

*Nassarius tangaroai* spec. nov., a species from the Marquesas Archipelago  
(Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Nassariidae)

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Specimens of an undescribed species of *Nassarius* were collected during the Expédition MUSORSTOM 9 by the Muséum nationale d'Histoire naturelle, Paris. This species is described here as *Nassarius tangaroai* spec. nov.

Key words: Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Nassariidae, *Nassarius*, taxonomy, Pacific, Marquesas Archipelago.

During the Expédition MUSORSTOM 9 by the Muséum nationale d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, specimens of an undescribed species of *Nassarius* were collected from the Marquesas Archipelago.

Abbreviations for collections: HHK, collection H.H. Kool, Dieren, The Netherlands; MNHN, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris; RMNH, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum *Naturalis*, Leiden, The Netherlands; ZMA, Zoölogisch Museum, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Nassariinae Iredale, 1916

*Nassarius* Duméril, 1806

*Nassarius tangaroai* spec. nov. (figs 1-6)

Material examined (holotype and paratypes).— The coordinates are preceded by the station codes. Marquesas Archipelago, campagne MUSORSTOM 9, 1997.

DW 1224, 9°44.6'S 138°51.1'W, 115-120 m, 30.viii.1997 (MNHN/holotype [no number] & 36; ZMA 4.06.014/2; RMNH.MOL.105119/1; HHK 127.01/3); DW 1146, 9°19'S 140°06'W, 200 m, 22.viii.1997 (MNHN/1); DR 1182, 8°45.6'S 140°03.9'W, 90-120 m, 26.viii.1997 (MNHN/7); DR 1183, 8°45.5'S 140°03.8'W, 86-120 m, 26.viii.1997 (MNHN/9); DW 1207, 9°51'S 139°10'W, 500-525 m, 28.viii.1997 (MNHN/35; H. Dekker, Winkel, The Netherlands/1; HHK 253.02/1); DW 1208, 9°48.9'S 139°09.5'W, 117 m, 28.viii.1997 (MNHN/2); DW 1210, 9°50.4'S 139°00.5'W, 98-100 m, 29.viii.1997 (MNHN/1); DR 1223, 9°44.5'S 138°51.3'W, 90-150 m, 30.viii.1997 (MNHN/21); DW 1235, 9°42.0'S 139°03.0'W, 105-285 m, 30.viii.1997 (MNHN/4); DW 1242, 10°28.1'S 138°41.1'W, 119-122 m, 01.ix.1997 (MNHN/5); DR 1246, 10°28.9'S 138°35.9'W, 90-130 m, 01.ix.1997 (MNHN/1); DR 1247, 10°34'S 138°42'W, 1150-1200 m, 01.ix.1997 (MNHN/4).

Description of the holotype.— Shell height 16.7 mm, width 7.4 mm. Protoconch with 3½-3¾ glassy, semi-transparent whorls, last 1½ keeled. Teleoconch of 5 ½ convex whorls. Shell rather thick, somewhat shiny, first 2½ teleoconch whorls with about 13 low ribs,

beginning to disappear on the third whorl. Lower whorls with microscopic growth lines. Suture somewhat ledged, followed by one prominent subsutural groove. Base of body whorl with 5 spiral grooves, intersecting with 3-4 low, axial ribs near edge of apertural lip.

Margin of outer lip thick, smooth, with narrow edge of callus. Lower margin expanded. Basal cords, formed by the spiral grooves, ending in blunt denticles on edge of outer lip. Inside lip with about 11 evenly-spaced, well-developed lirae of equal height. Siphonal area with about six non-equidistant, wide grooves. Inside base of columella with two pronounced ridges, with lower ridge occasionally forming a thickening at the end of the columella. Columellar callus well bordered. Parietal tooth strong, anal canal narrow. Basic colour creamy with two more or less distinct interrupted spiral bands of brown flecks, occasionally axially connected. Outer lip, siphonal area and columella white, aperture cream.

Habitat of the species.— The depth at which the specimens were obtained varies between 100 and 1200 m. In the sample with the holotype, from 115-120 m, are some specimens with a yellowish, serrated operculum.

Etymology.— The new species is named after the Polynesian sea-god who separated the sky from the earth.

Variability.— The size of the shells varies from about 11 to 20 mm. The prominent subsutural spiral groove is occasionally followed by another faint groove. The colour varies from creamy white, with some scattered faint brown flecks, to more brownish and specimens that tend to be banded like the holotype.

Discussion.— *Nassarius tangaroai* spec. nov. is conchologically most similar to the following species.

