

Notes on Kenya Land- and Freshwater Snails

4. A note on the distribution of the subgenus

Psichion of *Trachycystis*

by

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It is well known that the genus *Trachycystis* is mainly centred in South Africa, but several species have been described from East Africa. The proper generic grouping of these northern species is not really certain since no examination was made of the animals. Also some of the species referred to *Goniodiscus*, *Pyramidula* and even very diverse genera may in truth be, in fact almost certainly are *Trachycystis* species. *T. ambigua* Conn., a member of the subgenus *Psichion*, is known from Portuguese East Africa and the writer has given an account (VERDCOURT, 1952, p. 62) of a specimen from the East Usambara Mts., (Amani) N.E. Tanganyika which seems to be this species and agrees in every way with the description.¹⁾ The subgenus has the most characteristic radula, which is different from any other genus and utterly unmistakable.

A further member of the subgenus was found crawling on the leaves of *Acokanthera* in the Karura forest near Nairobi, Kenya (Amani specimen was also on a bush)²⁾.

The tentacles are greyish and the rest of the body whitish. The jaw is 51.5—78 μ wide and 0.515 mm. broad crossed by about 35 ribs. The radula is 1.34 mm. long and 0.4 mm. broad with 110 transverse rows of teeth, 20 of which stain in acid dyes. There are 15 laterals, 6 transitional laterals, and 13 marginals, in all 67 teeth in a row. The central tooth is 11.8 μ high and the mesocone situated at the extreme base.

At least ten species which possibly belong to *Trachycystis* have been described from East Africa but without resort to all the types no comparisons can yet be made, but the specimen seems very close to *T. ambigua* Connolly (CONNOLLY, 1922, p. 116) and the radula agrees closely with the Amani specimen.

REFERENCES

- CONNOLLY, M., 1922. Diagnoses of new Species of Non-marine Mollusca from Portuguese South-east Africa. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (9), vol. 10, pp. 113—122.
 VERDCOURT, B., 1952. The Family Endodontidae in East Africa. Bacteria, vol. 16, pp. 60—63, 3 figs.

¹⁾ *Trachycystis ambigua* Connolly has been found in a further locality since the above note was written. Several specimens were found under the sheaths of bamboos in the City Park, Nairobi, 5th July, 1952. B. Verdcourt.

²⁾ The Amani specimen is in the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, the Nairobi specimen in the British Museum (Natural History).