

The rediscovery of *Punctum ugandanum* (E. A. SMITH) (Pulmonata: Punctidae).

By

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With 9 figures.

About a score of Endodontoid snails have been described from or found in East Africa and several others as yet unidentified. These have been referred to *Punctum* MORSE, *Trachycystis* PILSBRY (including the very distinct subgenus *Psichion* GUDE), *Afropunctum* HAAS, *Afrodonta* MELVILL & PONSONBY and *Prositala* GERMAIN. Those minute species with strong transverse lamellae between which are very fine transverse striae and a marked close spiral element are doubtless correctly placed in *Punctum* or *Toltecia* if that is correctly used for Old World snails. It was described as a section of *Thysanophora* STREBEL & PFEFFER for three species from Nicaragua, Mexico and Guatemala. A. C. VAN BRUGGEN (1984:161) uses *Punctum* for *P. pallidum* CONNOLLY 1922 and *Toltecia* for *P. hottentotum* (MELVILL & PONSONBY 1891). I have examined a few radulae and jaws and these confirm a position in or close to *Punctum*. None of the *Trachycystis* has been dissected, and only one [*T. ariel* (PRESTON)] has even had the radula examined which shows it to belong to subgenus *Psichion*. It is likely that future examination will show some belong in *Punctum* or close to it and others to be sufficiently distinct from *Punctum* and *Trachycystis* to deserve generic recognition. SOLEM's very extensive work on the Endodontoid snails of the Pacific (1976, 1983) has demonstrated that the family Endodontidae is restricted to the Pacific Basin; the Punctidae are more widespread, ranging from Australia and New Zealand to the subantarctic islands, Austral Islands, Hawaii, Tahiti, Holarctic and scattered localities in Africa; the Charopidae occur in the Pacific Basin and also S. Africa, St. Helena, subantarctic islands, S. America and western North America. SOLEM leaves the Discinae for later study and also some North American groups.

Punctum ugandanum first turned up again over 25 years ago but the identification was not certain until careful comparison could be made with the types. Only four other collections have been made in the interim as far as I am aware. Further material is much needed so that scanning electron micrographs can be taken to elucidate the sculpture in detail. Although the generic placing has not been verified by examination of the animal, comparison with *Punctum pygmaeum* (DRAP.) collected on the Markham Hills, Bedfordshire, England indicates that the two are very close and I have little doubt that they are congeneric.

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Punctum ugandanum (SMITH).

Figs. 1-6.

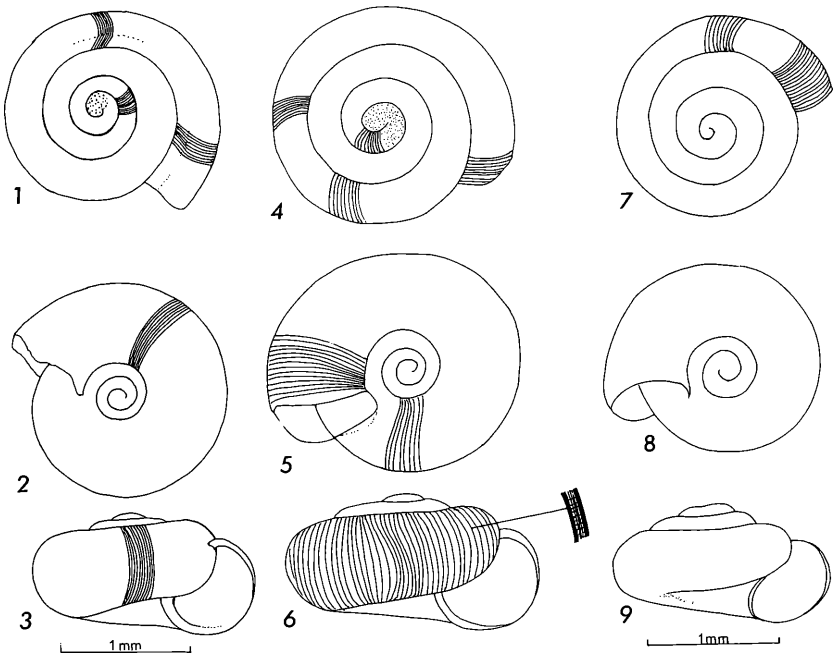
1903 *Pyramidula* (*Goniodiscus*) *ugandana* SMITH, J. of Conch., 10: 317, pl. 4f.13.

