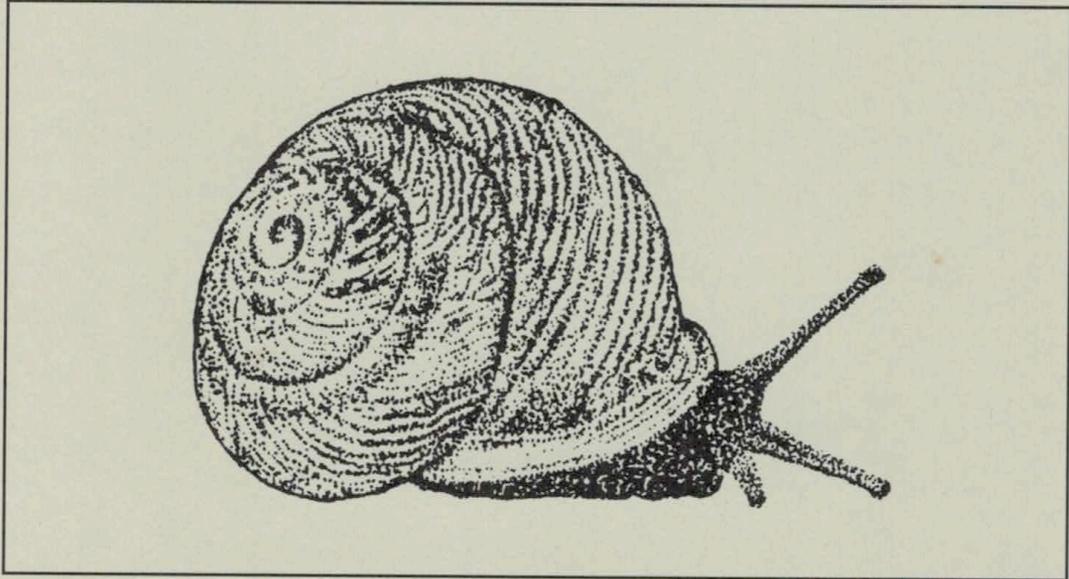


Schriften zur Malakozoologie

aus dem Haus der Natur – Cismar

Heft 5



Inhalt:

GROH, K., ALONSO, M. R., IBAÑEZ, M. & HENRIQUEZ, F. C.: Rediscovery of <i>Hemicycla saulcyi</i> (d'ORBIGNY, 1839), a revision of its fossil allies (Gastropoda: Helicidae), and a description of a new species of <i>Napaeus</i> (Enidae), both from La Isleta, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands. (Plate 1-3)	1
LORENZ jun., F.: A new subspecies of <i>Zoila marginata</i> . (Gastropoda: Cypraeidae). (Plate 4-5)	13
LORENZ jun., F.: Pleistocene Cypraeacea from the vicinity of Hurghada, Egypt. (Plate 6-10)	19
WIESE, V.: Ein weiterer Fund von <i>Mobnia glyptus</i> (VERRILL 1882) in Nordeuropa (Gastropoda: Buccinidae)	42
FEHSE, D. & WIESE, V.: Studies on some <i>Gibberula</i> -species from the Eocene of the Paris Basin (Gastropoda: Marginellidae). (Plate 11-17)	43
WIESE, V.: Ein Neufund von <i>Cernuella</i> in Schleswig-Holstein. (Tafel 18)	61
LORENZ jun., F.: On the identity of <i>Cypraea tortirostris</i> SOWERBY III 1906. Parasitism as a possible reason for malformations in Cypraeidae and some new facts on <i>E. chinensis</i> . (Plate 19)	63
LORENZ jun., F. & BARBIER, J. P.: A new subspecies of <i>Talostolida rashleighana</i> (Gastropoda: Cypraeidae). (Plate 20-21)	67
SCHULTES, W. & WIESE, V.: Die Gattung <i>Albinaria</i> auf Kreta: IX. Landschnecken einiger ostkretischer Nebeninseln.	73
SCHULTES, W. & WIESE, V.: <i>Phenacolimax annularis</i> (STUDER 1820) auf Kreta (Gastropoda: Vitrinidae)	78
Buchbesprechungen und Neuerscheinungen.	79

A new subspecies of *Talostolida rashleighana* (Gastropoda: Cypraeidae).

By

FELIX LORENZ jun. and JEAN PIERRE BARBIER,
Lauenburg, Germany, and La Ferté Sous Jouarre, France.

Abstract: A new subspecies of *Talostolida rashleighana* is described and some problems of differentiating specimens in the genus *Talostolida* are briefly discussed.

