

Remarks on *Amphidromus reflexilabris* Schepman, 1892, *Amphidromus roseolabiatulus* Fulton, 1896, *Amphidromus anhduongae* Thach, 2020 and correction of errors in “New Shells of South Asia, Volume 2”

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ABSTRACT The species *Amphidromus reflexilabris* Schepman, 1892, *Amphidromus roseolabiatulus* Fulton, 1896 and *Amphidromus anhduongae* Thach, 2020 have been misidentified in many websites on the Internet. The diagnostic characters of these land snails are elaborated in this article for accurate identification. In addition, typographical errors in “New Shells of South Asia, Volume 2” are identified and corrected.

KEY WORDS *Amphidromus*, *A. reflexilabris*, *A. roseolabiatulus*, *A. anhduongae*, *A. berschaueri*, *A. pamabbasae*, *A. chrisabbasi*, *A. severnsi luangprabangensis*, *A. koonpoi*, *A. givenchyi*

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS

Amphidromus reflexilabris Schepman, 1892

This species was described by M. Schepman in 1892 from three specimens ranging in length from 39.5 to 50.0 mm (one of which was a juvenile) collected at Amarassi on Timor Island. The lectotype was deposited at the National Museum of Natural History (Leiden, the Netherlands). *Amphidromus berschaueri* Thach, 2018 (Figures 1, 4), *A. pamabbasae* Thach, 2017 (Figure 5) and *A. chrisabbasi* Thach, 2017 (Figure 6) differ mainly from *A. reflexilabris* (Figures 2, 3) by lacking the characteristic canal running along the dorsal side of the outer lip, giving the appearance of a thick peristome (Figure 3 a) as noted in the original description (see Schepman in 1892 at page 152, line 23 of Notes from the Leyden Museum. Vol. XIV). The canals of the three above-mentioned *Amphidromus* species (marked respectively by “b”, “c” and “d” in Figures 4, 5 and 6) are not curled forming a rounded tube along the dorsal side like that of *A. reflexilabris*. In the original description, Schepman wrote that “this species

varies very much in size and color”. However, he did not state that *A. reflexilabris* is very variable in sculpture, shape and pattern as suggested by Páll-Gergely *et al.* (2020) (see page 54, left column). In that article, Páll-Gergely *et al.* stated that the above-cited *Amphidromus* were merely color forms of a single species and proclaimed *A. berschaueri*, *A. pamabbasae* and *A. chrisabbasi* to be synonyms for *A. reflexilabris*. This synonymisation is erroneous because the sculpture, shapes, patterns, apex, colors and sizes (*i.e.* the main features of a shell) are different and distinctive for each of these species. For instance, their shapes are characteristically different from that of *A. reflexilabris*, in that their apertures are more pointed at the anterior end, columellas are not similar, spiral bands are present on the body whorl, and apexes are black; not yellowish like *A. reflexilabris* (see page 153, line 2 of the original description). These unique and distinctive characters cannot be ignored; they form the foundation upon which science distinguishes one species from another. Observations made by shell dealers and collectors can be invaluable because they often

have the opportunity to inspect many more specimens of a species than academic researchers. In these circumstances, malacologists should cooperate with dealers and collectors instead of criticizing them. Here, the differences between these species are clearly distinguishable and are well known among collectors and dealers.

Amphidromus roseolabiatus Fulton, 1896

This species was described by H. Fulton in 1896 from two specimens (one adult 36 mm and one juvenile) collected in Thailand. In the original description, this species has a pink lip and columella (see page 89, lines 21 and 22, Series 6 of The Annals and Magazine of Natural History). Illustrated in Figure 7 is a specimen collected in Thailand (32.8 mm) by my team. Specimen E of Fig. 45 in Inkhavilay *et al.* (2019) and specimens C to F of Fig. 4 in Inkhavilay *et al.* (2017) are not typical specimens of *Amphidromus roseolabiatus* because they do not have the characteristic pink-red outer lip and columella. They are closer to *Amphidromus severnsi luangprabangensis* Thach & F. Huber, 2020 (Figure 8), collected in Laos. Páll-Gergely *et al.* (2020) stated that the reddish line along the suture is characteristic of *A. roseolabiatus* (see page 54, right column, line 33). However, this is not the case and is evidenced by the lack of this feature on the specimen shown in Figure 9 of this article and Figs. 4A to 4F of this species in Inkhavilay, Sutcharit & Panha (2017). Further, Páll-Gergely *et al.* (2020) suggest that *A. roseolabiatus* and *A. koonpoi* Thach & F. Huber 2018 (Figure 9) are synonyms for a single species. However, the three characteristics of *A. roseolabiatus* suggested by Páll-Gergely *et al.* (2020) (*i.e.*, corpulent shell, reddish line along the suture and yellow-greenish stripes) are not observed in *A. koonpoi*. This raises the question as to whether these selected characters are diagnostic of *A.*

