

## THE FAMILY PUPINIDAE IN BHUTAN (GASTROPODA: CAENOGASTROPODA: CYCLOPHOROIDEA)

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**ABSTRACT:** Only three genera of Pupinidae are known now to be represented in Bhutan, viz. *Pseudopomatias* with at least two species, including *P. barnai* n. sp., and *Streptaulus* and *Schistoloma*, both with one species. The records for these species fill gaps in published distribution maps.

**KEY WORDS:** taxonomy, *Pseudopomatias*, *Streptaulus*, *Schistoloma*, distribution, Bhutan

### INTRODUCTION

After many years of neglect, there is an ongoing project now, aiming at an inventory of the mollusc fauna of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The country is situated in the south-eastern border zone of the Himalaya, an area that is biogeographically particularly interesting since it is transitional between the Palearctic region in the north and the Indo-Malayan region in the south. Most of the original literature on the mollusc fauna of the eastern Himalaya was published in the 19th and early 20th century and dealt with the territory of 'British India' that never included Bhutan. As a consequence, nearly all records for that country are new, often filling gaps

in published distribution maps, where Bhutan was hitherto an empty area (GITTENBERGER et al. 2018). Two recent monographs about different genera of Pupinidae L. Pfeiffer, 1853, by PÁLL-GERGELY et al. (2014, 2015) exemplify this fact, while facilitating the identification of the pupinid shells that were collected in Bhutan recently. The three genera that are known now from that country are dealt with in this article, viz. *Pseudopomatias* Möllendorff, 1885, with at least two species, one of which is new to science, and *Streptaulus* Benson, 1857, and *Schistoloma* Kobelt, 1902, with one species each. The taxonomical and distributional data for these taxa are summarised.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Within the scope of the Bhutan Invertebrata Inventory Project that was started 2012 by (1) the National Biodiversity Centre in Serbithang, Thimphu, Bhutan, (2) the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research in Bumthang, Bhutan, (3) Naturalis Biodiversity Center, in Leiden, The Netherlands, and (4) associated in-

stitutes, molluscs were collected at many places in Bhutan (GITTENBERGER et al. 2018). This resulted in a quickly growing reference collection in the National Biodiversity Centre in Serbithang, Thimphu, Bhutan, where the material that is mentioned in this article is housed. The shells were measured with an electric caliper and photographed by using a Canon EOS 7D



camera with an ER25 extension tube and a SIGMA DC lens. The number of whorls was counted as in KERNEY & CAMERON (1979: 13).

Abbreviations: a.s.l. – above sea level; B – shell breadth; H – shell height; NBCB – National

Biodiversity Centre, Serbithang, Thimphu, Bhutan; RMNH – Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.

## SYSTEMATIC PART

### Family Pupinidae L. Pfeiffer, 1853

#### Genus *Pseudopomatias* Möllendorff, 1885

**Type species:** *P. amoenus* Möllendorff, 1885, by monotypy.

**Remarks:** Very few shells of *Pseudopomatias* were found, most of them in poor condition.

#### Key to the species of *Pseudopomatias* from Bhutan

- 1a. Shell base with 3–4 coarse tubercles: . . . . . 2.
- 1b. Shell base with parallel radial ribs only: *P. barnai* n. sp.
- 2a. Spiral microsculpture very fine or hardly discernible: . . . . . 3.
- 2b. Spiral microsculpture prominent: *Pseudopomatias* sp. 1
- 3a. Body whorl regularly convex: *Pseudopomatias* sp. 2
- 3b. Body whorl flattened below the shallow suture: *P. prestoni* Páll-Gergely, 2015

#### *Pseudopomatias barnai* Gittenberger et Leda n. sp.

Figs 1–3

*Pseudopomatias* spec. GITTENBERGER et al. (2017: 36, fig. 21).

**Type series.** Holotype (NBCB28) and paratype (NBCB29); district Tsirang, 35 km WNW of

Gelephu, altitude 1,050 m a.s.l., 27°01'N, 90°08'E; E. GITTENBERGER & PEMA LEDA leg. 23-03-2016.

**Diagnosis.** Shell with regularly convex whorls, sculptured with equally sized parallel ribs, and a broad apertural lip.