Recently a few distinct small cowries from New Caledonia became available. At first sight they looked like stunted *Talostolida rashleighana*, the origin was Noumea, New Caledonia. Occurrences of *Talostolida rashleighana* outside the Hawaiian chain have long been known and were confirmed by BURGESS who mentioned several spots in the Pacific, next to Hawaii (BURGESS 1985, 148-149). Close inspection of the new material however reveals several characteristic differences to the classic *T. rashleighana* from Hawaii. No animals were preserved and the rarity of the New Caledonian *T. rashleighana* suggests that it will be difficult to obtain animals in the future. Proposing species or subspecies on the basis of a few empty shells is always a risky task, especially when a group as variable as the *rashleighana-teres*-complex is concerned. The taxon proposed herein is however so distinct from the other taxa in the group that we have decided to describe our shells as a new subspecies of *Talostolida rashleighana*.

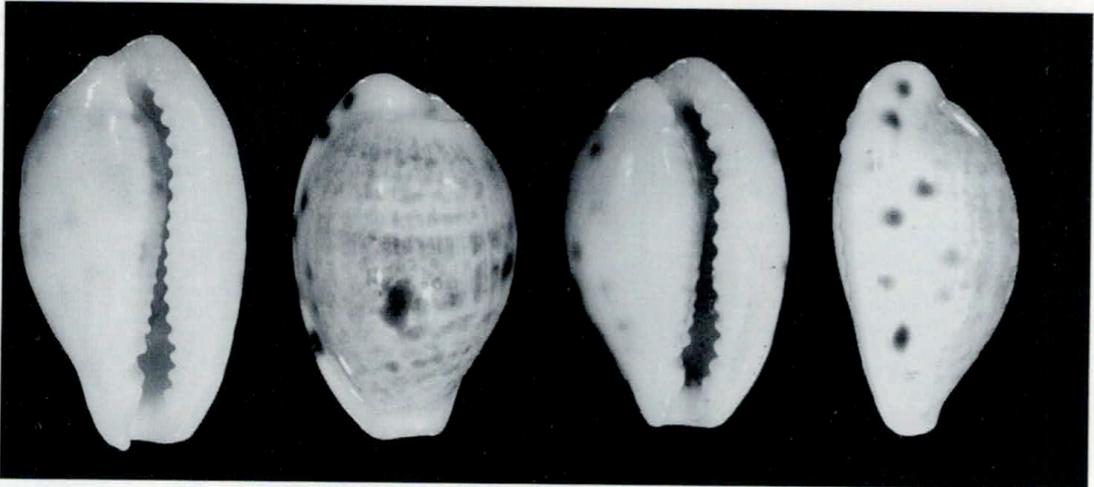
Cypraeidae - Cypraeovulinae -

Talostolida rashleighana pseudoteres n. ssp.

Description: The holotype is a small (14,7 mm), slightly inflated, elegantly pyriform shell with fragile, rostrated extremities. The margins are hardly calloused, showing two indistinct marginal spots labrally and even fainter ones on the left side. In other specimens the shape varies from pyriform to oval-rhomboidal and the marginal spots are denser and darker, reaching far onto the base and the dorsum (Paratype 2). The aperture is rather wide, widening still more anteriorly. The teeth are weakly produced, especially on columellar side. The fossula is well produced and striking, showing 2-3 pronounced denticles, the adjacent columellar peristome is more finely, but distinctly ribbed throughout. The ground-colour of the shell is translucent white, the dorsum is finely freckled with brown. There are four interrupted middorsal bands of which the two median ones are connected and close together, forming blotchlike spots dorsally. In some shells the banding is visible through the translucent callus of the base. In the holotype the spire is exposed, showing a yellow protoconch. In all shells the spire is umbilicate, but the protoconch may be hidden. There is a small, square shaped dorsal blotch, often pronounced by the interrupted banding.

Type material:

Holotype: 14,7 x 8,5 x 7,0 mm; labr. 18, col. 19, fossula denticles 2 (HNC 29091).
Paratype 1: 16,4 x 9,3 x 7,7 mm; labr. 18, col. 20, fossula denticles 3 (coll. LORENZ).
Paratype 2: 13,2 x 8,2 x 6,6 mm; labr. 14, col. 16, fossula denticles 2 (coll. LORENZ).
Paratype 3: 20,9 x 11,9 x 9,5 mm; labr. 19, col. 18, fossula denticles 3 (coll. HUBERT).



Text-fig. 1: *T. r. pseudoteris* n. ssp.; Holotype (left), Paratype 2 (right)

Distribution: Known from approximately less than twenty shells, all of which were taken by Scuba-divers from the internal reefs between 10 and 30 m at Noumea, New Caledonia.

