



## **A new genus and species of stomatellid (Gastropoda, Trochidae) from the Philippines**

**Henk Dekker**

Research associate, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Darwinweg 2, 2333 CR Leiden, the Netherlands.

ORCID [0000-0001-6228-8319](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6228-8319)

[h-dekker@quicknet.nl](mailto:h-dekker@quicknet.nl)

**Aart M. Dekkers**

Oasestraat 79, 1448 NR Purmerend, the Netherlands.

ORCID [0009-0005-0248-7144](https://orcid.org/0009-0005-0248-7144)

[aart.dekkers@wxs.nl](mailto:aart.dekkers@wxs.nl)



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### **ABSTRACT**

**A black colored stomatellid from the Philippines is described as a new species. As it has a polished surface, it is probably a shell covered entirely by the mantle of the living animal and therefore considered to belong to a newly described genus.**

Key words – Gastropoda, Trochidae, new genus, new species, Philippines

### **INTRODUCTION**

For several years a characteristic elongate and black colored stomatellid species from the Philippines is offered in the seashell trade. It is sometimes offered by dealers as *Stomatella lintrricula* (A. Adams, 1850), but this is a smaller species with a totally different sculpture and color. We could not find an existing name for this black species, so it is described as new. The sculpture on the outer surface of *Stomatella* Lamarck, 1816 species consists of spiral striae on the first teleoconch whorls, which in some species extend towards the apertural edge. But



in the present species the surface looks polished, the apex is visible but does not protrude from the surface. This smooth surface can be explained when the shell is completely covered by the mantle in living specimens, like species of Cypraeidae which also have a highly polished shell surface. Unfortunately, no information about the living animal is known to us. Because this polished feature, which is not seen in any other known stomatellid, we introduce a new genus to accomodate this unique species.

### Abbreviations

|       |                                                             |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| L     | Length of the shell                                         |
| AMD   | (collection of) Aart M. Dekkers, Purperend, the Netherlands |
| HD    | (collection of) Henk Dekker, Winkel, the Netherlands        |
| MNHN  | Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France         |
| NHMUK | Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom              |

### TAXONOMY

Superfamily Trochoidea Rafinesque, 1815  
Family Trochidae Rafinesque, 1815  
Subfamily Stomatellinae J. E. Gray, 1840

### *Nigrastomatella* gen. nov.

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**Etymology.** – Combination of black (in Latin: niger, nigra, nigrum), the color of the only known species, and *Stomatella*. Gender feminine.

**Description.** – Shell elongate fusiform, apex at the posterior margin, last whorl increasing strongly in size resulting in an ear-shaped model. Apex nearly flushes with the last whorl, not protruding. Shell internally strongly nacreous. This new genus differs from *Stomatella* Lamarck, 1816 [type species *Stomatella auricula* Lamarck, 1816, subsequent designation by Anton, 1838: 32] in having a shiny polished shell, no spiral ribs present on the outer surface, the apex is not protruding above the shell surface. The polished shell characteristics indicate that it is probably totally covered by the mantle of the living animal or might be even internal.

