

A new genus of the Subulinidae (Pulmonata) from Nepal

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Новый род Subulinidae (Pulmonata) из Непала

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During the field trip in Nepal in 1995, one of the authors (A.K.) has collected nine specimens of the species, originally described as *Achatina tenuispira* Benson, 1836. The anatomical examination showed that this species belongs to a new genus.

Ranibania Schileyko et Kuznetsov, gen. nov.

DIAGNOSIS. Shell large, turreted, thin, glossy. Apical and postapical sculpture of an irregular radial rib-striation. Columella truncated. Albumen gland greatly reduced. Penis furnished with a vermiform flagellum and a short triangular caecum at the base of the flagellum. Penis and epiphallus internally without any characteristic structures.

ETYMOLOGY: the name is given after the locality of the material studied — Rani-Ban Ridge.

TYPE-SPECIES: *Achatina tenuispira* Benson, 1836.

Ranibania tenuispira (Benson, 1836)

(Fig. 1)

Benson, 1836: 353 (*Achatina*). — Adams, Adams, 1855: 110 (*Subulina*). — Hanley, Theobald, 1870: pl. 36, fig. 8 [*Achatina (Electra)*]. — Nevill, 1878: 169 [*Stenogyra (Glessula)*]. — Pfeiffer, Clessin, 1881: 327 [*Stenogyra (Subulina)*]. — Gude, 1914: 378 (*Glessula*).

TYPE LOCALITY: India, Sylhet.

MATERIAL STUDIED. Nine specimens: Nepal, Kathmandu valley, 3.3 km NW of Kathmandu City and 1.3 km NW of Balaju village; Rani-Ban Ridge, Nagarjun Royal Forest, lower half of NE slope of Jamachok Mt., 50 m above the gate Phulbary, at the foot of limestone cliffs in the tropical forest, in litter; 1480 m above the sea level. April 28, 1995.

DESCRIPTION. Shell elongate, slender, turreted, thin, translucent, shining. Whorls up to 13, moderately convex; last whorl not descending in front. Suture scarcely crenulated. Color uniformly corneous. Embryonic whorls covered with regular de-

licate radial riblets, the rest surface with irregular rib-striation and exceptionally fine spiral striae. Aperture slightly oblique, generally ovate, somewhat pointed above. Aperture margins are straight, thin, simple, not reflected or expanded. Columellar margin arched, distinctly truncated below. Parietal callus thin, whitish. Umbilicus absent. Dimensions of three largest specimens: height 22.2, 32.3, 32.9; diameter 7.0, 7.9, 8.2 mm, respectively. Gude [1914] indicates that "The Beddome collection contains a shell, composed of fourteen whorls, which measures 41.5 mm in length and 9 mm in diameter." (p. 379).

ANATOMY. Albumen gland is rather small, compact; hermaphroditic duct is well developed. Vas deferens runs alongside the upper part of the vagina, curves sharply at the atrium and enters the epiphallus at an angle. Flagellum well developed, not pointed, nearly cylindrical. At the flagellum-epiphallus junction there is a short and somewhat pointed caecum. Epiphallus shorter than the penis, the boundary between these two divisions is marked by attachment of rather short penial retractor, arising from the diaphragm. Inner surface of both penis and epiphallus is covered with smoothed weak irregular folds directed more or less longitudinally. Lower part of vagina is somewhat longer than the upper one. Spermathecal stalk basally enlarged, with longitudinal internal folds; the voluminous reservoir has a pointed tip that does not reach the upper end of spermoviduct.

REMARKS. Current subdivision of the family Subulinidae into three Recent subfamilies (Subulininae, Rumininae and Obeliscinae) seems to be artificial, because none of them has a clear differential diagnosis (compare diagnoses given by Zilch, 1959). The largest subfamily Subulininae embraces 49 Recent taxa of the generic rank. Only seven of them are represented in the Hindustan Peninsula; five (*Subulina*, *Allopeas*, *Curvella*, *Opeas*, and *Prosopneas*) are widely spread throughout the tropical and subtropical zones, and only two are restricted by Hindustan (*Bacillum*) or south-eastern Asia including Hindustan and adjacent regions (*Glessula*).