

Colubraria rolli, spec. nov., a new species from Transkei and Natal, South Africa

(Mollusca, Gastropoda, Buccinidae)

By Manfred Parth

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Colubraria rolli, spec. nov. is described from deep water off Transkei and Natal, South Africa.

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Amongst the substantial *Colubraria* material housed in the Natal Museum which Dr. Kilburn kindly sent me for examination are numerous specimens of an yet undescribed species, dredged in the deep waters of Transkei and Natal. The very high protoconch of this species is distinctive. It has a small bulbous initiation followed by approximately 1½ smooth whorls, then developing in approximately another 1½ smooth whorls with increasingly strengthened collabral costae, with a final varix clearly demarcating the protoconch from the teleoconch. This protoconch is similar to that of some Australian species of the genus *Fusus* Helbling, 1779, especially the species *Fusus*



Fig. 1. *Colubraria rolli*, spec. nov. Details of the protoconch and the postnuclear whorls.

schoutanicus (May, 1911), but has a substantially larger diameter. Nevertheless the special features of the teleoconch in the South African species necessitates its classification in the genus *Colubraria*. Very noticeable in the new species is also the aperture with prominent inner lip.

Colubraria rolli, spec. nov.

Description

Small sized for the genus (largest paratype 29,8 mm), elongately turreted with rounded whorls, deep suture. 7 to 9 varices (including the finale one) present on the teleoconch. While on protoconch only prominent collabral costae are present, on teleoconch the sculpture is cancelled, with axial and spiral ribs of nearly the same strength, forming fine granules at the intersections. Some spiral cords on the last 2 whorls are irregularly placed, with secondary cordlets between the interspaces. Aperture elongately ovate, with very broad inner lip, strongly callused over the smooth columella and the parietal area. A single, strong plica present on the upper part of the parietal wall. Posteriorly the aperture is constricted into a narrow, quite long channel, and in combination with the narrowly closed, elongate siphonal canal the aperture somewhat resembles that found in the Bursidae. Curve of the outer lip varying, weakly to moderately strongly rounded, in some specimens even forming in the center of the outer lip a broad angle, instead of an even curvature. Varices strong and high. Prominent denticles inside the outer lip. Colour: brown, varying from a bright to a darker grey-brown tone, with 2 to 3 dark blotches on the varices. The final varix is positioned irregularly distant from the penultimate varix, varying from ca. 270° to 350°. In some specimen the penultimate varix is placed behind the final varix.

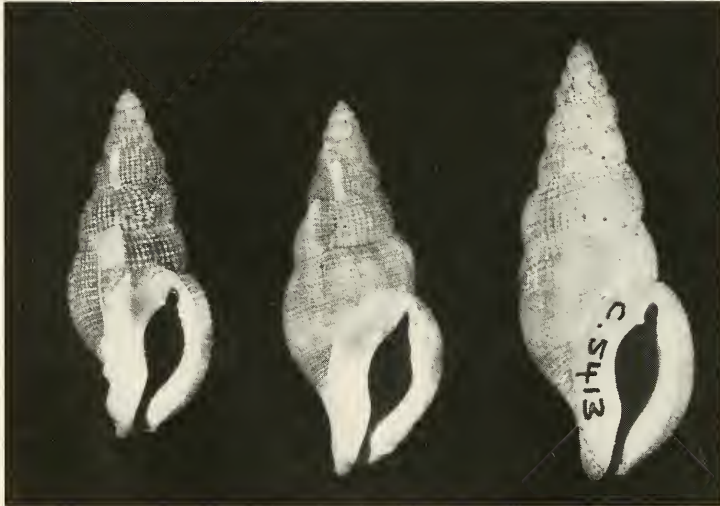


Fig. 2. *Colubraria rolli*, spec. nov. Ventral view. Left. Paratype 1. Middle. Holotype. Right. Paratype 2. Lengths: 21,5 mm; 23,0 mm; 27,1 mm.

Types. Holotype: 23,0 × 9,5 mm, Transkei: off Whale Rock (32°02.0 S, 29°19.1 E), 200–210 m; sponge rubble, some sandstone rocks. Dredged R. V. Meiring Naudé, 3.VII.85. Deposited in Natal Museum, Mollusca No. C9283.

Paratypes: 1. 21,5 mm, Transkei: off Port Grosvenor, 120–128 m. 2. 27,1 mm, Transkei: between Mtamvuna a. Mzamba Rivers, 100 m. 3. 17,5 mm, Transkei: off Mgazi R., 180 m (juvenile). 4. 29,8 mm, Transkei: off



Fig. 3. *Colubraria rolli*, spec. nov. Dorsal view. Left. Paratype 1. Middle. Holotype. Right. Paratype 2. Lengths: 21,5 mm; 23,0 mm; 27,1 mm.

Mtambvuna River, 160 m. 5. 22,7 mm, Transkei: off Mtambvuna River, 160 m. 6. 28,3 mm, Natal: nord of Port Edward, 140 m. 7. 23,5 mm, Transkei: off Whale Rock, 150–200 m.

All paratypes are located in Natal Museum, except paratype Nr. 6, which is deposited in Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Reg.-Nr. 1872.

Diagnosis

Colubraria rolli, spec. nov. can be immediately distinguished from all other species of genus by its particular, unique protoconch.

Etymology. The new species is dedicated in honour of my friend Dr. Artur Roll, Tübingen, Germany, avid and scientific minded collector.

Acknowledgements. I would like to thank Dr. Richard Kilburn for the loan of the interesting *Colubraria* and *Metula* material deposited in the Natal Museum and for permitting me to describe the new species.

Literature

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