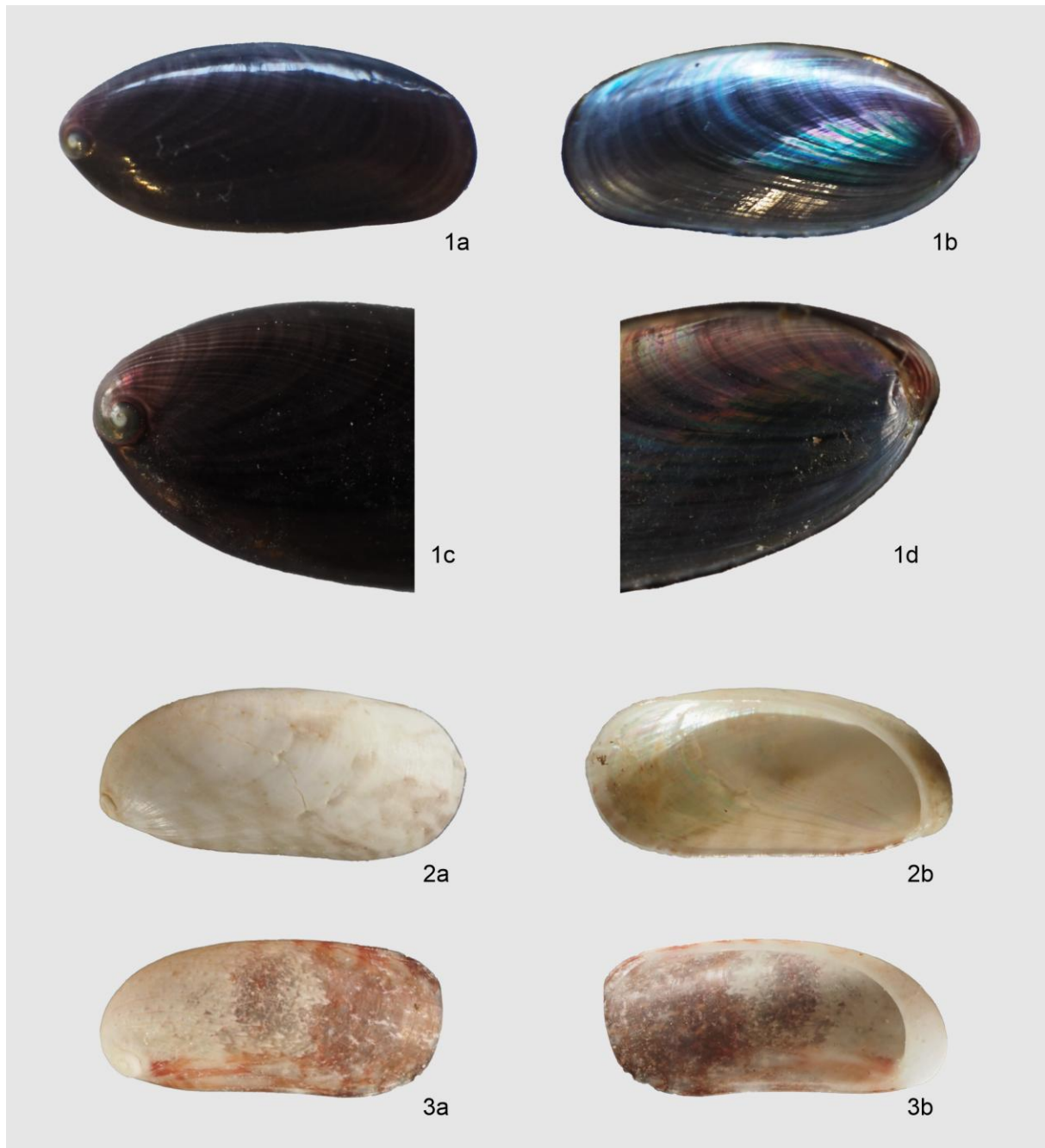
**Type species:** *Nigrastomatella nigerrima* sp. nov.

### *Nigrastomatella nigerrima* sp. nov.

(Plate 1 Fig. 1a-d)

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3A5730D1-D17F-4B0F-B551-EAE1573E1C2A](http://urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3A5730D1-D17F-4B0F-B551-EAE1573E1C2A)

*Stomatella lintricula* (A. Adams, 1850) – Poppe, 2017: 522, pl. 1561 fig. 7a-c [not of A. Adams]



**Plate 1. Stomatellinae species.** Fig. 1. *Nigrastomatella nigerrima* sp. nov., holotype, MNHN-IM-2000-40753, Philippines, Siquijor Island, L 11.9 mm. Figs 2-3. *Stomatella lintricula* (A. Adams, 1850). Fig. 2. HD 24634, Egypt, Red Sea, Sinai, Gulf of Aqaba, Dahab, S side Ras el-Kura, living below stone, 0.5 m depth at low tide, 26-27 Sept. 1992, L  $\pm$  8.3 mm. Fig. 3. HD 46911, Philippines, Siquijor Island, by net 150 m depth, bought 2021, L  $\pm$  6.8 mm.



**Description.** – Shell elongate fusiform, apex at the posterior margin, last whorl increasing strongly in size resulting in an ear-shaped model. Shell length to 13.7 mm. Apex nearly flushes with the last whorl, not protruding. The first whorls are whitish, protoconch not discernable. The last whorl has near the columellair side several dark reddish to blakish colored spiral lines which towards the aperture blend into the black color of the last whorl. From the vental side several of the red spirals are visible at the apex. In full (sun-)light the shell is translucent to slightly transparant. The surface is very smooth and shining, it seems that part of the apex after formation is dissolved by the animal to obtain a totally smooth shell, but not any juveniles are available to confirm this observation. Shell internally strongly nacreous.

