

On a supposed new species of *Quasimitra* (Gastropoda: Mitridae: Mitrinae) recently described from Indonesia: The birth of a new synonym

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ABSTRACT The newly described species *Quasimitra houarti* Dharma, 2021 from Indonesia is found to be a junior synonym of *Quasimitra stossieri* (Herrmann, 2016).

KEY WORDS Mitridae, *Quasimitra*, *Q. houarti*, *Q. stossieri*, Sumbawa, Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

A new species of *Quasimitra*, *Q. houarti*, was described by Dharma (2021), based on six specimens collected by a local diver from depths of 25-30 m, off Bungin Island, Northwest of Sumbawa Island, Nusa Tenggara Islands, Indonesia. Another specimen from the Sofjan Effendy Collection, dead collected, approximately twenty years ago, from Nusa Tenggara Islands, Indonesia (Dharma, 2021) was included in that paper. The new species was compared in the descriptive paper with *Quasimitra nubila* (Gmelin, 1791), *Q. lamarckii* (Deshayes, 1832), and *Q. hawaiiensis* (Kay, E.A., 1979).

Herrmann (2016) reviewed part of the genus (then still contained in *Mitra* Lamarck, 1798) and described a new species, *Mitra stossieri* Herrmann, 2016, from Indonesia, type locality: Indonesia, Bali, Sanur. Herrmann, 2016 gives the range from Bali and the Flores Sea in Indonesia, to the Solomon Islands and Tonga, and he illustrated the shells from the various localities: Paratype 1, Tonga, Vava'u, Umunak, 37.6 mm; Paratype 2, Solomon Islands, Marau, Guadalcanal, 50.3 mm; Paratype 6, Indonesia, Flores Sea, north side of Kaledupa Island, 34.3 mm.

I refer to Herrmann (2016) for the plates containing other related species in this group: *Mitra propinqua* (A. Adams, 1853) and *Mitra bretteinghami* E. A. Smith, 1906. Fedosov *et al.* (2018) include many other species in the (then newly erected) genus *Quasimitra*. The description of *Quasimitra* was based on only three species in the Bayesian phylogenetic tree of Mitridae (Fedosov *et al.*, figure 5): *Mitra sophiae* Crosse, 1862; *Mitra puntulata* Lamarck, 1811; and, *Mitra sanguinolenta* Lamarck, 1811. The shells of the aforementioned three species do not have much in common with the herein restricted group of species, which is unnamed as of yet. In a following paper I will address this group of related species with descriptions of a new genus and new species in this species complex.

ABBREVIATIONS

- MZB Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Cibinong, Bogor, Indonesia
 ZSM Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Munich, Germany
 MH Collection of Manfred Herrmann, Rosdorf, Germany
 GS Collection of Günter Stossier, Hamburg, Germany
 ARN Collection of Armen Rizal Ngo, Jakarta, Indonesia

SYSTEMATICS

Family: Mitridae Swainson, 1831

Subfamily: Mitrinae Swainson, 1831

Genus: *Quasimitra* Fedosov, Herrmann, Kantor & Bouchet, 2018

Quasimitra stossieri (Herrmann, 2016).

Proposed Synonym: *Quasimitra houarti*
Dharma, 2021

Original description of *Q. stossieri*: “Shell solid, slender fusiform, medium sized, reaching 53.3 mm in length; width 30-36 % of length. Only fragments of white, glassy protoconch present. Teleoconch consists of 7 to 8 slightly convex whorls. Suture well defined but not deep. Straight outline of spire. All whorls smooth and completely covered with fine spiral grooves, dissected by minute axial threads. 8 to 9 spiral grooves on penultimate and 32 to 40 grooves on body whorl. Aperture equal in length to the spire, narrow and lanceolate. In adult specimen outer lip thickened, crenulated, and rounded with a more straight posterior part. Columella with 5 well-defined oblique folds of nearly equal strength. Callus layer moderately thin, but well defined. Siphonal canal slightly shorter than outer lip, almost straight with a small dorsal notch. Colour pattern, whitish to cream shell with 2 to 4 dark brown axial streaks on every whorl with darker area at the suture, not directly continued on next whorl, on body whorl ending one third before anterior end. At shell periphery large light blotches on the cream background between the streaks. On body whorl a few fine, nearly invisible white dots are existent which are nearly absent on penultimate or earlier whorls. Tips of crenulated lip dotted brown. Those fine brown dots are sometimes also present on axial lines on body and earlier whorls together with a slight axial groove, looking like a secondary lip. Aperture cream white.”

Original description of *Q. houarti*: “Shell of average size for genus, height up to 58.5 mm, thick, elongate ovate, spire rather tall and tapering to apex, last whorl large. In all material examined the protoconchs were missing, adult shells averaging 9-10 whorls; spire whorls almost flat or somewhat convex, more convex towards the last whorl, and last whorl slightly inflated; suture shallow, crenulated by termination of radial ribs; base color white, with irregular light brown and brown streaks, and small scattered white spots; streaks reach suture; some earlier whorls whitish; body whorl with three light brown spiral bands, first above aperture posterior, the third vague near bottom above siphonal fasciole, and the second between those two bands; shell sculptured with 28-44 spiral grooves and intersecting with radial striae or microscopic radial ribs; aperture elongate, oblique, angulated posteriorly, slightly inflated at the bottom, height of aperture slightly longer than half of the shell height; inside of aperture smooth, white; outer lip thickened, glossy, terminating in brown denticles at end of spiral grooves; columella overlaid with white callus, with 5-6 oblique folds; umbilicus closed; siphonal canal slightly recurved, siphonal fasciole sculptured with oblique spiral cords, siphonal notch open.”

