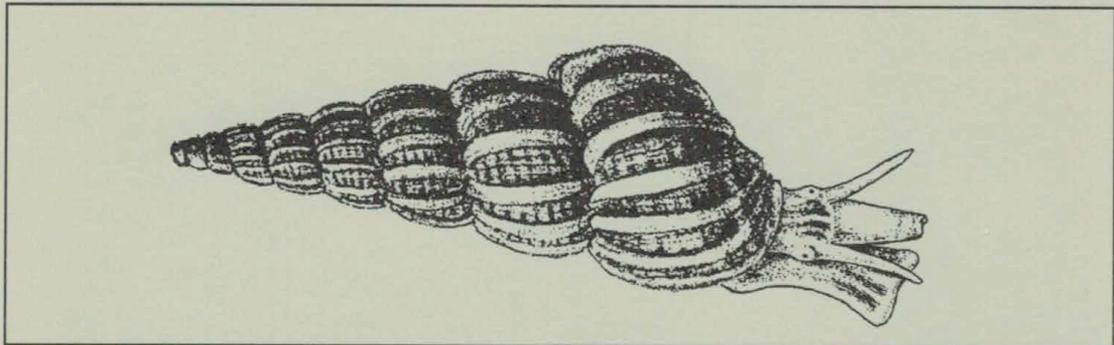


Schriften zur Malakozoologie

aus dem Haus der Natur - Cismar

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Notes on the genus *Lilliconus* G. RAYBAUDI MASSILIA 1994 (Gastropoda: Conidae).

by
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Abstract: The species of the genus *Lilliconus* are summarized as being an overlooked group of tiny Conidae species. The occurrence of *Conus sagei* from Tanzania is reported. Specimens of *Conus papalis* and *Conus traillii*, both so far known only from the type material, have been recovered from samples from an undisclosed locality in the Philippines.

In 1994, GABRIELLA RAYBAUDI MASSILIA described the genus *Lilliconus* to accommodate a group of extremely small Conidae-species with radiations in the western Indian Ocean and the Philippines. Five Indo-Pacific species were assigned to this new genus:

Lilliconus biraghii (G. RAYBAUDI MASSILIA, 1992) (with three subspecies)

Lilliconus korni (G. RAYBAUDI MASSILIA, 1993)

Lilliconus boschorum (MOOLENBEEK & COOMANS, 1993)

Lilliconus sagei (KORN & G. RAYBAUDI MASSILIA, 1993) and, with a question mark,

Lilliconus papalis (WEINKAUFF, 1875).

Another taxon evidently belonging to this group is *Lilliconus traillii* (ADAMS, 1855).

These species are characterized by being very small, usually 1 cm and less. Most have a coronate shoulder and high spire. The radula teeth are considered primitive, with distinctive features supporting the generic subdivision of the family as proposed by G. RAYBAUDI MASSILIA.

1. Populations of *Lilliconus* from Tanzania

A sample of beachgrit collected by the author along the beach of Silversands, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, contained four specimens of Conidae which resemble the size, general shape and colour pattern of the widespread *L. sagei* known from Somalia and Mozambique. Another specimen of *Lilliconus* from the same locality somewhat deviates from the features assigned to *L. sagei*. The shoulders are rounded instead of angular, the pattern is sparse and paler.

Two further specimens of an indeterminate Conidae-species were also collected at Silversands, one of which resembling *L. boschorum* in shape and pattern while the other has a uniform red colour, with a paler zone towards the shoulder. The known East African distribution of the genus *Lilliconus* was so Somalia and Mozambique, the Tanzanian material fills a gap. Apparently the radiation of very small Conidae along the Eastern African coast comprises several so far unknown species which have so far been overlooked or been interpreted as juvenile stages.

2. Specimens of *Lilliconus papalis* (WEINKAUFF, 1875) in a sand sample from the Philippines

This species was formerly known from only three syntypes from Ticao island, Philippines. A living population was, according to G. RAYBAUDI, so far unknown. In a bag of coral rubble for seawater aquariums acquired at a department store in Giessen two years ago yielded numerous more or less eroded specimens evidently belonging to *L. papalis*. The identification made by the author was later confirmed by G. RAYBAUDI MASSILIA (pers. comm. 1996). In 10 kg coral rubble, 44 specimens of *L. papalis* were found, suggesting that the species is moderately common in a shallow water habitat. Judging from certain mollucan shells also taken from the sample it is possible to pinpoint the habitat to be an intertidal shallow coral reef within a lagoon:

Strombidae: *Strombus micrurceus*, *S. mutabilis*

Cypraeidae: *Purpuradusta fimbriata*, *Erosaria annulus*

Triviidae: *T. pulex*, *T. oryza*

Eratoidae: *Erato* sp.

Mitridae: *Thala mirifica*, *Mitra peculiaris*

Conidae: *Conus axelrodi*, *C. musicus*

The sales manager of the department store confirmed that the sand was imported from the Philippines, from a wholesaler stationed in Cebu. It is likely that the coral rubble collected for use as substrate in seawater aquariums is collected near the doorstep of the wholesalers.

