

Notes on the types of some pulmonate shells from the
Scheepmaker collection, now in the Amsterdam
Zoological Museum

by

T. VAN BENTHEM JUTTING

(Zoological Museum, Amsterdam).

In the first moiety of the 19-th century there lived at Amsterdam a schoolmaster, G. S c h e e p m a k e r Wzn., who possessed an extensive cabinet of shells, famous among contemporary collectors for the various rare objects from China, Australia, Madagascar and North America. The owner entertained relations in the shell branch with many correspondents, several of them residing in the Malay Archipelago. From these collectors he obtained the material for his wonderful collection, and, as there now and then turned up new species among their shipments, S c h e e p m a k e r, being only an amateur, distributed these novelties to well-known conchologists of the time for description. Most of the type specimens, if not all, were claimed back again, thus rendering the S c h e e p m a k e r collection so much the more valuable.

After the death of the owner the S c h e e p m a k e r collection was sold (Catalogus van eene zeer belangrijke boekverzameling, . . . gedeeltelijk nagelaten door den . . . Heer G. S c h e e p m a k e r Wzn., etc. . . . Conchyliologisch Kabinet . . . 24, 25 en 26 Januarij 1855). The catalogue (a copy of which is preserved in the Library of the Dutch Publishers and Booksellers Society at Amsterdam) gives only a very superficial description of the Cabinet, a few genera being mentioned without further details. It is announced that the cabinet is to be sold "en bloc", but I doubt whether this was the case after all.

A large and important share was purchased by Mr. J. V o o r h o e v e H.Cz. and incorporated in his collection at Rotterdam. Some years later, after the death of Mr. V o o r h o e v e (Catalogue de la précieuse et superbe Collection de

Coquilles etc., de Mr. J. Voorhoeve H.Cz., à Rotterdam, 2 avril 1872 et jours suivants) his cabinet was sold (a detailed catalogue with annotations of the names of buyers and prices is preserved in the Library of the Dutch Publishers and Booksellers Society at Amsterdam). Several well-known collectors of the time, countrymen and foreigners, participated in the sale. The Royal Zoological Society *Natura Artis Magistra* at Amsterdam spent about 650 guilders in all, obtaining inter alia some type specimens originally derived from the *Scheepmaker* collection. All these objects still bear the yellow labels with the respective nos. of the *Voorhoeve* catalogue.

In this way the Amsterdam Zoological Museum acquired the types of the following species:

Ellobium scheepmakeri (Petit). In 1850 Petit de la Saussaye described a large species of *Ellobium* from the *Scheepmaker* collection, which he named *Auricula Scheepmakeri* (*Journ. de Conch.* Vol, 1, p. 405—406). There seems to have been only one individual, the holotypic specimen. The author, at any rate, did not possess a shell, as may be concluded from the fact that he did not add "Notre Collec." as in the case of the four other species (from another source) described in the same memoir. Obviously he returned the type to Mr. *Scheepmaker*. From the *Scheepmaker* collection the shell passed into the hands of Mr. *Voorhoeve*, and at the *Voorhoeve* sale it was bought by the Roy. Zool. Soc. *Natura Artis Magistra* for 10 guilders. This is certainly the type specimen; the dimensions are exactly the same as mentioned by Petit: high 84 mm, broad 38 mm, interior of aperture 39 mm. In his description Petit compared it with *Ellobium auris-midae* (L.) which is undoubtedly erroneous. Von Martens (*Süss- und Brackw. Moll. Ind. Arch. Erg. Weber*, Vol. IV, 1897, p. 154) called it a doubtful species and left it undecided whether *E. scheepmakeri* should be classified with *E. auris-midae* or with *E. subnodosa*. A figure of the shell, which is reproduced here, demonstrates

that it is evidently a relative of *E. subnodosa* (Metcalf). On account of the higher spire, the flatter knobs and the maximal breadth of the ultimate whorl lying below the middle instead of above it, the shell may claim to stand as a distinct species.

Elaphroconcha gypsacea (Pfeiffer)

Planispira loxotropis (Pfeiffer)

Planispira scheepmakeri (Pfeiffer)

Planispira zebra (Pfeiffer)