roseolabiatus as suggested by Páll-Gergely *et al.* Consequently, it is incumbent upon any author when presenting a new species that they clearly show the unique characters that distinguish the new species from the previously described species. It must be the same when considering a new species as a synonym of a described species; the reviewer must provide evidence showing the similarities between the new species and described species. Unfortunately, Páll-Gergely labeled a number of the new species described in “New Shells of Southeast Asia”, 2017, 128 pgs. N.N. Thach” and “New Shells of South Asia”, Volume 1, 2018, 173 pgs. and Volume 2, 2020, 189 pgs. N.N. Thach” as synonyms without providing any clear evidence of that determination. As Editor of MolluscaBase and Author, Páll-Gergely has an inherent conflict of interest and should recuse himself from making such determinations without proper peer review. It is similar to a soccer match where one of the players is also the referee.

Amphidromus anhduongae Thach, 2020

This species (Figures 10, 11) was described by N. N. Thach in 2020 in the book “New Shells of South Asia, Volume 2” and can be easily differentiated from *A. givenchyi* Geret, 1912 (Figures 12, 13) by ten important features presented on page 50 of the book. Inkhavilay and colleagues had incorrectly identified this species as *A. givenchyi* in a number of articles: Inkhavilay *et al.* (2017) (see Fig. 2C and 4I); Inkhavilay *et al.* (2019) (see Fig. 43D); and Sutcharit & Panha (2006) (see specimen No. 4P). This has been compounded with a number of specimens similarly misidentified on the Internet. Páll-Gergely *et al.* (2020) also made an error in suggesting that *A. richgoldbergi* Thach & F. Huber, 2017 (page 52, right column, line 17) and *A. roseolabiatus* (page 52, right column, line 29) are the same species and synonyms of *A.*

givenchyi. The unique characters of a red-pink outer lip and columella of *A. roseolabiatus* clearly distinguishes it from *A. givenchyi* and is well known to dealers and collectors.

ERRATA TO “NEW SHELLS OF SOUTH ASIA, VOLUME 2”

Page 66: *A. kiattani* is replaced by *A. kiati*.
 Page 75 (left column), line 5: delete Fig. 878 & 880.
 Page 82 (right column): *Bouchetcamaena thachi* No 917* to 920* is replaced by *Bouchetcamaena thachorum* No 919* to 922*.
 Page 87 (left column): Genus *Lamprellia Stanisic*, 2010, line 3 & 11: *Lamprellia franzhuberi* is replaced by *Lamprellia huberi* and line 15: *L. franzhuberi* is replaced by *L. huberi*.
 Page 93 (left column), line 26: Fig. 963* is replaced by Fig. 975.
 Page 94 (left column), line 14: Fig. 973 is replaced by Fig. 985.
 Page 172 (Plate 69): Figure captions: 838*, 839*: *Amphidromus thachorum*: Cambodia is replaced by Laos.
 Page 183 (Plate 80): Figure captions: 919* to 922*: *Bouchetcamaena thachi* is replaced by *Bouchetcamaena thachorum*, 923* to 926*: *Philbouchetcamaena huberi* is replaced by *Philbouchetia franzhuberi*.
 Page 186 (Plate 83): Figures captions: 955*: *Rhagada vietnamensis n.sp.* is replaced by *Rhagada setzeri vietnamensis n.ssp.*
 Page 189 (Plate 86): Figures captions: 980*, 981* is replaced by 990*, 991*.