**Description.** Shell slender conical, with 6½ (paratype) – 7 (holotype) moderately convex whorls that are separated by a deep suture. In basal view (Fig. 3) the umbilicus is nearly entirely covered by the columellar part of the apertural lip. Aperture little higher than broad; peristome with a strongly thickened and reflected outer ring and a protruding inner ring. The radial ribs are fading on the final quarter of the last whorl; elsewhere they are sharp and little narrower than the interspaces. The ribs are neither interrupted nor thickened on the base of the shell. There is an indistinct micro-sculpture of very fine spiral lines.

**Measurements.** Holotype, H 7.0 mm, B 3.8 mm; paratype (damaged), H 6.2 mm, B unknown.

**Differentiation.** Since only two specimens could be studied, the variability of the conchological characters remains unclear. In size and shape and in the broadly thickened apertural lip, *P. barnai* n. sp. is most similar to *P. himalayae* (Benson, 1859) (Figs 4–5), which differs most clearly in shell sculpture. In *P. barnai* n. sp. all radial ribs continue on the base of the shell, without increasing in prominence (Fig. 3). In *P. himalayae*, on the final half of the shell, about 50% of the ribs end before reaching the shell base, whereas the ribs that continue towards the umbili-

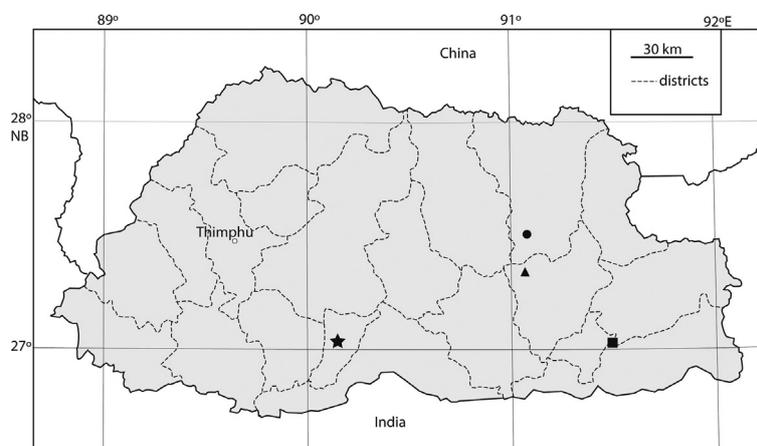


Fig. 1. Records of *Pseudopomatias* species: *Pseudopomatias barnai* n. sp., star; *Pseudopomatias prestoni* Páll-Gergely, 2015, dot; *P. spec. 1*, square; *P. spec. 2*, triangle



Figs 2–14. *Pseudopomatias* species: 2–3 – *P. barnai* n. sp., holotype (NBCB28), district Tsirang, 35 km WNW of Gelephu, altitude 1,050 m a.s.l.; frontal (2) and basal (3) view; shell height 7.0 mm, width 3.8 mm; 4–5 – *Pseudopomatias himalayae* (Benson, 1859) from the type locality, India, Sikkim, ‘Darjeeling’ (RMNH 156466); frontal (4) and basal (5) view; shell height 6.5 mm, width 3.5 mm; 6–9 – *P. prestoni* Páll-Gergely, 2015 (NBCB30), district Lhuentse, Garbrag (Phag Sang), 11 km W of Gorgon, altitude 1,800 m a.s.l.; frontal (6, 8), oblique-basal (7) and oblique-lateral view (9); shell height 9.3 mm (6) and 5.7 mm (8), shell width 4.3 mm (6) and 3.2 mm (8); 10–12 – *Pseudopomatias* spec. 1, district Mongar, 16 km WNW of Mongar, altitude 2,625 m a.s.l.; frontal (10), lateral (11), and basal (12) view; shell height c. 8.0 mm, width 3.5 mm; 13–14 – *Pseudopomatias* spec. 2, district Pemagatshel, 7 km E of Pemagatshel, altitude 2,300 m a.s.l.; frontal (13) and oblique-basal (14) view; shell height 7.4 mm (13)

cus are thickened (Fig. 5). The palatal-basal apertural lip is more regularly curved in *P. himalayae*, so that the aperture is more regularly circular in frontal view; the umbilicus seems to be slightly wider.

**Etymology.** *Pseudopomatias barnai* n. sp. is named after BARNA PÁLL-GERGELY, the first author of a recent revision of the genus *Pseudopomatias*.