Derivatio nominis and animal: As some specimens superficially resemble *T. teres* rather than *T. rashleighana*, this new subspecies is called the "false *teres*" = *pseudoteris*.

The animal characteristics are unrecorded.

Discussion: The *T. teres*-group is split into several taxa, some of whose validity has still to be discussed. *T. teres*, *T. alveolus* (also called *alisonae*, which is believed to be synonymous), *T. burgessi* (probably identical with *T. latior*, whose status is still under study), *T. subteres* and *T. rashleighana*. The table below gives the most important features for identification. From the small size, shape and formation of the fossula it is apparent that the new taxon introduced herein is most closely related to *T. rashleighana*. Also coloration and distribution of the marginal spotting (reaches onto base and dorsum in fully adult, callous shells) are characteristic for *T. rashleighana*. The ribbed columellar peristome found in *T. rashleighana pseudoteris* can hardly be seen in typical *T. rashleighana* and constitutes a conspicuous feature for distinction. It has to be mentioned here however, that in the past authors have described the columella peristome of *T. rashleighana* as being totally smooth. This is not really true for more than 50 % of the specimens, in fact the ribbing tends to fade only in the posterior third of the peristome, and due to the narrow aperture in *T. rashleighana*, it takes some tilting of the shell to see it clearly. In less callous shells of *T. rashleighana* the ribbing only reaches to about the middle of the peristome. The other differences are given in the table below.

Text-fig. 2: Identification table for the *Talostolida teres*-group.

<i>Talostolida teres</i> - group:						
	<i>teres</i>	<i>alveolus</i>	<i>burgessi</i>	<i>subteres</i>	<i>rashleighana</i>	<i>pseudoteris</i>
Average size:	35 mm	28 mm	31 mm	18 mm	17 mm	16 mm
Width % length:	50 %	58 %	61 %	48 %	70 %	58 %
Fossula dent.:	8 - 11	6 - 7	4 - 6	4 - 6	3 - 5	2 - 3
Col. peristome:	coarsely ribbed	coarsely ribbed	coarsely ribbed	mostly ribbed	faintly ribbed	finely ribbed
General shape:	cylindrical	oval - cylindrical	elongate - oval	cylindrical	pyriform	pyriform
Extremities:	blunt, callous	blunt, callous	blunt, callous	variable	rather rostrate, sometimes fragile	rather rostrate, sometimes fragile
Spots on left:	reduced to absent	often reduced	sometimes reaching base	reduced to absent	may reach onto base and dorsum	may reach onto base and dorsum
Dorsal blotch:	rarely blotched	mostly blotched	rarely blotched	unblotched	mostly blotched	mostly blotched
Aperture:	narrow throughout	narrow throughout	narrow throughout	narrow throughout	wider anteriorly	wide, esp. anteriorly

In some specimens of *T. rashleighana pseudoteres* n. ssp. the marginal spotting seems reduced. These are shells in which the marginal calluses have not yet been fully developed and the protoconch is still exposed.

The records of *T. rashleighana* from Cocos Island, Loyalty Island, Tonga and the New Hebrides can most probably be assigned to this new subspecies too. *T. burgessi* which is believed to be a Hawaiian endemic shares the feature of a more distinctly denticulate columellar peristome and spotting that reaches onto the base. *T. r. pseudoteres* however has a much smaller, inflated rather than depressed shell, and it is usually blotched dorsally. In any case this new subspecies seems to link *T. rashleighana* closer to the *T. teres* group than obvious when only typical *T. rashleighana* and typical *T. teres* and its subspecies are compared. Depending on the locality they have been collected at, the shells of the various taxa in the *T. teres*-complex all somehow range into one another in their features as do the external features of their animals (LORENZ jun., unpublished report).