Besides the difference in style of describing the aspects of the shells, the major differences are set out in Table 1. It seems the shells of *Q. houarti* are slightly longer and slimmer than those of *Q. stossieri*. The type localities of both holotypes are roughly 150 km apart, with the Island of Lombok in between. Paratype 1 and 5 of *Q. stossieri* show the same slenderness of the shells depicted by Dharma. As these differences are minor, they fall within the species variability.

	<i>Q. stossieri</i>	<i>Q. houarti</i>
Shell length	Reaching 53.3 mm	Height up to 58.5 mm
Form	Slender fusiform	Elongate ovate
Number of whorls	Teleoconch consists of 7 to 8 slightly convex whorls = 8-9 whorl in total	Adult shells averaging 9-10 whorls.
Sculpture on body whorl	32 to 40 grooves	28-44 spiral grooves
Columella	Columella with 5 well-defined oblique folds of nearly equal strength. Callus layer moderately thin, but well defined.	With 5-6 oblique folds. Columella overlaid with white callus.
Origin of holotype	Bali, Sanur	Bungin Island, northwest of Sumbawa Island, Nusa Tenggara Islands

Table 1. Noted differences in the descriptions of *Q. stossieri* and *Q. houarti*.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion is that *Q. houarti* is a junior synonym of *Q. stossieri*. Because *Q. houarti* has an entry in the WoRMS database as an accepted species, rather it was appropriate to recognize *Q. houarti* as in synonymy.

Describing new species is not an easy job, and one requires a knowledge of the species variability, range, and a thorough review of relevant literature. Being up to date with literature is critical with the many new species described every year. Relying on older books is a pitfall for species identification. Often popular books copy the faults from other (older) popular books and the errors continue. Unfortunately, Dharma (2021), a well-respected author, as well as the reviewer of his article must have overlooked the publication of Herrmann (2016).

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Günter Stossier, Hamburg, Germany, is thanked for the photos of the paratypes of *Mitra stossieri* Herrmann, 2016 used for the plate. The

holotype is under copyright of the Zoologische Staatssammlung München and therefore could not be used in this paper. Other specimens used in the plate are from Armen Ngo Collection, taken from the same population as holotype, which was used to describe *Q. houarti*.

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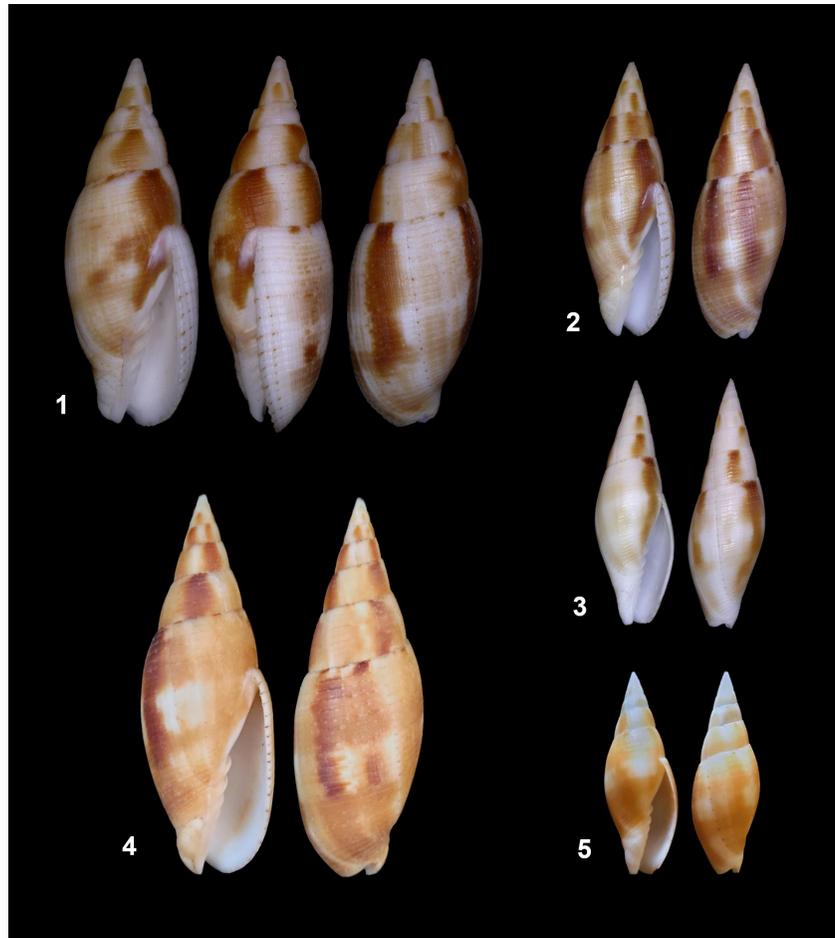


Plate 1. *Quasimitra stossieri* (Herrmann, 2016)

1= Paratype 2, Solomon Islands, Marau, Guadalcanal, 50.3 mm, MH; **2=** Paratype 1, Tonga, Vava'u, Umunak, 37.6 mm, GS; **3=** Paratype 6, Indonesia, Flores Sea, north side of Kaledupa Island, 34.3 mm, immature, GS. **4=** Indonesia, Bungin Island, northwest of Sumbawa Island, 51.9 mm, ARN; **5=** Indonesia, Bungin Island, Northwest of Sumbawa Island, 27.7 mm, immature specimen, ARN.