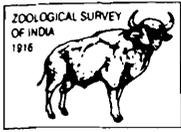


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Short Communication

NEW RECORDS OF *COMITAS ALBICINCTA* (ADAMS AND REEVE, 1830) AND *TURRITELLA BICINGULATA* LAMARCK, 1822) (MOLLUSCA; GASTROPODA : TURRITELLIDAE) FROM INDIA

INTRODUCTION

During the course of our faunistic survey along the Karnataka coast (2005-2007) two shells of *Comitas albicincta* and many examples of *Turritella bicingulata* were collected. The species *Comitas albicincta* belongs to subfamily Turriculinae under family Turridae. *Turritella bicingulata* belongs to the family Turritellidae. These species were not been reported earlier from India. The present record of the species from India is considered significant since its very limited distribution.

Turridae is a large family divided into 15 subfamilies consisting of 600 genera and subgenera comprising of about 2000 species. These are carnivorous and use a dart-like tooth to harpoon and capture the prey. They occur in shallow water to deep seas, majority being off shore forms. There is not much work on Indian Turrids. So far, about 80 species were reported from Indian waters, out of which only 23 species were dealt by Subba Rao (2003). The genus *Comitas* has a very wide distribution in the Indo-Pacific, ranging from South Africa to Japan and south ward through Australian waters to southern New Zealand. Two individual of *Comitas albicincta* (Admas and Reeve, 1830), were collected from Karnataka, a rocky outcrop at Ohm beach, (14°31'N; 74°18'E) near Gokarn at Karnataka.

Turritellidae is a large family consisting of five subfamilies comprising about 18 genera and an estimated 150 species. The genus *Turritella* has been some what neglected by Conchologists. Lamarck (1822) described only 11 species and later another 6 species were dealt by Kiener (1839). Reeve (1860) reported about 65 species of Turritellidae in his Monograph in *Conchological Iconica*. Marwick (1957) worked upon the generic revision of Turritellidae, Garrad (1972) revised the Australian Turritellidae. In India two genera *Turritella* and *Haustator*, belonging to the subfamily

Turritellinae are reported. Subba Rao and Dey (2000) reported about 4 species belonging to two genera of Turritellidae from Indian waters. Many individuals of *Turritella bicingulata* Lamarck, were collected from a rocky outcrop at St. Mary's Island along Udipi coast. (13°20'N; 74°43'E) near Mangalore, Karnataka.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family TURRIDAE

Subfamily TURRICULINAE

Genus *Comitas* Finlay

Comitas albicincta (Adams and Reeve)
(Plate-I, Fig.-1)

1830. *Pleuroloma albicincta* Adams and Reeve, *Zool. Voy. H.M.S. Samarang. Moll.*, p. 40, pl. 10, fig. 6.
1969. *Comitas albicincta*; Powell, *Indo Pacific Mollusca* 1. (10) p. 278, pl. 223, fig. 1.

Material examined : 2ex., Ohm beach, Karnataka, 10.01.2006, Coll. R. Venkitesan and party.

Measurements (in mm) : Length 28.20-32.50; Width : 11.30-12.40; Length of the aperture 11.50-11.80.

Description : Shell medium in size, (28.20 mm), narrowly fusiform, spire slightly larger than the body whorl, spire without protoconch; whorls 9, medially angulated by heavy peripheral keel; upper part of the whorls with 8 nodes, not extending up to shoulder area. Sub sutural margin absent. The whole surface of the post nuclear whorls is sculptured with closely spaced fine spiral threads plus about nine evenly spaced rather distant stronger threads. Aperture long and narrow, anterior canal short. Posterior canal recurved with weak notch at extremity; sinus broadly arcuate; columella slightly calloused, operculum absent. Dark brown with a cream colour band encircles the periphery. Aperture brownish white, inner side smooth, brown and white markings seen through; columella white.

Distribution : India : Karnataka coast.

Elsewhere : China seas.

Remarks : This species was recorded from the type locality (China seas) only. Now it is from India.

Family TURRITELLIDAE Woodward, 1851

Genus *Turritella* Lamarck

Turritella bicingulata Lamarck

(Plate-I, Fig.-2)

1822. *Turritella bicingulata* Lamarck, *Anim. Sans. Vert.* (Deshayes edit) **9** : 256.

1860. *Turritella bicingulata* Lamarck, Reeve, *Conch Icon*, **5**. Pl. 5, sp. no. 20.

Material examined : 17 ex., St. Mary's Island, Udipi district, Karnataka, 01.01.2006. Coll. R. Venkitesan and party.

Measurements (in mm) : Length : 20.80-35.90, Width : 6.20-10.80; Length of the aperture; 3.10-5.70.

Description : Shell medium in size, up to 36.00 mm in height, acuminate turreted, whorls about 11, aperture sub quadrangular, outer lip sinuous, sculptured with two spiral ridges, which are equally distant and

prominent, intermediate grooves concave and spirally striated. Ornamented with profusely flamed, variegated; with reddish brown markings. Suture rather deeply excavated, below the suture spotted with reddish brown mottling and stripes. Brown line encircles whorls. Brown line seen through the aperture. Base concave and neatly striated with violet colour. Shell white with brown markings, white base marked with violet; brown markings and the interior of the aperture purple rose.

Distribution : India : St. Mary's Island Karnataka.

Elsewhere : Pakistan and Adens.

Remarks : It can be distinguished from other by a pair of conspicuous swollen keels and a bold profuse style of painting. *T. maculata* a nearer species differs from *T. bicingulata* having in difference in early whorls the keels are very prominent developed even to the apex. The base of the shell is more concave, and is marked of numerous coloured linear striae, but the upper margin of the whorl is always distinguished by a row of irregular red brown spots immediate beneath the suture.

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