

A new species of *Maizania* from northern Kenya (Mollusca, Cyclophoridae).

By

BERNARD VERDCOURT,

Nairobi (Kenya).

The genus *Maizania* BOURGUIGNAT requires revision and a considerable quantity of material has been amassed towards this. The main problems to be solved are the relationship of the East African species to the Natal species *M. wahlbergi* (BENSON) and whether or not the numerous forms occurring in East Africa are species, or races of a very few species. The minute form described here is, however, clearly distinct. Minute *Maizaniae* occur all over East Africa and are usually called *M. volkensi* (MARTENS)¹), although K. L. PFEIFFER described a very similar form from Amani, in the East Usambaras, where I did not find it in spite of intensive collecting. He did not compare his species with *M. volkensi* and I suspect that it is not distinct. Great care has to be taken not to confuse juvenile specimens of the larger species of *Maizania* with these small species. The species described below actually occurs with a race of *M. hildebrandti* (MARTENS), a much larger species, the naming of which must await a revision. By comparison, however, the initial whorl in these juveniles is much larger than it is in the minute *Maizaniae*. I give below a list of all the *M. volkensi* I have seen together with their measurements. It is interesting to note that this species loses the epidermis of the shell even when still alive.

Dimensions of *Maizania volkensi* (all in mm.).

Locality	H.	Br.	Diam. of aperture
Uganda			
Elgon, Bugishu (G. D. HALE CARPENTER)	3.5	4.5	2.0
Kenya			
Limuru (D. C. THOMAS)	4.0	4.5	2.0
Ngong Hills (R. M. POLHILL 104)	3.3	4.0	1.8
Molo, 8000 ft. (J. G. WILLIAMS)	4.2	5.2	2.3
	4.0	5.0	2.2
	4.0	5.0	2.2
	3.3	4.2	2.0
Mt. Kenya, 9000-10 000 ft. (Brit. Mus.)	no measurements taken		
Urguess (A. B. PERCIVAL) (Brit. Mus.)			
(<i>Aferulus percivali</i> PRESTON in ed.)	4.0	4.5	—
Thika, Chania Falls (R. M. POLHILL 118)	3.3	4.0	1.7
	4.0	4.7	2.0

¹) *Cyclophorus volkensi* MARTENS, S.-B. Ges. naturf. Fr. Berlin, 1895: 121.

Locality	H.	Br.	Diam. of aperture
Uganda (i. e. rift near Limuru) (Brit. Mus.) also a specimen ex SMITH in Berlin Mus. probably leg. W. DOHERTY	no measurements taken but interesting since it shows MARTENS considered this Kenya Highlands form to be <i>volkensi</i>		
Tanganyika			
Western Usambaras, Shume (B. VERDCOURT)	4.7	6.0	2.5
	4.3	5.5	2.5
	4.0	4.5	2.2
Kilimanjaro, 1600 m, Paratype (G. VOLKENS)	3.5	4.2	1.8
Western Province, Kungwe Mt. (D. H. ECCLES)	4.5	4.5	2.3
<i>Maizania pyramidalis</i> K. L. PFEIFFER	3.4	3.7	1.8
E. Usambaras, Amani (K. L. PFEIFFER)			

The following new species was obtained on Mt. Marsabit. It is clearly distinct from *M. volkensi* by its flatter, more loosely coiled shell and much wider umbilicus. Although undescribed I did find some other material of the species in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) from Marsabit with a manuscript PRESTON name attached to it which I have taken up. This material was presumably collected by A. B. PERCIVAL.

***Maizania (Maizania) marsabitensis* n. sp.**

Figs. 1, 2a-b.

1960 *Maizania* sp. nov. — VERDCOURT, Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr., 61: 222.

Shell small, depressed, circular, widely umbilicate, corneous white, traces of dark brown periostracum crossed by spiral and transverse white zones remaining on the body whorl near the aperture in the holotype (but more extensive in some paratypes). Spire little exerted, apex broadly rounded or obtusely acute. Whorls $4\frac{1}{4}$, convex, regularly increasing, the apical whorl practically smooth, rest with close growth lines, apparently never with periostracal lamellae; suture impressed. Aperture nearly circular, polished within, peristome simple, practically free, only narrowly attached to the whorl above, labrum receding very slightly. Umbilicus wide and deep, exposing all the whorls to the summit of the shell. Operculum thin, shallowly concave, almost colourless, dull outside, shiny inside, of about 8 whorls, 2.5 mm. in diameter.

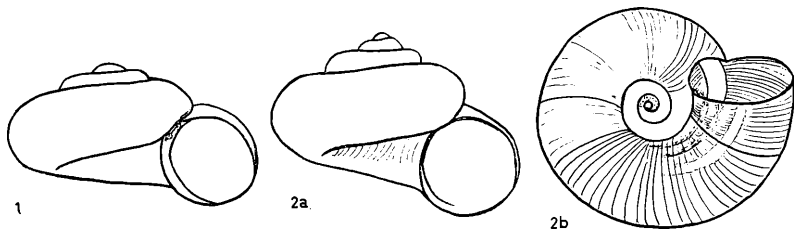


Fig. 1-2. *Maizania marsabitensis* n. sp., 5/1. Kenya: Marsabit, leg. B. VERDCOURT. — 1) paratype; 2a-b) holotype.

The holotype measures, major diameter 6.75 mm., minor diameter 5.75 mm., height 4.5 mm., apertural circumference 2.5 mm. The only other adult paratype measures just under 4 mm. in height. — The uterus of the holotype animal contained five perfect young snails of varying sizes.

Kenya. Northern Frontier Province, Mt. Marsabit, in evergreen forest, 4000 ft., VIII. 1957, B. VERDCOURT leg. [holotype in SMF 168379; paratypes in Coryndon Museum, Nairobi; holotype animal in British Museum (Nat. Hist.)] and same locality, ?A. B. PERCIVAL [British Museum (Nat. Hist.) accession 1912.9.19.29-31].

Mixed with this new species, and very easily mistaken for it, if not carefully examined, were the juveniles of a large species of *Maizania* which may be distinguished by the distinctly lamellate periostracum and larger initial whorls, and also a single specimen of another small species of *Maizania* resembling *M. volkensi* (MARTENS) with an elevated acute spire and measuring $6 \times 5 \times 4.2$ mm. More material is needed from this area.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Archiv für Molluskenkunde](#)

Jahr/Year: 1963

Band/Volume: [92](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Verdcourt Bernard

Artikel/Article: [A. new species of Maizania from northern Kenya \(Mollusca, Cyclophoridae\). 15-17](#)