I am happy to name the new species for its collector, an enthusiastic naturalist and a very good friend. I also wish to express my gratitude to Dr. R. TUCKER ABBOTT who gave me very valuable advice and suggestions, all of which I was happy to incorporate into this paper; to Dr. HARALD A. REHDER who checked the completed manuscript and loaned me the specimens collected by Dr. BARTSCH; and to Dr. JOSEPH P. E. MORRISON for the loan of his slide of the radula.

References

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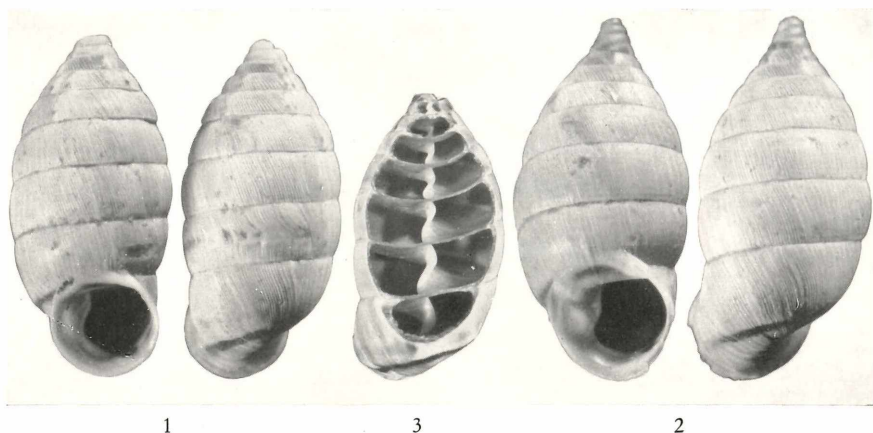


Fig. 1-3. *Macroceramus loeryi* n. sp. 1) Holotype (USNM 614576); 2) Paratype (USNM 614577); 3) Interior of the shell. — 3/1.

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