

## A new species of *Gulella* PFEIFFER from the Usambara Mountains, Tanzania

(Mollusca: Streptaxidae).

By

BERNARD VERDCOURT,  
Maidenhead (England).

The following species was collected in the West Usambara mountains by Dr. J. A. ALLEN of the Department of Zoology, University of Dar es Salaam and I have failed to identify it with any described species. Since finding the original specimen, Dr. ALLEN has managed to discover another in the same locality. I venture to describe it as a new species below. I am very grateful to Dr. A. ZILCH for comparing the specimen I sent to him with the type of *G. conicodentata* K. L. PFEIFFER preserved in the Senckenberg Museum; this clearly seemed to be its nearest relative judging by PFEIFFER's excellent figure.

### *Gulella alleni* n. sp.

(Fig. 1).

Shell oblong-ellipsoidal, imperforate, glossy, creamy white; spire produced, sides more or less straight below, convex above, the apex bluntly rounded. Whorls  $8\frac{1}{4}$ , slightly convex, gradually increasing, the first  $2\frac{1}{2}$  finely but distinctly sculptured with spiral and transverse striae visible under a x 15 hand-lens, the rest with very strong oblique ribs, 5-8 per millimetre, between which there are traces of a spiral element which does not cut the ribs; suture shallow, crenellated by the rib-ends. Aperture rounded ovate, rounded at the base, the peristome thick and reflected; dentition 5-fold; a strong curved parietal lamella situated close to the right-hand edge, its lower edge about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the width of the aperture from its outer edge; a strong more or less square lamella on the outer lip corresponding to a deep pit on the body whorl and a small tooth at the base of its upper flank; a rather small tooth just to the left of the centre of the basal margin; the columella margin is devoid of any dentition but there is a deeply inset margined lobe which is produced and bent forward at the middle, at the junction of the columella and the parietal wall. The top of the parietal lamella is joined to the top of the columella by a thin minutely but densely pitted callus.

Length: 8.3 mm, breadth 4.2-4.4 mm; aperture: 3 mm long and 2.9 mm wide.

Tanzania. Lushoto District: West Usambara Mountains, Mazumbai, in evergreen forest, 1550 m, 9.-15. Dec. 1971 and 17. Aug. 1973, J. A. ALLEN (holotype SMF 229857 and paratype in Musée de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium).

This species is quite unlike any other found in the Usambara Mountains (see VERDCOURT 1958) but has a similar dentition to that of *G. conicodentata*. Dr. ZILCH reports that *G. conicodentata* has a more cylindrical shell, the ribs are closer and sharper, the two denticles on the outer lip are closer together on a strong thickening and the upper one is much smaller and not so distinct; *G. alleni* on the other hand has a much broader ovoid shell with more distant and more flattened ribs; the smaller upper tooth on the outer lip is more distinct and more separated from the lower more elevated tooth.



Fig. 1. *Gulella alleni* n. sp., Holotype SMF 229857, 5:1.

#### Reference.

- VERDCOURT, B. (1958): The Gulellae (Moll., Streptaxidae) of the Usambara Mountains, N. E. Tanganyika. — Tanganyika Notes and Records 47 & 48 (June & Sept. 1957): 92-102, 31 figs.

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