### *Pseudopomatias prestoni* Páll-Gergely, 2015

Figs 1, 6–9

*Pseudopomatias prestoni* PÁLL-GERGELY (2015: 27, fig. 10A–B) ‘Damsang Peak, Sikkim, W. Bhutan’ [India, West Bengal, near the border between Sikkim and West Bengal].

**Material.** District Lhuentse, Garbrag (Phag Sang), 11 km W of Gorgon, altitude 1,800 m a.s.l., 27°30'N, 91°04'E; UGYEN TENZIN, DAWA YOEZER & SHERUB SHERUB leg. 22-02-2017 (2 shells; NBCB30).

**Description** (n = 2). Two worn shells that are quite different in the number of whorls (6 and 7¾) and in size (H 5.7, B 3.2 mm and H 9.3, B 4.3 mm) agree well with the original description of *P. prestoni*. The lower whorls are separated by a rather shallow suture and are flattened above the periphery. The apertural lip is relatively thin and reflexed. The radial ribs are broader than the interspaces and at some rather well preserved parts there is a sculpture of hardly discernible, fine spiral lines. The final quarter of the body whorl is heavily worn, but 3–4 coarse tubercles on the shell base are clearly seen, decisively supporting this identification.

**Distribution.** This species was hitherto known from West Bengal and Sikkim in India only (PÁLL-GERGELY 2015: 27).

### *Pseudopomatias* sp. 1

Figs 1, 10–12

**Material.** District Mongar, 16 km WNW of Mongar, altitude 2,625 m a.s.l., 27°19'N, 91°04'E; E. GITTENBERGER & PEMA LEDA leg. 12-04-2015 (1 shell; NBCB 1072).

**Notes.** A single, damaged shell (H 8.0, B 3.8 mm) cannot unreservedly be identified as *P. prestoni*, although it has 4 conspicuously coarse, allegedly diagnostic, irregular tubercles on the base (Fig. 12). It differs in a thick periostracum with a prominent spiral microsculpture. The blunt radial ribs become more widely spaced and are less prominent on the final quarter of the body whorl. The suture is deeper and the aperture is relatively larger than in *P. prestoni* from Lhuentse. The apertural lip is relatively thin and reflexed.

### *Pseudopomatias* sp. 2

Figs 1, 13–14

**Material.** District Pemagatshel, 7 km E of Pemagatshel, altitude 2,300 m a.s.l., 27°01'N, 91°29'E; E. GITTENBERGER & PEMA LEDA leg. 14-04-2015 (2 shells; NBCB1073).

**Notes.** Only one fully grown shell (H 7.4 mm, B ?, 6½ whorls), with a part of the apertural wall missing (Fig. 13), and a juvenile, fresh shell with 5½ whorls, are available. As in Bhutanese *P. prestoni* and *P. spec.* 1 there are ca. 4 coarse, irregular tubercles on the base of the shell (Fig. 14). The radial ribs are sharp and as broad as the interspaces, and the suture is deeper than in *P. prestoni*. There is an indistinct, very fine spiral microsculpture.

### Genus *Streptaulus* Benson, 1857

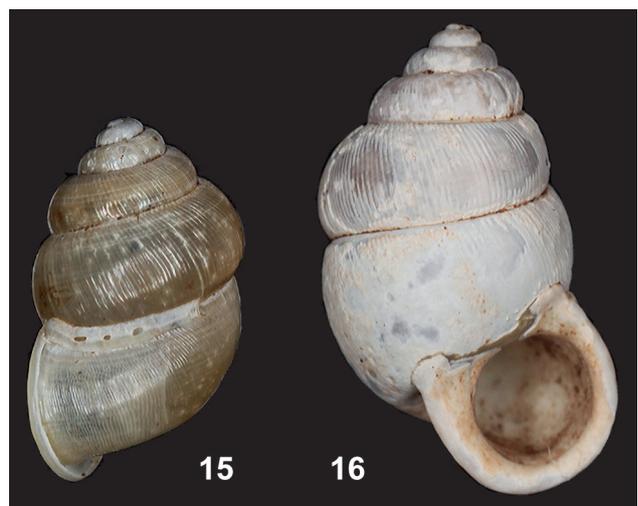
**Type species:** *Streptaulus blanfordi* Benson, 1857, by monotypy

### *Streptaulus blanfordi* Benson, 1857

Figs 15–17

*Streptaulus blanfordi* BENSON (1857: 201), India, Sikkim, ‘Darjiling’, PÁLL-GERGELY et al. (2014: 568, fig. 2), GITTENBERGER et al. (2017: 35, fig. 20).

