

**Subuliniscus adjacens Connolly (Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Subulinidae)
on Mt. Kenya, East Africa**

B. VERDCOURT

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, U.K.

Subuliniscus adjacens is recorded from Mt. Kenya, the first record apparently of the genus from the mountain.

Key words: Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Subulinidae, *Subuliniscus*, distribution, Kenya, East Africa..

Whilst working at the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (IRSNB) in Brussels in 1995, my attention was drawn to the fact that Dr. J.L. Van Goethem and several colleagues had visited Mt. Kenya in July, 1975, and made a considerable collection of molluscs. This included several hundred specimens of Vitrinidae, a group whose East African representatives I have been trying to make sense of for some twenty years but so far without success. I went through the collection naming it up as best as I could and at least to genus.

Some material I borrowed to study further and compare with types in the British Museum (Natural History) (BM), London. Included in this material were two rather immature specimens of a *Subuliniscus*, a genus so far as I am aware not previously recorded from Mt. Kenya. Connolly (1923) when describing some of the Preston reliquiae, undoubtedly was deluded into recognising too many species. Van Goethem's material is clearly not distinguishable from *Subuliniscus adjacens* Connolly, 1923, but it seems to me likely that this together with *S. nyiroensis* Connolly, 1923, and possibly others, are not really separable from *S. chiradzuluensis* (Smith, 1899), described from Malawi. With these rather featureless snails it would be unwise to be dogmatic until some anatomical comparisons have been made. So far as I know no thorough anatomical investigation has been made of any species included in the genus *Subuliniscus* Pilsbry, 1919 (type species, *Subulina ruwenzoriensis* Pollonera, 1907). I am therefore content to record the Mt. Kenya material as *S. adjacens*.

Subuliniscus adjacens Connolly, 1923

Subuliniscus adjacens Connolly, 1923, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) 11: 360, pl. 1 fig. 12. Type: Kenya, 'Larogi Hills' (= Leroghi or Leroki Plateau), now Lorogi Plateau, 1°00'N 36°50'E, near Maralal and about 128 km from Mt. Kenya, leg. A.B. Percival, BM 1913.8.1.69, 1937.12.30.7207 and 7209-7210, all syntypes (there are several lots in the general collection of the Natural History Museum and also doubtless in many other museums, all from the same locality and supplied by H. Preston, but most would not have been seen by Connolly).

KENYA. — Mt. Kenya, Sirimon Track, 2700 m, under wood, 22 July 1975, leg.

J.L. van Goethem (no number, IRSNB) and another specimen at 2570 m, leg. J.L. van Goethem et al. (6D, IRSNB).

The biogeography of the isolated high mountains in East Africa is of great interest and the anomaly of *Subuliniscus* being known from Mts. Kilimanjaro and Meru but not Kenya is now removed.

Acknowledgements are due to Dr. J.L. Van Goethem for access to the material discussed above.

REFERENCES

- CONNOLLY, M., 1923. Notes on African non-marine Mollusca, with descriptions of many new species. — *Ann. Mag. Hist.* (9) 11: 345-362.
- PILSBRY, H.A., 1919. A review of the land mollusks of the Belgian Congo chiefly based on the collections of the American Museum Congo Expedition, 1909-1915. — *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 40: i-x, 1-370.
- SMITH, E.A. On a collection of land snails from British Central Africa. — *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1899: 579-592.