**Holotype.** – MNHN-IM-2000-40753 [Pl. 1 Fig. 1a-d], L 11.9 mm.

**Paratypes.** – Philippines: North Cebu, Borbon, 10-25 m, AMD, 2 [L = 11.0, 11.4 mm]; North Cebu, Borbon, HD 48664, 1 [L = 11.3 mm]; Siquijor Island, AMD, 2 [L = 12, 13.7 mm]; Siquijor Island, HD, 5 [L = 11.1, 11.3, 11.4, 11.4, 11.5 mm]; Aliguay island, trawled, 200 m, 9 Nov. 2015, HD 36900, 1 [L = 10.2 mm]; Mactan, Island, Punta Engaño, 2-5 m, 2016, HD 37881, 4 [L = 12.1, 12.1, 12.3, 12.4 mm]; Mactan, Island, Punta Engaño, at Bee Hotel, 5-10 m, 2017, HD 40597, 3 [L = 9.9, 10.6, 10.9 mm].

**Type locality.** – Philippines, Siquijor Island.

**Distribution.** – Only known from the Philippines and Guam (Bob Abela, internet site).

**Habitat.** – Not any information on habitat available, but the reported depths are from 2-25 m, one shell trawled from 200 m depth.

**Etymology.** – Derived from the Latin niger, nigerrima means strongly black colored.

**Comparison.** – There is not a closely similar species of stomatellid to compare with this new species. Several species of *Stomatella* may have blackish color variants, but they can always be discriminated by having a protruding apex, a not polished surface and the presence of clear fine spiral ribs on at least the apex, in some species extending towards the aperture. The most similar species in form is the little-known *Stomatella lintracula* (A. Adams, 1850), which is treated below.

### ***Stomatella lintracula* (A. Adams, 1850)**

Plate 1 Figs 2-3

*Gena lintracula* A. Adams, 1850: 38

*Gena lintracula* A. Adams, 1850 – A. Adams, 1854: 830, pl. 173 fig. 22

*Gena lintracula* A. Adams, 1850 – Sowerby II, 1874: pl. 1 fig. 1

*Gena lintracula* A. Adams, 1850 – Brazier, 1877: 48 [Sue Island, Torres Straits]



*Gena lentricula* [sic] A. Adams, 1850 – Pilsbry, 1890: 44, pl. 55 fig. 14  
*Gena lintricula* A. Adams, 1850 – Schepman, 1908: 81  
*Stomatella lintricula* (A. Adams) – Habe, 1964: 18, pl. 6 fig. 18  
*Stomatella lintricula* (A. Adams, 1850) – Higo et al., 1999: 60  
*Stomatella lintricula* (A. Adams, 1850) – Dekker & Orlin, 2000: 18  
*Stomatella lintricula* (A. Adams, 1850) – Hasegawa, 2018: 119-120, fig. 4O-P

not: *Stomatella lintricula* (A. Adams, 1850) – Sasaki, 2017: pl. 23 fig. 2 [= *Stomatella planulata* Lamarck, 1816]

**Type.** – The broken holotype is in the NHMUK, nr. 1968131.

**Type locality.** – Philippines, Mindoro, Calapan City (A. Adams, 1850: 38).

**Distribution.** – This species has a wide distribution but seems to be rare everywhere. It is reported from: the Philippines (Adams, 1850, 1854; Sowerby II, 1874; herein); Japan (Habe, 1964, Higo et al., 1999; Hasegawa, 2018); Indonesia, Maluku prov., Maluku Barat Daya reg., Pulau Damar (Schepman, 1908); Indonesia, East Kalimantan, Berau Islands (herein); Australia, Queensland, Torres Strait, Sue Islet [= Warraber Islet] (Brazier, 1877); the Red Sea (Dekker & Orlin, 2000).

**Material studied.** – Egypt, Red Sea, Sinai, Gulf of Aqaba, Dahab, S side Ras el-Kura, living below stone, 0.5 m depth at low tide, 26-27 Sept. 1992, HD 24634, 1 spec. [Pl. 1 Fig. 2]; Indonesia, East Kalimantan, Berau Islands, by scuba diving, shell grit, 32 m depth, Oct. 2003, HD 44097, 1 broken spec.; Philippines, Siquijor Island, by net 150 m depth, bought in 2021, HD 46911, 1 spec. [Pl. 1 Fig. 3].

**Remarks.** – This is a typical species of *Stomatella*, its slender form makes it easily recognisable, all other species known to us are much wider in form. The apex is situated close to the posterior margin. Along the columella are a few broad spiral ribs. The surface is finely spirally striated; the striae disappear towards the aperture (Philippine & Indonesian specimens). The shell from Egypt does not show fine spiral striae. At least two decades ago, only one other shell has been seen from Egypt in another shell collection. The color is variable, whitish mottled, or white mottled with reddish. The slender form reminds one of *Nigrastomatella nigerrima* sp. nov., but the latter is always black and has a polished surface. The well-known *Stomatella planulata* Lamarck, 1816 is also relatively slender, but it differs in having a much larger shell (to ca. 26 mm), stronger spiral ridges, a flatter profile, and greenish brown coloration.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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