1983 *Punctum* sp., — VERDCOURT, Achatina, 11:220.

Shell minute, depressed helicoid, almost discoid, widely perforate, silky, palest horn-coloured; spire very slightly raised, the apex rounded. Whorls $3\frac{3}{4}$, very convex, without any angulation, gradually increasing, the first $1\frac{1}{4}$ pitted, the rest with very fine regular transverse ribs, about 55-60 per mm.; between each pair are about 3 exceedingly fine striae visible only under a 20 mm. objective; the spiral sculpture is so fine that it can only be seen under even higher powers; suture deep. Aperture broadly lunate, the columella slightly reflected and thickened. Umbilicus about $\frac{1}{4}$ the total major diameter.

Dimensions: Height, 0.85-1.10 mm.; major diameter, 1.56-2.12 mm., minor diameter, 1.42-1.98 mm.

Distribution: Kenya. Rift Valley Escarpment, near Kijabe, 2.7.1960, leg. POLHILL 130 (SMF 306859); „E. Uganda“ Rift Wall, Mau Escarpment, 1950-2700 m., leg. DOHERTY (holotype and three paratypes in British Museum (Nat. Hist.) 1901.12.21.132-5);



Figs. 1-9. — 1-6) *Punctum ugandanum* (SMITH). 1-3) Kenya, Mt. Marsabit, leg. Å. HOLM; 4-6) Kenya, near Kijabe, leg. R.M. POLHILL; — 7-9) *Punctum pygmaeum* (DRAP.). England, Bedfordshire, Markham Hills, leg. D. GUNTRIP.

West end of Lake Naivasha, 21.3.1964, leg. POLHILL 247a (this material previously identified as this species is no longer available to me for checking); Mara River, Isuria Escarpment, Governor's Camp, leg. C.W.P. HARRIES (SMF 306 858); Kakamega Forest, Kisieni, 1600 m., 19–21.1.1969, leg. Å. HOLM 141 (Nat. Hist. Riksmus. Stockholm); Mt. Marsabit, Lake Paradise, crater rim, 1400 m., 1.2.1969, leg. Å. HOLM 152 (Nat. Hist. Riksmus. Stockholm).

POLHILL (130) gives the ecology as *Calodendrum*, *Canthium*, *Ochna*, *Dracaena* scrub forest; the species was found in streamside litter. The HOLM specimens were found in habitats with rich associations of snails as follows, 141: *Conulinus* sp., *Opeas* sp., *Pseudoglessula elegans* (MARTENS), *Prositata butumbiana* (MARTENS), new genus of Endodontoid snails, *Kaliella barrakpoorensis* (PFR.), *Thapsia microleuca* VERDCOURT, *Thapsia* spp., *Halolimnobelix plana* CONNOLLY, *Streptostele* sp., *Gulella vicina mediafricana* PILSBRY, *Gulella pupa* THIELE, *Gulella ugandensis* SMITH, *Gulella impedita* CONNOLLY, *Gulella disseminata kekumegaensis* CONNOLLY; 152: *Maizania hildebrandti kibonotoensis* (AILLY), *Tropidophora letourneuxi* (BGT.), *Conulinus ugandae costatus* VERDCOURT, *Pseudopeas* sp., *Trachycystis ariel* (PRESTON), *Kaliella barrakpoorensis* (PFR.), *Guppya rumrutiensis* (PRESTON), *Guppya quadrisculpta* (CONNOLLY), *Thapsia marsabitensis* (PRESTON), *Streptostele* sp., *Gulella (Silvigulella) lacusparadisiaci* VERDCOURT, *Gulella pretiosa nyiroensis* (PRESTON), *Gulella laqueus* (PRESTON), *Gulella dolichos* VERDCOURT.

References.

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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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