**Material.** District Pemagatshel: N-side of Pemagatshel, altitude 1,750 m a.s.l., 27°02'N, 91°25'E, E. GITTENBERGER & PEMA LEDA leg. 15-04-2015 (1 shell; NBCB 1074); District Lhuentse: Garbrag (Phag Sang), 11 km W of Gorgon, altitude



Figs 15–16. *Streptaulus blanfordi* Benson, 1857. District Lhuentse, Garbrag (Phag Sang), 11 km W of Gorgon, altitude 1,800 m a.s.l.; shell heights 6.6 and 8.3 mm, respectively

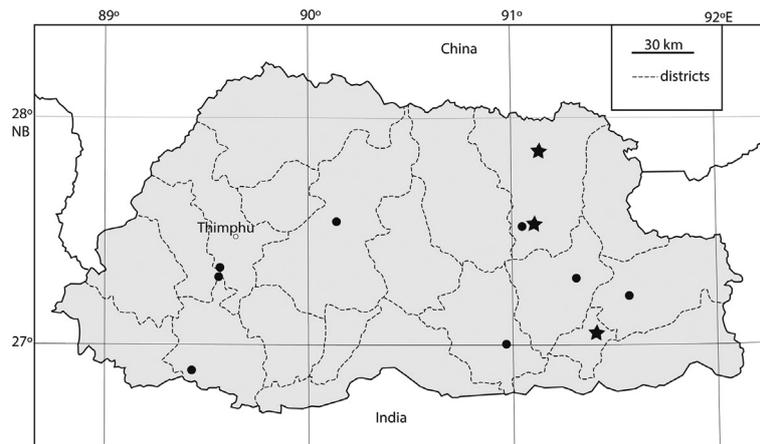


Fig. 17. Records of *Streptaulus blanfordi* Benson, 1857 (stars) and *Schistoloma funiculalum* (Benson, 1838) (dots)

1,800 m a.s.l., 27°30'N, 91°04'E, UGYEN TENZIN, DAWA YOEZER & SHERUB SHERUB leg. 22-02-2017 (2 shells; NBCB 1075); Dungkhar, 20 km NNW of Lhuentse, altitude 2,800 m a.s.l., 27°50'N, 91°07'E, CHOKI GYELTSHEN & KEZANG TOBGAY leg. 23-05-2017 (1 shell; NBCB 1076).

**Description** (n = 4). Shell pale greyish, with 5–6 convex whorls, ovoid apart from the aperture, conspicuously glossy and covered with dense, radial riblets that become more narrowly spaced and finer near the aperture. Apertural lip whitish, broadly thickened and reflexed. With a broad sutural tube running backwards for ¼ whorl behind the lip.

**Measurements.** H 6.6–8.3 mm, B 4.1–5.0 mm, 5–6 whorls.

**Distribution.** According to GUDE (1921: 164), this species occurs in NE India, in Sikkim and Assam. It has not been reported for Nepal by BUDHA et al. (2015). The three records in Bhutan are in the eastern third of the country, at altitudes ranging from 1,750 to 2,800 m a.s.l.

**Notes.** The two shells from the district of Lhuentse, with 5 and 6 whorls, respectively, are quite different in measurements, i.e. H 6.6 mm, B 4.3 mm and H 8.3 mm, B 5.0 mm. A shell from the type locality is illustrated by PÁLL-GERGELY et al. (2014: 568, fig. 2); according to the scale bar it is larger than the shells from Bhutan, measuring ca. 11 mm in height. See PÁLL-GERGELY et al. (2014) for additional data.

## Genus *Schistoloma* Kobelt, 1902

**Type species:** *Cyclostoma altum* Sowerby, 1842, by subsequent designation (GUDE 1921: 168).

### *Schistoloma funiculalum* (Benson, 1838)

Figs 18–21

*Cyclostoma funiculalum* BENSON (in HUTTON & BENSON 1838: 217), 'Indian Himalaya'.

*Cyclostoma pauperulum* SOWERBY [1] (1850: 166\*, pl. 31B fig. 318), 'Bootan' (Bhutan before the Anglo-Bhutan war of 1864).

*Cyclostoma funiculatum* SOWERBY [1] (1850: 166\*, pl. 31B figs 316, 317), 'Khasya' [Khasi] Hills, India.

*Schistoloma funiculalum* – GITTENBERGER et al. (2017: 37).

