

**Xeromunda alticola n. sp., a species from the alpine region of the Peloponnese, Greece (Gastropoda Pulmonata: Hygromiidae)**

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*Xeromunda alticola* n. sp. from the alpine region of the Aroania Ori (N. Peloponnisos, Greece) is described as new to science. The shell closely resembles that of *Helicopsis gittenbergeri* Hausdorf, 1990, from the Parnon Ori (E. Peloponnisos).

Key words: Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Hygromiidae, *Xeromunda*, *Helicopsis*, taxonomy, Greece, Peloponnisos.

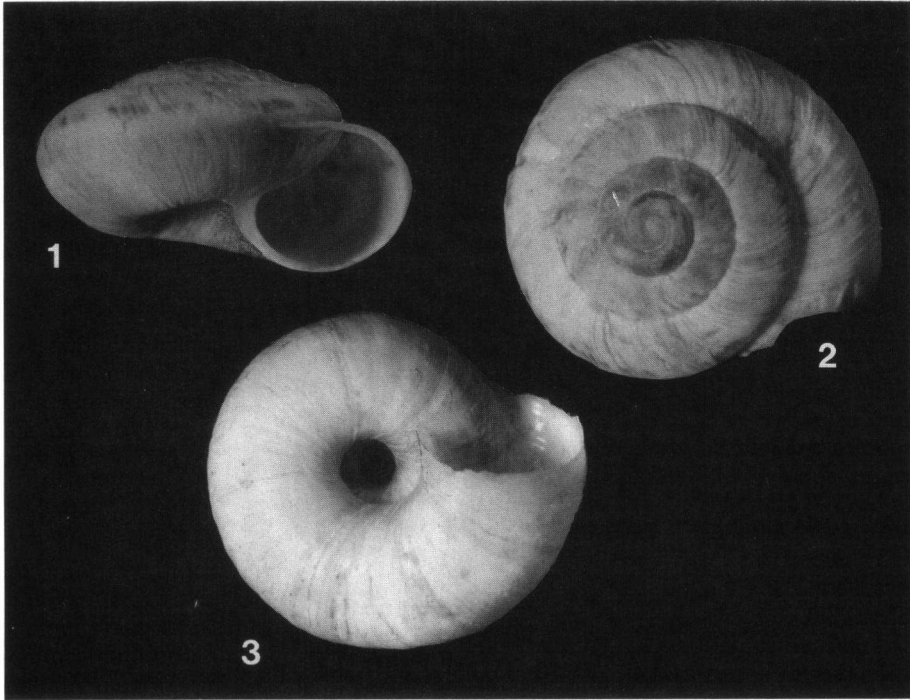
During the last decades, our knowledge about the non-marine molluscan fauna of Greece has increased rapidly. Nevertheless, we know almost nothing about the land-snails of the alpine regions of the Greek mountains. Therefore the investigations of Prof. Dr. E. Gittenberger on the molluscs of the mountains of the Peloponnese close a gap. In the course of these investigations small, xerophilous hygromiids were discovered in both the Parnon and the Aroania Ori (= mountains). Initially, material for anatomical studies was available only from the Parnon Ori. This material was dissected and used for the original description of *Helicopsis gittenbergeri* Hausdorf, 1990. The specimens from the Aroania Ori were thought to be conspecific with reservation. Recently Prof. Gittenberger found a living specimen in the Aroania Ori. Its dissection shows that it belongs not only to a different species, but even to a genus different from that of the species of the Parnon Ori. All material is in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, the Netherlands (abbreviated NNM).

***Xeromunda alticola* n. sp.**  
(figs. 1-4)

*Helicopsis gittenbergeri* Hausdorf, 1990b: 58 (partim, from the Aroania Ori).

Material. — Greece, Nomos Akhaia, Aroania Ori, c. 8 km ESE. of Kalavrita (13.vii.1992): 1975 m alt., FH00 (NNM 56788/holotype, 56768/4 paratypes); 2200-2300 m alt., FH00 (NNM 56767/3 paratypes); 1650-1800 m alt., FH01 (NNM 56257/5 paratypes).

Shell (figs. 1-3). — Shell depressed conical, with 4-4 1/2 convex whorls, separated by deep sutures. Above the periphery the teleoconch is sculptured with rather coarse, irregular ribs, whereas the shell base is less prominently ribbed. Colour pattern, yellowish-white with brown bands which are more or less clearly disintegrated as spots. Body-whorl with a rather vague peripheral keel, which becomes obsolete towards the aperture. Aperture almost circular, only little interrupted by the penultimate whorl. Palatal insertion of the peristome not lowered in front; peristome sharp, without an internal rib. Umbilicus slightly eccentric, measuring about 1/5 of the shell width. Width 6.8-8.2 mm, height 3.9-4.8 mm.



