

STUDIES ON THE FAUNA OF CURAÇAO AND OTHER
CARIBBEAN ISLANDS: No. 209A NEW SPECIES OF RISSOPSETIA [GASTROPODA:
PYRAMIDELLIDAE] FROM THE CARIBBEAN SEA

by

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The genus *Rissopsetia* Dell, 1956 (type species *R. maoria* Dell, 1956, by original designation) is recorded for the first time from the West Indies. An hitherto undescribed species was found in beach-sand from two widely apart localities in the Caribbean Sea. The genus is characterized by small to minute shells, which are thin, sculptured with axial ribs and many spiral lirae. The protoconch is heterostrophic and immersed. Aperture with complete peristome.

***Rissopsetia hummelincki* nov. spec.**

(Figs. 56-58)

Description holotype. Shell small, rather slender, with convex whorls and a blunt apex. Protoconch of less than one slightly immersed smooth whorl. Teleoconch of four and a half shouldered whorls, deeply cut into suture, sculptured with low axial ribs and numerous irregular microscopic spiral striae. Umbilicus absent. Aperture ovate; peristome entire. Columella slightly twisted. Colour dull yellowish white. Length 1.78 mm, width 0.66 mm (ZMA Moll. no. 3.84.008).

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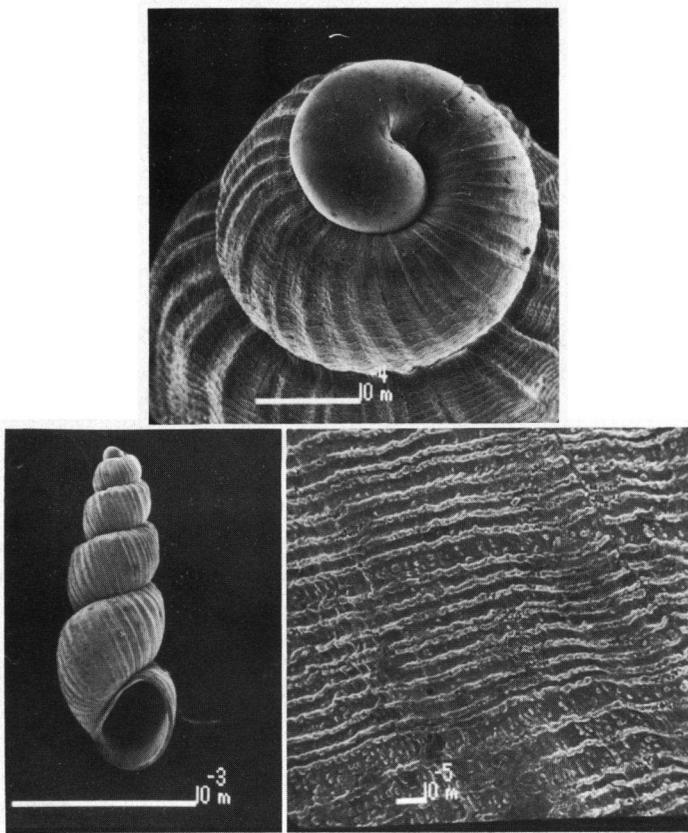


Fig. 56.-58. *Rissopsetia hummelincki* n. sp. from GRAND CAYMAN. Holotype. 56 (left) Apertural view. 57 (top) Protoconch. 58 (right) Microsculpture of teleconch (S.E.M. photographs, Lab. Elektronenmikroskopie, Univ. of Amsterdam).

Type locality. GRAND CAYMAN ISLAND, Barkers Peninsula. Date 10.VI.1973, leg. P. Wagenaar Hummelinck.

Etymology. In honour of Dr. P. WAGENAAR HUMMELINCK, who collected the material and whose activities contributed so much to our knowledge of the West Indian fauna.

Material studied. Apart from the holotype a second specimen is known from ARUBA, found in coral-sand collected at Pova Beach, 27.IV.1955 (leg. J. S. Zaneveld & P. Wagenaar Hummelinck). It is considered a paratype (ZMA Moll. no. 3.84.009).

Discussion. The genus *Rissopsetia* was, until now, only recorded from Australia and New Zealand. PONDER (1974) reviewed the Australian species and kindly informed me (in litt., 1984) on the presence of this genus in the Philippines. The shell of *R. hummelincki* resembles *R. altispira* Ponder, 1974 from Western Australia, but is less tumid, devoid of varices and with a more delicate sculpture.

The Caribbean record of the genus *Rissopsetia* apparently does not indicate a zoogeographical relation between the Australian and Caribbean regions, but rather shows that distribution-patterns of marine micro-mollusc genera are poorly known. *Rissopsetia* may well turn up in other tropical and temperate regions.

REFERENCE

- PONDER, W. F., 1974. A review of the Australian species assigned to *Rissopsis* Garrett with a description of a new species of *Rissopsetia* (Mollusca: Gastropoda). *J. Malac. Soc. Aust.* 3: 25-35.