**Material.** District Chhukha, secondary road Phuentsholing – Pasakha, shrubbery and rocks in a road curve, altitude 350 m a.s.l., 26°53'N, 89°25'E, E. GITTENBERGER, PEMA LEDA & LEKI DORJI leg. 09-04-2013 (2 shells; NBCB 1079); District Mongar, Kori La 12 km E of Mongar, altitude 1,969 m a.s.l., 27°18'N, 91°19'E, KARMA WANGDI leg. 29-05-2017 (1 shell; NBCB 1080); District Paro, small gully with high rock-face at N-side, altitude 2,150 m a.s.l., 27°18'N, 89°33'E, E. GITTENBERGER & PEMA LEDA leg. 07-04-2013 (1 shell; NBCB 1081); District Thimphu, 16 km SSW of Thimphu, 3 km N of bridge, altitude 2,100 m a.s.l., 27°20'N, 89°34'E, E. GITTENBERGER & PEMA LEDA leg. 06-04-2013 (1 shell; NBCB 1082); District Trashigang, Khaling, 2,188 m a.s.l., 27°12'N, 91°34'E, W. KLEIN leg. 02-06-2017; District Lhuentse, Garbrag (Phag Sang), 11 km W of Gorgon, altitude 1,800 m a.s.l., 27°30'N, 91°04'E, UGYEN TENZIN, DAWA YOEZER & SHERUB SHERUB leg. 22-02-2017 (1 shell; NBCB 1083); District Wangdue Phodrang, 5 km before Nobding from Wangdue Phodrang, 27°32'N, 90°08'E, SHERUB SHERUB leg. 30-04-2015 (shell fragments; NBCB 1078); District Zhemgang, Memalam Drimang (Panbang), altitude 1,582 m a.s.l., under banana, 26°59'N, 90°58'E, TSHETHUP TSHERING leg. 25-01-2016 (1 shell; NBCB 1077).

**Description.** Shell shiny, dark to yellowish chestnut-brown, slender spindle-shaped except for the flaring final half of the last whorl; with 7–7¼ slightly convex whorls. Teleoconch with dense, fine growth lines and alternating coarser ones; last whorl with a vague, irregularly knobby sculpturing, which may be somewhat spirally arranged below the periphery. Peristome continuous, circular, light yellowish



Figs 18–21. *Schistoloma funiculalum* (Benson, 1838): 18 – district Chhukha, along secondary road Phuentsholing–Pasakha, altitude 350 m a.s.l.; shell height 17.8 mm; 19–21 – district Trashigang, Khaling, altitude 2,188 m a.s.l.; frontal (19), dorsal (20) and lateral-oblique view (21); shell height 25.2 mm

brown to whitish, very strongly thickened and entirely reflexed. Umbilicus narrowly open and surrounded by a prominent, erect ridge, which may be whitish (Fig. 21) or not contrasting with the whorls in colour.

**Measurements.** H 17.0–25.2 mm; B 7.3–10.3 mm.

**Distribution.** *Schistoloma funiculalum* is known from Nepal (BUDHA et al. 2015: 8, 32) and the Khasi Hills in NE India. The new records for Bhutan are situated at altitudes ranging from 350 to 2,150 m a.s.l.

**Notes.** According to the original description and figure, *Cyclostoma pauperculum* Sowerby [1], 1850, is based on shells that are little smaller and less slender

than *S. funiculalum*. Taking into account the variation that we observed in *S. funiculalum*, we consider *C. pauperculum* a junior synonym. *Schistoloma tanycheilus* (Godwin-Austen, 1876), referred to as *S. tanychilum* by GUDE (1921: 171), might be a second NE Indian *Schistoloma* species or subspecies, characterised by larger dimensions, a more prominent umbilical ridge and a more yellowish colour.

We consider *tanycheilus* a noun in apposition and do not accept the spelling *tanychilum*. As for the epithet *funiculalum* versus *funiculatum* we follow BUDHA et al. (2015: 32).

## DISCUSSION

Malacology is still in its infancy in Bhutan, but we may already accept that the molluscan fauna of that country (GITTENBERGER et al. 2017) differs substantially, at least at the species level, from that of other parts of the southern Himalayan border zone, in particular Nepal, that is best known now (BUDHA et al. 2015). Judging the degree of mollusc endemism for Bhutan would be premature, also because of the incomplete data for the surrounding countries.

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