

**Mareleptopoma cubensis n. sp., a new species from Cuba
(Gastropoda Prosobranchia)**

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Mareleptopoma cubensis n. sp. is described based on shells collected from beach drift from Cienfuegos Bay, Cuba; it is mainly characterized by the wide umbilicus and the flat whorls with axial ribs.

Key words: Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Rissoacea?, Trochacea?, Skeneidae?, Pickworthiidae?, *Mareleptopoma*, taxonomy, Caribbean, Cuba.

The molluscs of the Caribbean seas have received special attention in recent years, resulting in the publication of several books and papers, e.g. Petuch (1987) and De Jong & Coomans (1988).

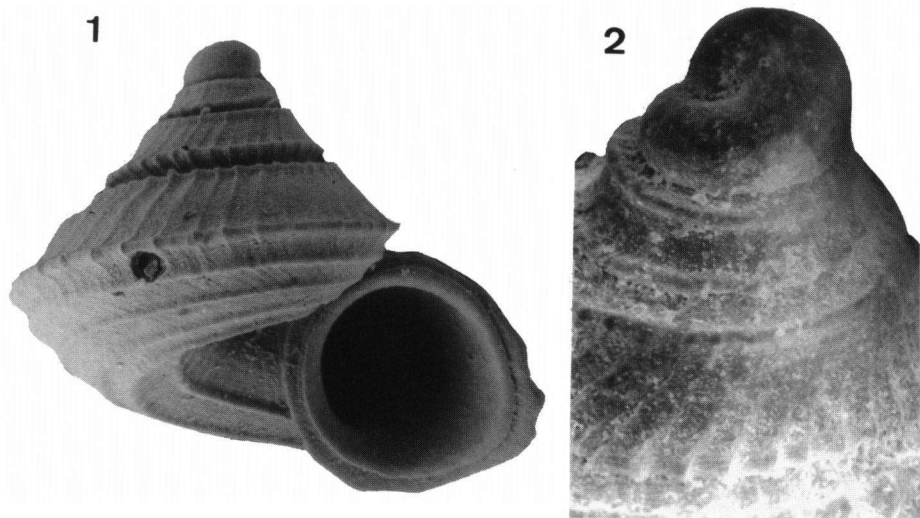
Since 1984, La Habana (Cuba) and Autónoma de Madrid (Spain) universities have begun a cooperation and several scientific expeditions have been made, so that a lot of mollusc material has been collected. Studies on this material have led to the present paper.

The genus *Mareleptopoma* has been recently established by Moolenbeek & Faber (1984) for *M. karpatensis* Moolenbeek & Faber, 1984, its type species. The systematic position of the genus is uncertain, Rissoacea, Trochacea and Skeneidae having been mentioned by Moolenbeek & Faber. The family Pickworthiidae has also been suggested (Moolenbeek, personal communication, 1990). In addition to the type species from the Caribbean (Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles), two more, from the Pacific Ocean and Red Sea respectively, are included in this genus by Bouchet in his unpublished thesis (1987).

In the material collected at Cienfuegos Bay by the second author, several shells of an unknown species were found. By virtue of its morphological characters it could be included in the genus under discussion. It differs mainly from the type species in its wide umbilicus. It is considered provisionally as belonging to the genus *Mareleptopoma*.

***Mareleptopoma cubensis* n. sp. (figs. 1-2)**

Description. — Shell very small, conical, a little rounded on the base, colour whitish, somewhat transparent, with flat whorls and marked sutures. Protoconch



Figs. 1-2. *Mareleptopoma cubensis* n. sp., holotype. 1, shell; 2, protoconch. Both photographs highly enlarged; holotype 1.04×1.13 mm.

globular, comprising little more than one whorl; the nucleus is at a lower level and from it the spire becomes elevated, after which it descends again. The teleoconch has between three and three and a half whorls, which increase quickly and show a flat exterior profile, bordered by two spiral cords, which form the upper and lower limits of the deep sutural canal. Several oblique axial ribs are present on the surface of the whorls. These ribs cross the spiral cords, are continued in the sutural canal, but are attenuated below the periphery of the last whorl and disappear on the base of the shell. In the last whorl the spiral cord on the periphery is prominent. Below it there are four more spiral cords, separated by about equal interstices. A fifth spiral cord is present inside at the edge of the wide umbilicus. The aperture is circular with a double labrum, the outer being a little irregular due to the ending of the spiral cords. In profile the aperture is somewhat receding, but its edge is almost straight. Microsculpture on the whorls consists of very small tubercles.

The animal is unknown.

Type locality. — The type material has been collected at Punta de los Colorados in the Bahía de Cienfuegos, Cuba.

Type material. — The holotype (1.04×1.13 mm) has been deposited in the malacological collection of the Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática in La Habana (Cuba), with the number 5 in the type catalogue. There is one paratype in the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid (Spain), no. 15.05/1067, one in the E. Rolán collection (Vigo) and three in the Fernandez-Garcés collection (Cienfuegos).

Etymology. — The specific name refers to the country where the species was first collected.

Remarks. — *Mareleptopoma cubensis* n. sp. can be differentiated from the other species of the genus by its wide umbilicus and the flat whorls with axial ribs.

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