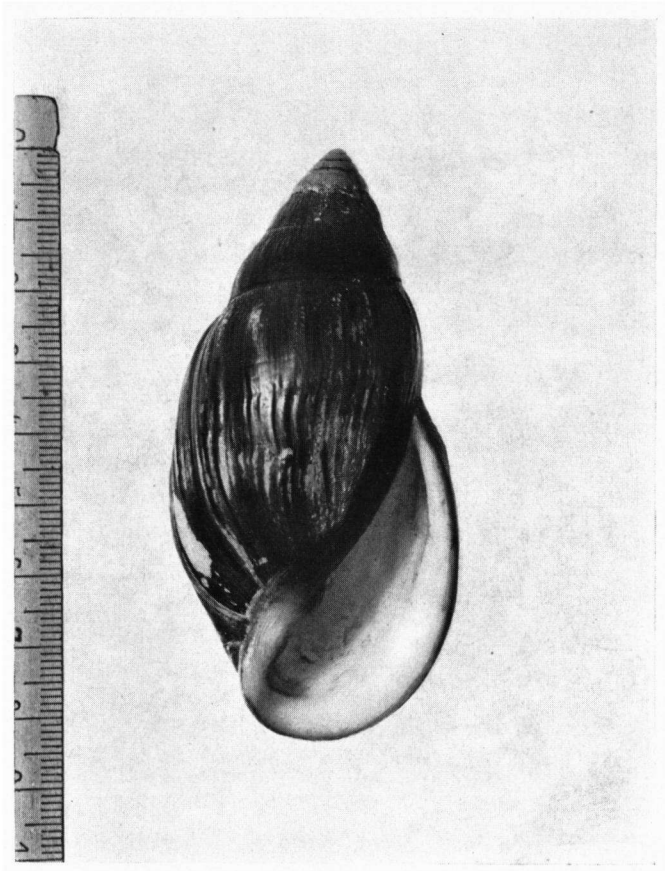
Planispira margaritis (Pfeiffer)

Planispira moluccensis (Pfeiffer). These six species, all designed as "*Helix*", together with "*Helix gigas*" [= *Ryssota brookei* (A. d. s. & Reeve)] were described by L. Pfeiffer in 1850 (*Zeitschr. Malak.* Vol. 7, p. 82, 83, 84) from specimens in the Scheepmaker collection. They were treated again by Pfeiffer in *N. Syst. Conch. Cab.* Vol. I, Abt. 12—III, 1853, nos. 878, 871, 872, 875, 876, 874 and figured on plate 135. This time Pfeiffer referred again to their origin from the Scheepmaker collection and therefore it is incomprehensible why Von Martens (*Ostas. Landschn.* 1867, p. 305 at *Pl. loxotropis*) remarked that Pfeiffer founded the species on specimens from the Wallace collection.

It is astonishing that the author seems to have been ignorant of the original locality of the shells. He gives his *Helix gypsacea* from unknown habitat, all the others as "in insulis Moluccis". Four of the type specimens, however, bear more detailed localities. Thus *Pl. loxotropis* comes from Halmahera Id., *Pl. scheepmakeri* from Batjan Id., *Pl. margaritis* from Ceram Id. and *Pl. moluccensis* from the island of Misool. Only *Pl. zebra* is labelled "Moluccas" and the habitat of *E. gypsacea* is unknown. That, nevertheless, the specimens of the Scheepmaker collection are the actual types is proved moreover by the comparison of their measurements with the dimensions as mentioned by Pfeiffer, a comparison which agrees to the very millimeter.

All six shells shared the same fate as *Ellobium scheepmakeri*

Plaat no. 2.



Ellobium scheepmakeri (Petit)
Type specimen

mentioned before, wandering from the *Scheepmaker* collection to the *Voorhoeve* cabinet, and from the latter to the Amsterdam Zoological Museum. Only *Helix gigas* was evidently not purchased by Mr. *Voorhoeve*, and the shell figuring as *Ryssota brookei* in his sale catalogue does not come from the *Scheepmaker* collection. At the *Voorhoeve* sale *Elaphroconcha gypsacea*, together with 10 other species, fetched 31 guilders, *Planispira loxotropis*, together with 2 other species, *f* 4.75, *Pl. scheepmakeri* was left for *f* 12.75, *Pl. zebra* and *moluccensis*, together with another species for *f* 6.75 and *Pl. margaritis*, together with 1 other species, for *f* 5.—. All species still bear small white labels with the names in *Pfeiffer's* handwriting and yellow labels with the numbers under which they figured in the *Voorhoeve* sale catalogue.

Considering the modern conception of the species under discussion we can safely assume that the five species of *Planispira* are all acknowledged as valid nowadays (vide Manual of Conchology, Vol. 6, 1890). *Pl. moluccensis* was renamed *Pl. semirasa* by certain authors on account of the delusive meaning of the name *moluccensis*, the species coming from Misool, not from the Moluccas. This argument, however, is not sufficient and the name *semirasa* has to fall in synonymy.

Elaphroconcha gypsacea was brought into the relationship of *E. nemorensis* (Müll.) by its author. *Von Martens* (l. c. 1867, p. 209) in the contrary, assigned it to *E. stuartiae* (Sow.). In the Manual of Conchology Vol. II, 1886, p. 70 *Tryon* maintained it as an independent species. It is certainly a problematic shell, but it is doubtful if it deserves specific rank. In my opinion it should be classified as a variety or a local form of *E. nemorensis*.