





XESTINA SIAMENSIS



NOTE ON THE LAND SNAIL *XESTINA SIAMENSIS*.

BY J. R. LE B. TOMLIN, M. A.

( WITH PLATE 27 )

This handsome species of the Zonitidae was originally described as *Helix siamensis* by Pfeiffer<sup>1</sup> from "Siam" and based on specimens in the Cuming collection which is now incorporated in that of the British Museum. Three years later Pfeiffer<sup>2</sup> redescribed it from specimens which he said were in the collection of Mr. Haines of New York, and figures of Haines' shells are given in *Novitates Conchologicae*, Vol. 1, pl. xxi, figs. 7-9, but they are unsatisfactory and not very recognizable. Probably these original examples were not full-grown; their maximum diameter is said to be 25 mm., whereas one from Pak Tawan, Prachuap, which I owe to Dr. Kerr, measures 35 mm. A rather smaller race comes from Kanburi, measuring 30 mm. in diameter.

*Xestina siamensis* is a handsome shell; the upper side is a rather pale rust-red; immediately above the periphery this colour finishes up sharply and abruptly with a narrow band of rather deeper tint; and the under side is entirely a pale yellowish-white. The upper side of the whorls, under a lens, is seen to be covered with extremely fine and close parallel axial ridges, which are cut at moderate intervals with shallow spiral grooves. The base of the shell shows very little sculpture of any kind.

In 1860, apparently oblivious of his *Helix siamensis*, Pfeiffer<sup>3</sup> described the same species again as *H. (Nanina) mouhoti*, once more from specimens in Cuming's collection sent home by Mouhot. The figure is extremely poor. This time better ones seem to have been obtained, as Pfeiffer in 1868<sup>4</sup> catalogues a variety *major* 35 mm. in diameter—exactly the size of the Pak Tawan shell before mentioned.

---

1 Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1856, p. 32.

2 Monogr. Helic., IV, p. 60.

3 Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1860 p. 136, pl. 50, fig. 5.

4 Monog. Helic., V, p. 117.

It may be noted that later in 1860 Reeve<sup>5</sup> described a *Helix mouhoti* from Cambodia which he subsequently renamed *ambojiensis*. The identity of *siamensis* Pfeiffer and *mouhoti* Pfeiffer was suggested by von Martens<sup>6</sup> in 1867, and he gives a good figure of the animal crawling. He states that the species is very common at "Petshaburi" and that it had been collected in Siam by House, Mouhot, Castelnau, and Schomburgk.

Dr. Kerr took it not uncommonly at Pak Tawan on July 27, 1931; at Kanburi on April 6, 1931; and at Kao Yoi, Petchaburi, in June, 1931.

A white variety also occurs which von Martens<sup>7</sup> erroneously recorded as *Nanina hainesi* Pfeiffer.

It seems worth while to publish better figures of the species: the shells now illustrated are two from Kanburi.

---

5 Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (3), VI, p. 203.

6 Preuss. Exp. nach Ost-Asien, II, p. 71.

7 Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1860, p. 7.