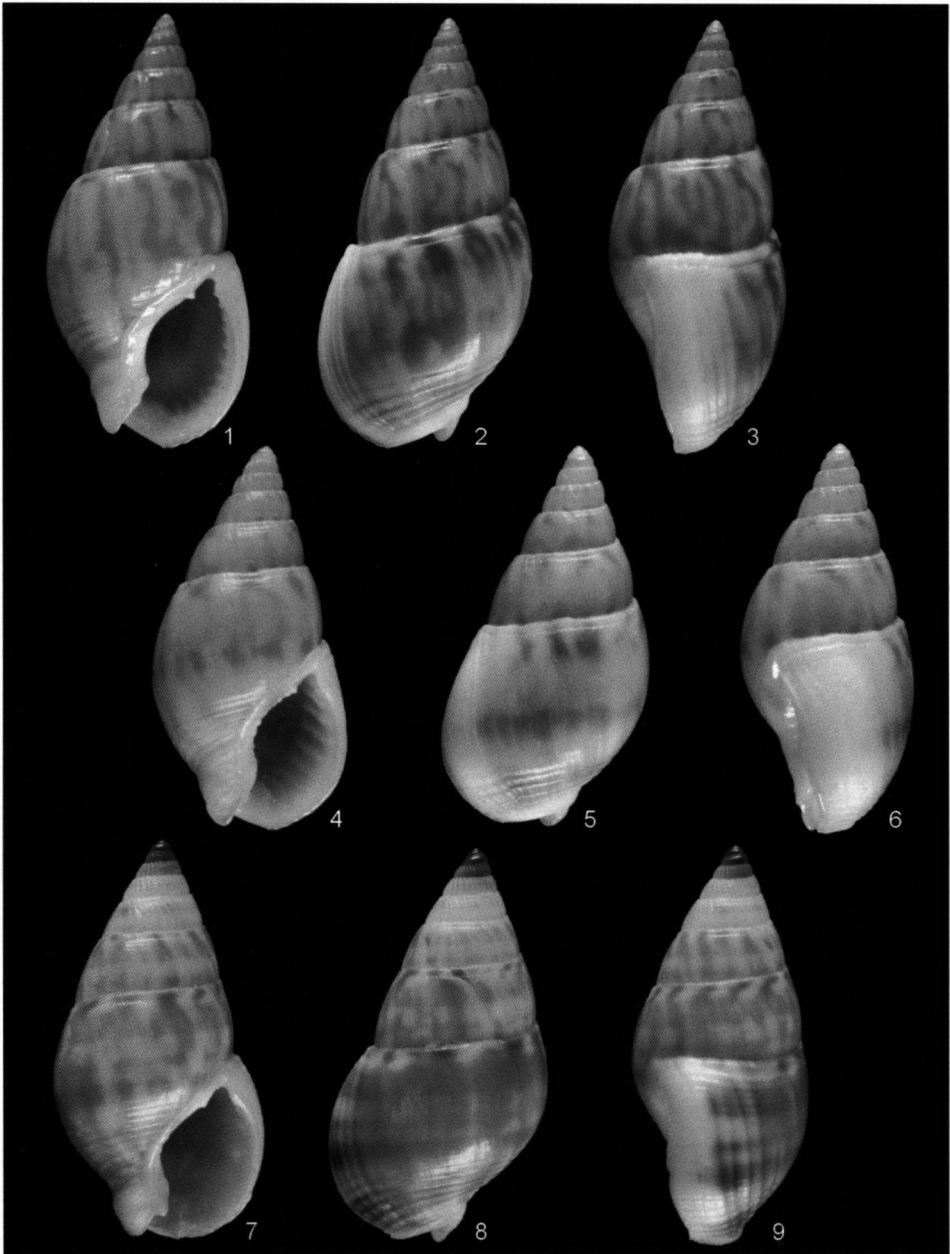
*Nassarius comptus* (A. Adams, 1852). According to Cernohorsky (1984: 146) this species (with several synonyms) is characterized by a "slender to broadly ovate" shell. The figure of the holotype (Cernohorsky, 1984: pl. 29 fig. 1; Kaicher, 1983: card 3493) shows a rather ovate shell with strongly ribbed early whorls, without a subsutural groove. *Nassarius cinnamomea* (A. Adams, 1852) from the Philippines and the RyuKyu Islands is mentioned by Cernohorsky (1984: 146; pl. 29 fig. 6) as one of the synonyms of *N. comptus*. According to Kase & Kinjo (1996: 199), *N. cinnamomea* "is distinct from *N. (Z) comptus* in its slenderer shell form, much finer axial ribs in the apical whorls, the presence of a subsutural collar in the whorl surface..". In his description of the species, Cernohorsky says that *Nassarius comptus* has "only occasionally" a subsutural groove or cord. This conclusion might be based on a faulty synonymisation because in the figures of the type no subsutural cord or groove can be observed. *Nassarius tangaroai* spec. nov. is a slender species with low axial ribs on the apical whorls and with a strong subsutural groove.

*Nassarius haldemanni* (Dunker, 1847) (figs 7-9) has a dark brown protoconch in fresh specimens and numerous very fine axial and spiral ribs on the first 3-4 postnuclear whorls. It has also a subsutural groove. The holotype is figured in Cernohorsky (1980: pl. 28 fig. 10).

*Nassarius multipunctatus* (Schepman, 1911) is more slender, has a thinner shell than the new species and has a different pattern of lighter and darker tints. The lectotype is figured in Cernohorsky (1980: pl. 22 fig. 1).

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Figs 1-9. *Nassarius* spec. 1-6, *N. tangaroai* spec. nov. 1-3, holotype (MNHN), Expédition MUSORSTOM 9, St. DW 1224, Marquesas Archipelago, 9°44.6'S 138°51.1'W, 115-120 m, 30.viii.1997; 16.7 × 7.4 mm. 4-6, paratype (MNHN) from same location; 11.2 × 5.3 mm. 7-9, *N. haldemanni* (Dunker, 1847), Indonesia, Celebes Sea, N. Sulawesi, eastside of Pulau Dalangan, 01°21'22"N 120°53'87"E, 8-40 m; 12.9 × 6.3 mm (FHK 874.04).

the nassariid species, collected during several expeditions; to Mrs. Virginie Héros (MNHN) for the communication with the Museum and Delphine Brabant (MNHN) for the photographs of which H. Dekker made the composition for this publication. I thank R. Moolenbeek (ZMA) for his enduring support.

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