3. Notes on *Lilliconus traillii* (Adams, 1855)

Another sand sample from the same supplier was claimed to come directly from Cebu. It contained a number of specimens belonging to a *Lilliconus* species with a pattern similar to *L. papalis*, but with the shoulders and last whorls not coronate but smooth and rounded. Some specimens therefore resemble *Conus traillii* (ADAMS, 1855) illustrated in RÖCKEL, KORN & KOHN, others are intermediate to *L. papalis*. A specimen similar to *L. traillii* was also amongst the *L. papalis* from the first sand sample. Apparently, both taxa seem to be closely related.

Literature:

RAYBAUDI MASSILIA, G. (1994): "Lilliput, yet fully grown, active predators" *La Conchiglia* 270 p. 13 ff.

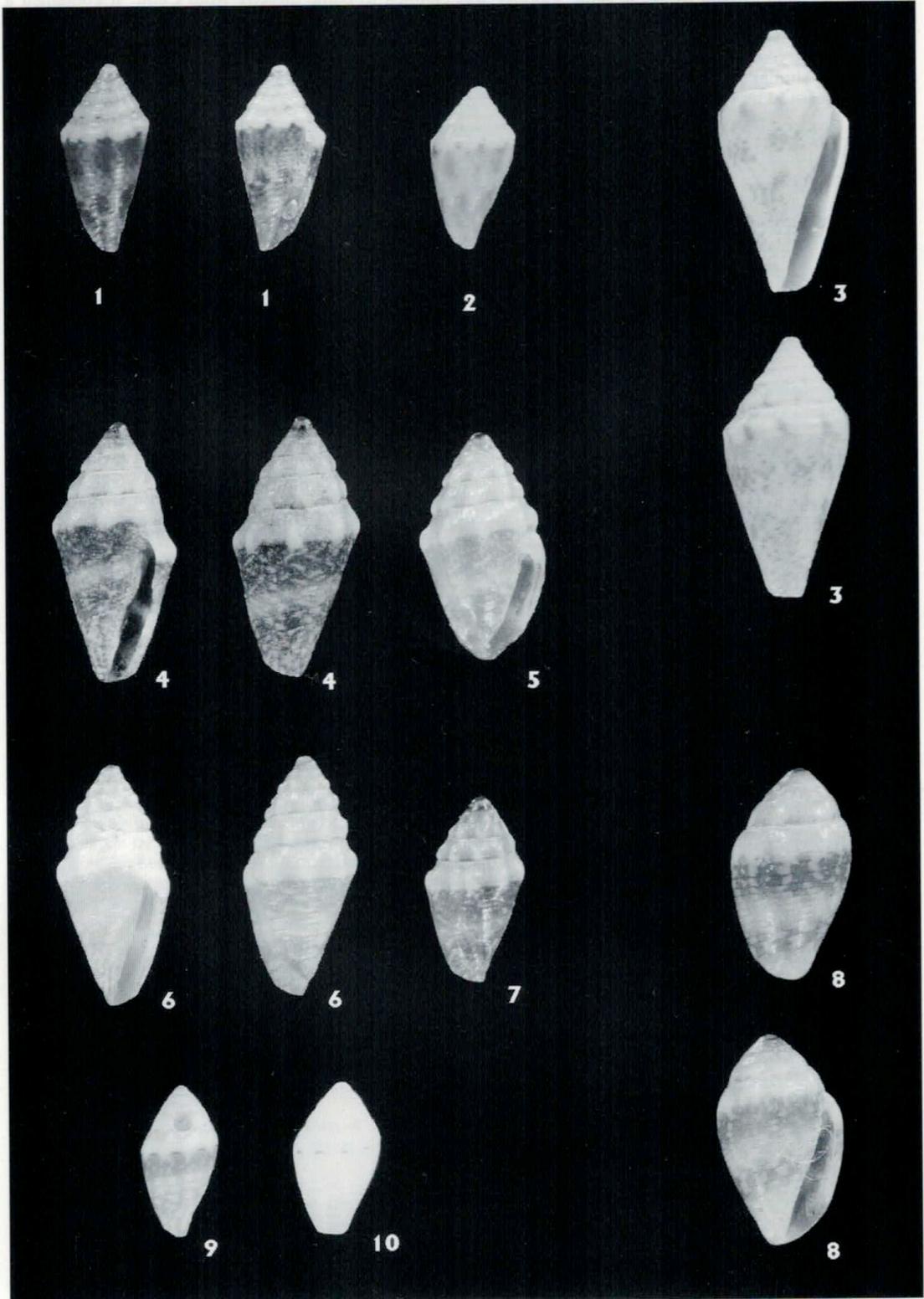
RÖCKEL, D., KORN, W. & KOHN, A.J. (1995): "Manual of the Living Conidae" Hemmen Verlag, Wiesbaden, pl. 71, figs. 13, 14

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Explanations of plate 2: (enlarged 5 x, photos: V. WIESE)

- Fig. 1-2: *Lilliconus sagei*, Bahari Beach, Tanzania
Fig. 3: *Lilliconus* sp., Bahari Beach, Tanzania
Fig. 4-7: *Lilliconus papalis*, unknown locality in the Philippines
Fig. 8: *Lilliconus* cf. *traillii*, unknown locality in the Philippines
Fig. 9-10: *Lilliconus* cf. *traillii*, unknown locality, probably Cebu, Philippines
(Fig. 10 almost completely eroded and faded specimen)



F. LORENZ JUN.: Notes on the genus *Lilliconus* G. RAYBAUDI MASSILIA 1994 (Gastropoda: Conidae).