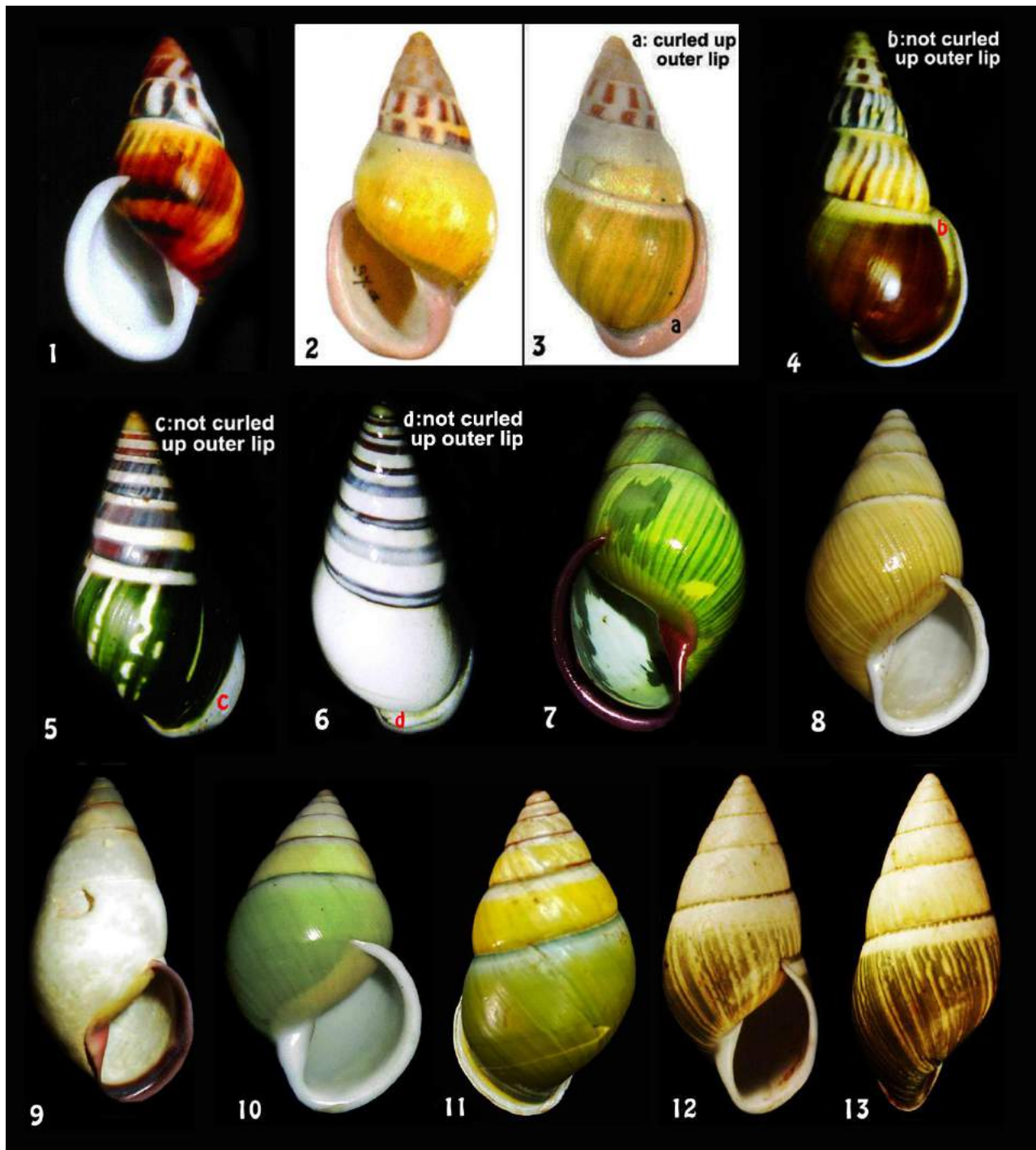
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Figures 1-13 - *Amphidromus* species referenced herein. 1= *Amphidromus berschaueri*, 34.1 mm with ventral side; 2 & 3= *Amphidromus reflexilabris*, 42.2 mm with ventral side and curled outer lip, photo from Van der Bijl, Moolenbeek & Goud; 4= *Amphidromus berschaueri*, 44 mm with not curled outer lip; 5= *Amphidromus pamabbasae*, 34.2 mm with uncurled outer lip; 6= *Amphidromus chrisabbasi*, 38.8 mm with uncurled outer lip; 7= *Amphidromus roseolabiatius*, 32.8 mm; 8= *Amphidromus severnsi luangprabangensis*, 30.2 mm; 9= *Amphidromus koonpoi*, 34.9 mm; 10 & 11= *Amphidromus anhduongae*, 38.9 & 34.7 mm with ventral and dorsal sides; 12 & 13= *Amphidromus givenchyi*, 38.3 mm with ventral and dorsal sides, photo from Paris National Museum of Natural History.