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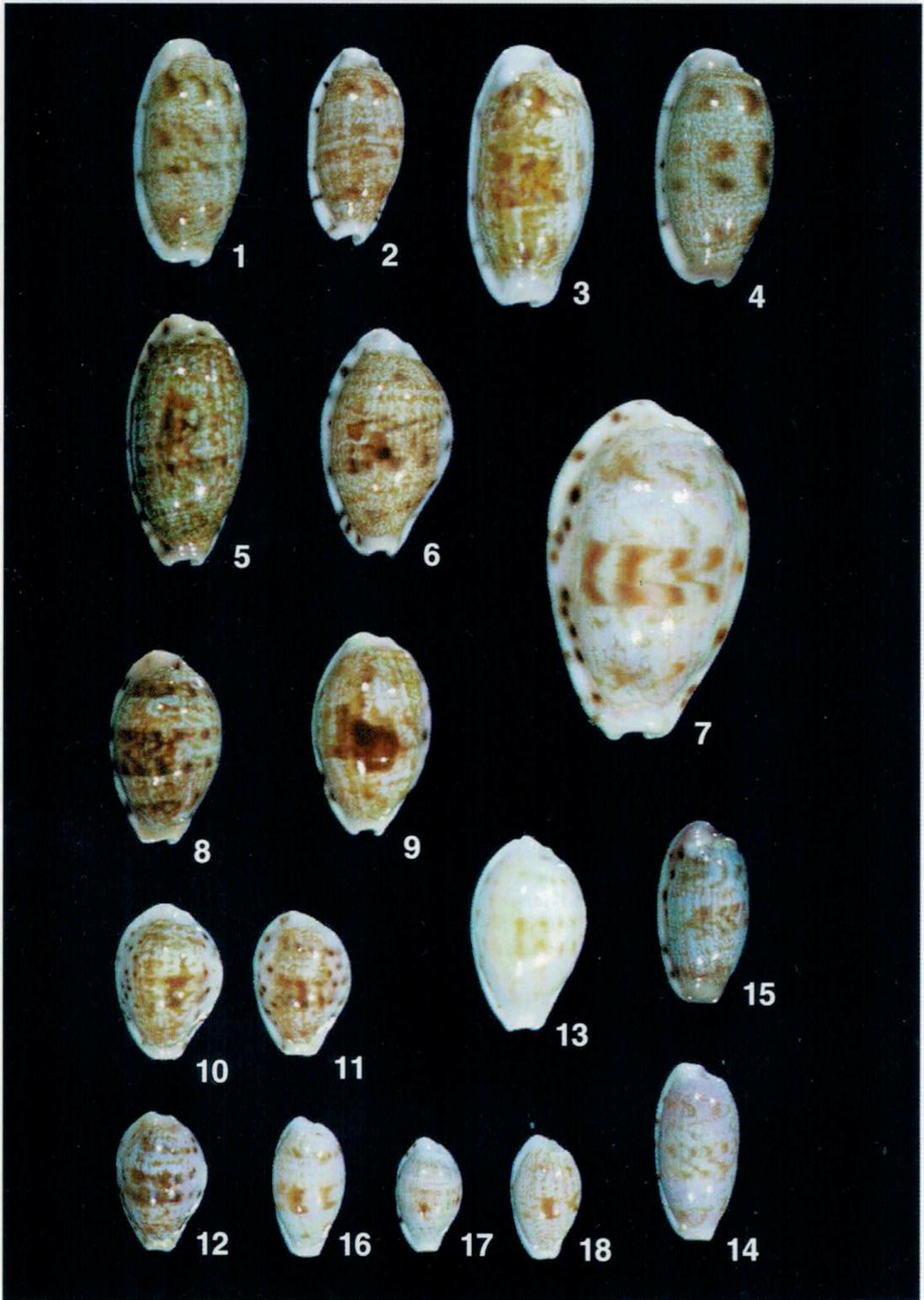
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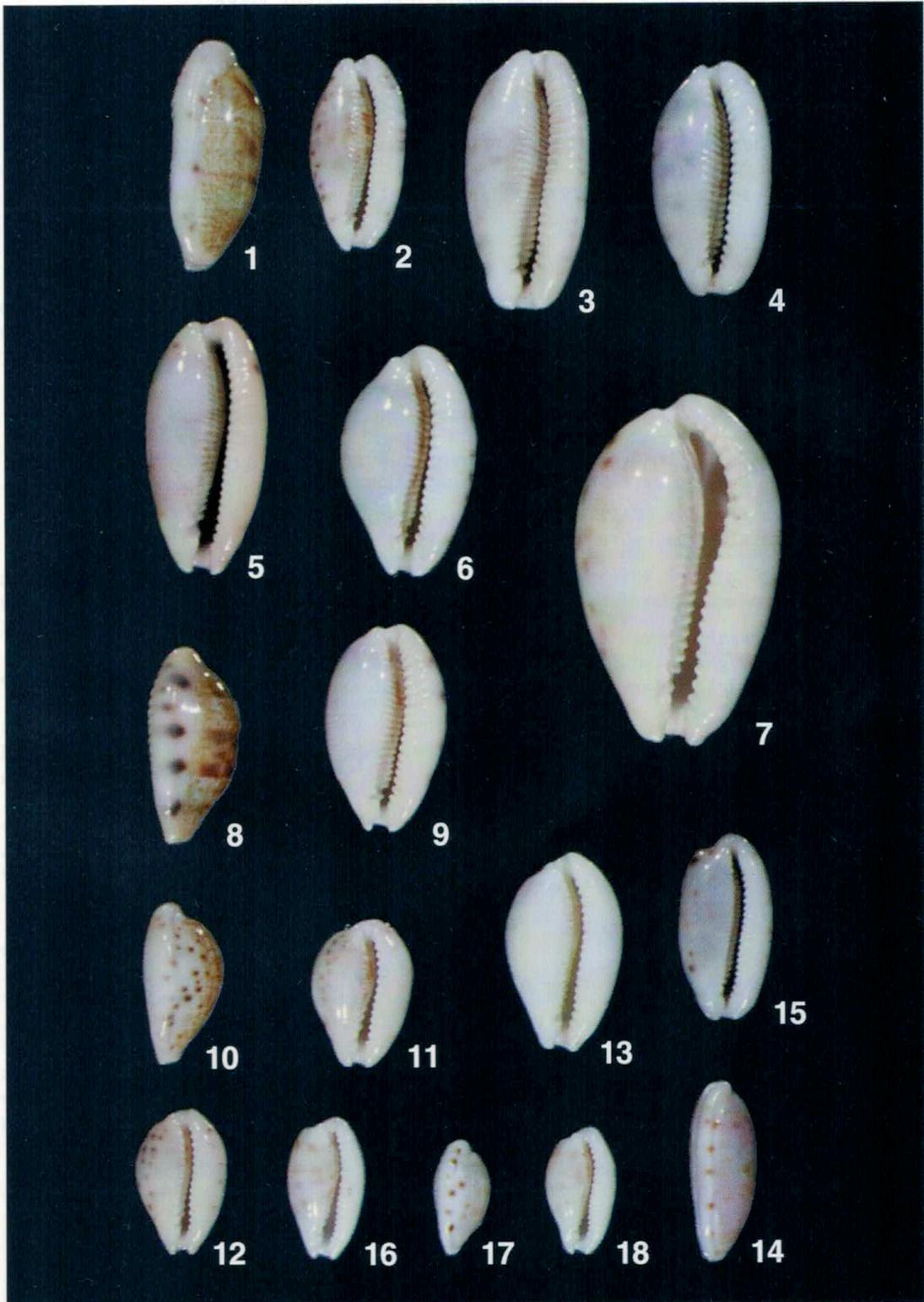
Addresses of the authors:

FELIX LORENZ jun., Ginsterweg 6, D-2058 Lauenburg,

JEAN PIERRE BARBIER, 42 Rue Pierre Marx, F-77260 La Ferté Sous Jouarre, France.



F. LORENZ jun. & J. P. BARBIER: A new subspecies of *Talostolida rashleighana*.



F. LORENZ jun. & J. P. BARBIER: A new subspecies of *Talostolida rashleighana*

Explanations of plates 20-21.
(pages 70-71, enlarged; photos V. WIESE)

Identical numbers are showing identical shells from different views.

Fig. 1: *Talostolida teres teres* (GMELIN 1791), Bazaruto Island, Mozambique, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 2: *T. teres teres* (GMELIN 1791), Helengeli, Maldives, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 3: *T. teres teres* [*subfasciata* (LINK 1807)], Nouméa, New Caledonia, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 4: *T. teres teres* [*hermani* (IREDALE 1939)], Arue, Tahiti, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 5: *T. teres teres* [*pellucens* (MELVILL 1888)], Las Perlas, Panama, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 6: *T. teres alveolus* [*latior* (MELVILL 1888)], Nuku Hiva, Marquesas, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 7: *T. teres burgessi* (KAY 1981), Kure Island, Hawaii, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 8: *T. teres alveolus* (TAPPARONE 1882), Durban, Natal, South Africa, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 9: *T. teres alveolus* [*alisonae* (BURGESS 1983)], Honolulu, Hawaii, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 10-11: *T. rashleighana* (MELVILL 1888), Honolulu, Hawaii, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 12: *T. rashleighana* (MELVILL 1888), Waikiki, Hawaii, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 13: *T. rashleighana* [*eunota* (TAYLOR 1916)], subfossil sediment, Honolulu, Hawaii, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 14: *T. subteres* (WEINKAUFF 1888), Tuamotu, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 15: *T. subteres* (WEINKAUFF 1888), Tahiti, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 16: *T. rashleighana pseudoteres* n. ssp., Paratype 1, Nouméa, New Caledonia, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 17: *T. rashleighana pseudoteres* n. ssp., Paratype 2, Nouméa, New Caledonia, coll. LORENZ.

Fig. 16: *T. rashleighana pseudoteres* n. ssp., Holotype, Nouméa, New Caledonia, (HNC 29091).