

An early collection of *Gabbiella rosea* Mandahl-Barth, 1968  
(Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Bithyniidae)

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The bithyniid *Gabbiella rosea*, a Lake Turkana (Kenya) endemic, was only described by Mandahl-Barth in 1968. However, it was already collected early in the 20th century but misidentified and recorded s.n. *G. neumanni* (Von Martens, 1897).

Key words: Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Bithyniidae, *Gabbiella*, East Africa, Kenya, Lake Turkana.

Van Mol (1972), dealing with material he had seen in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, mentions a *Potamopyrgus rosa* Pilsbry with locality S. end Lake Rudolf ('Rudolph') (now Lake Turkana) collected by the Rainey expedition (ANSP 227070) with the note "Nbr. Parat." (= nombreuses paratypes). I noticed this quite recently and, remembering that Mandahl-Barth (1968) had described a *Gabbiella rosea*, it was clear that these almost certainly referred to the same species. Clench & Turner (1962) do not list the name, neither do Pilsbry & Bequaert (1927: 222-223) when discussing *Potamopyrgus* in Africa. It seemed clear therefore that the name had never been published. In order to make certain I made enquiries to Philadelphia and am grateful to Paul Callomon, Collections Manager, Malacology, for confirming the name is unpublished and also for confirming the material exactly conforms with the description and figure of *Gabbiella rosea* given by Brown (1994).

The taxon appears to have been first mentioned by Neuville & Anthony (1906) (when describing the collections of Maurice de Rothschild), who treated it under *Bithynia* (*Gabbia*) *neumanni* von Martens, 1897, pro parte. Neither the exact locality nor the actual collector are cited. I do not think Baron Maurice de Rothschild poked about in lakes in Africa – but I may be wrong. The material collected by the Rainey African Expedition during 1911-1912 is the second known collection. A.M. Champion collected the species on the south shore of Lake Rudolf and the material was determined by Connolly as *G. neumanni* (BM 1940.7.17.8.27). Also in the Natural History Museum, London, is a lot of hundreds of specimens (BM 1957.11.12.'38-47') collected on the shore line of South Island by H. Copley, for many years Fish Warden in Kenya. I have this listed in my MS list of the holdings of the former Coryndon Museum (Nairobi). I reported a collection as *Gabbia* sp. near *G. neumanni* (Verdcourt, 1960: 227) which had been collected at Ferguson's Gulf, Lokwakangole, by C.N. McKay. Mandahl-Barth (1968) states that he had 27 specimens from the western shore of Lake Rudolf (MRAC 794957) but mentions no collector. Dr Rudy Joqué, head of the invertebrate section of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale (MRAC), kindly examined the material and found only two specimens, a paratype regis-

tered under number 794957 collected by A.M. Champion<sup>1)</sup> and another under number 130078 by Major M. Connolly. I have no record of Connolly collecting in East Africa save near Dar es Salaam so the actual collector was probably someone else. The main bulk of Mandahl-Barth's material is presumably still in Copenhagen. Brown (1980) mentions that J.J. Landye obtained it alive beneath stones in shallow water on Central Island in November 1974. It would appear to be widely distributed in the lake. I also have two further records of material collected by C. van Someren during 'Operation Drake' on 9 September 1980 – Lake Turkana, S. end of South Island, washed up on fine shingle shore, a few with each wave and Von Hoehnel's Bay, SW. end, under rocks in wave action 9–18" depth (in spirit). I do not know where this material is now but I probably sent it to Mandahl-Barth.

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<sup>1)</sup> Arthur Mortimer Champion C.M.G. (1885-1950) was an Indian Army officer for a short time but resigned owing to ill health and became a colonial civil servant and eventually Provincial Commissioner, Turkana Province, Kenya. He was keen on natural history and motoring, driving from Nairobi to Cape Town in 1927. Plants he collected are in the Kew herbarium.