

**On *Theba pisana arietina* (Rossmässler, 1846), a land snail new for Portugal
(Gastropoda Pulmonata: Helicidae)**

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Theba pisana arietina (Rossmässler, 1846) is here mentioned for the first time from Portugal. The discovery of this subspecies in the province of Algarve supports the theory that *T. p. arietina* had a much wider distribution on the southern Iberian peninsula in the past.

Key words: Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Helicidae, *Theba pisana*, distribution, Portugal.

In August 1988 Mr. D. Wolfskeel (Schagen) collected in the outer dunes of Monte Clérigo (= ca. 5 km NW. Aljezur, province of Algarve, Portugal) a sample of 26 empty shells of a *Theba*-species that turned out to be *Theba pisana arietina* (Rossmässler, 1846). All shells show a very prominent keel along the periphery, are strongly depressed and have an open umbilicus. In addition, all specimens are without (remains of) dark spiral bands or dots. The sample is indistinguishable from typical samples of the Sierra de San Cristóbal present in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (Leiden) (Th. E. J. Ripken, personal communication).

Typical *T. p. arietina* where so far only known from the Sierra de San Cristóbal (province of Cádiz, Spain). According to Sacchi (1957: 81) the gene pool of *T. p. arietina* is being absorbed by that of *T. p. pisana* through a recent secondary contact. Gittenberger & Ripken (1987: 42) postulated that in the past the range of *T. p. arietina* had been larger than only the Sierra de San Cristóbal. They mentioned specimens, intermediate between the nominate subspecies and *T. p. arietina*, from 1.4 km W. of Rota and from near the mouth of the Rio Jara 5 km NW. of Tarifa (15 km W. and 80 km SE. of the Sierra de San Cristóbal respectively). The discovery of *T. p. arietina* in Portugal at a locality 250 km WNW. of the Sierra de San Cristóbal clearly indicates a large range of *T. p. arietina* on the southern Iberian peninsula in the past.

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REFERENCES

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