Figs. 1-3. *Xeromunda alticola* n. sp., Greece, Aroania Ori, c. 8 km ESE. of Kalavrita, 1975 m alt. 1, 2, holotype (NNM 56788), actual width 7.2 mm; 3, paratype (NNM 56768), actual width 8.2 mm. Photo E. Gittenberger.

Genitalia (fig. 4). — Only one specimen, the holotype, could be examined anatomically. It shows the diagnostic characters of the genus *Xeromunda* Monterosato, 1892 (see Hausdorf, 1990a).

The specimen in question can be described as follows. Penis 1.5 mm, provided with an elongated-conical penial papilla. Epiphallus 4.5 mm, 3.8 times longer than the relatively short flagellum, which measures 1.2 mm. Dart sac rather large, 1.7 mm. There are two glandulae mucosae, with two to three branches each. Pedunculus of the bursa copulatrix 5.6 mm, basally swollen. Free oviduct very short, 0.9 mm, and broad.

Diagnostic characters. — Above all, *Xeromunda alticola* differs from other *Xeromunda* species in the small, irregularly ribbed, depressed-conical shell and the relatively short flagellum.

Notes. — *Xeromunda alticola* is virtually indistinguishable conchologically from *Helicopsis gittenbergeri*. Therefore, pending anatomical investigations, the first shells of the new species were thought to belong to that species, with reservations (Hausdorf, 1990b). Now it has become evident, that the species from the Aroania Ori and that from the Parnon Ori even belong to different genera.

From the alpine regions of the Parnassos Oros a species is known (colln. Hausdorf) with a very similar shell, which was preliminarily thought to belong to *Helicopsis gittenbergeri* too. In the light of the new results, the systematic position of this taxon is

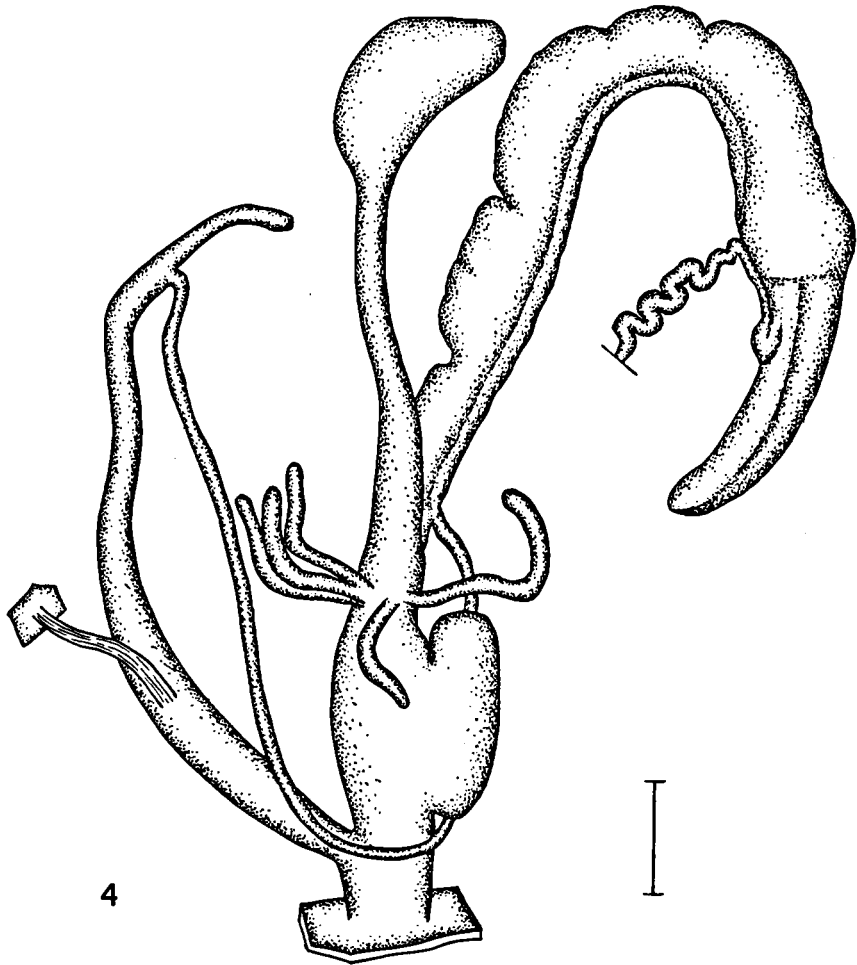


Fig. 4. *Xeromunda alticola* n. sp., genitalia of the holotype, Greece, Aroania Ori, c. 8 km ESE. of Kalavrita, 1975 m alt. Scale 1 mm.

quite uncertain. It is likely that it concerns another new species. This, however, cannot be confirmed without anatomical data being available. The same holds true for specimens (shells) known from the alpine region of the Oligirtos Ori (in NNM).

Range. — *Xeromunda alticola* is known only from high altitudes in the Aroania Ori.

Etymology. — The species lives at high altitudes (Latin: *altum* = altitude; *colere* = to settle).

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## REFERENCES

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