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CLAUSILIIDAE (GASTROPODA, PULMONATA) FROM WESTERN NEW GUINEA

by

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During the zoological exploration of Netherlands New Guinea sponsored by the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, in 1954-1955, four specimens of Clausiliidae were found. There are no previous records of the occurrence of Clausiliidae in New Guinea; the most eastern locality in the Indo-Australian region from which this family of snails was known is the island of Halmahera, in the Moluccas (Loosjes, 1953, p. 209).

***Paraphaedusa minahassae* (P. & F. Sarasin, 1899)**

Sarasin, 1899, p. 218, pl. 26 figs. 267-268.

Ehrmann in Zilch, 1949, p. 77, pl. 4 fig. 10.

Loosjes, 1953, p. 137, fig. 38.

The specimens show the characters as they are typical of the species, but the aperture of some of the shells is somewhat narrower than usual, and the right upper angle of the peristome is a little less distinct in some specimens. The inner structure, examined in one of the shells, shows no differences from that of Celebes shells.

Dr. L. Forcart of the "Naturhistorisches Museum", Basel, Switzerland, kindly sent to me four specimens (paratypes) from Klabat Volcano for comparison, for which I am greatly indebted to him.

The species is known from the northern peninsula of the island of Celebes, from the localities: Klabat Volcano at 1500 m altitude under mosses on tree trunks (type-locality), on Soputan Volcano at 1150 m altitude, and on Mount Lokon.

The localities in Central Netherlands New Guinea are (fig. 1):

1. near River Dimija, between Lake Paniai and Lake Tage (Wissel Lakes), 3-I-1955, 1 specimen, leg. Dr. L. B. Holthuis.

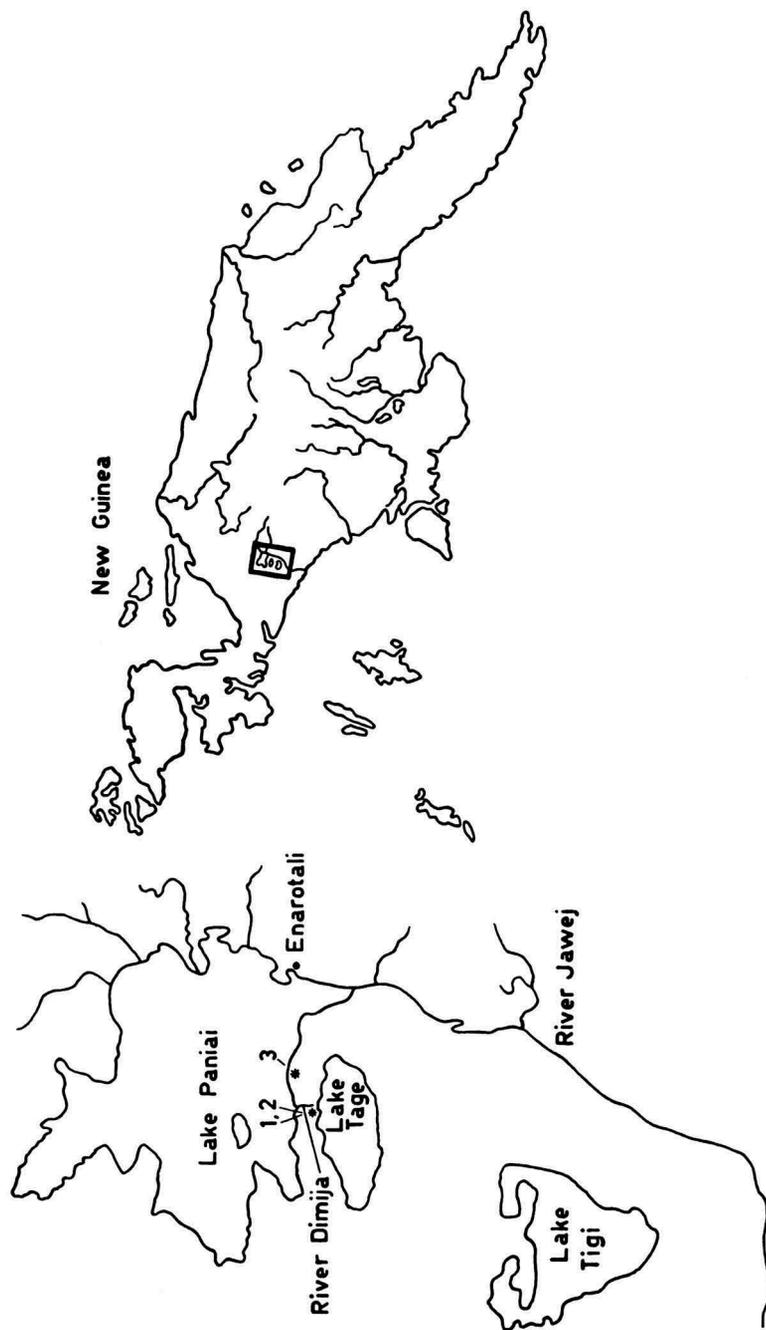


Fig. 1. Right side, New Guinea with some of the surrounding islands; the rectangle indicates lake Paniai in the western area. Left side, lake Paniai and surroundings; the numbers refer to the localities mentioned in the text.

shell		aperture		number of whorls
length	diameter	height	width	
15.4	2.8	3.0	2.0	10

2. surroundings of the spring of River Dimija, limestone, 1750 m, 5-I-1955, 2 specimens of which one was found on a tree stem ca 1 m high and the other, as far as was remembered, between decaying leaves, leg. Dr. L. B. Holthuis.

shell		aperture		number of whorls
length	diameter	height	width	
15.0	2.9	3.1	2.0	10
15.5	3.1	3.2	2.2	10½

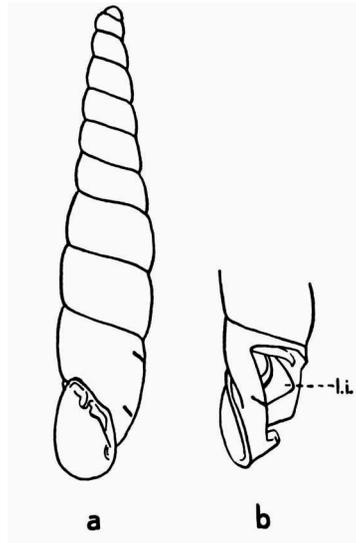


Fig. 2. *Paraphaedusa minahassae* (P. & F. Sarasin). a, ventral side of the shell; b, right side of the last whorl of the shell, the palatal wall has been broken away to show the lamellae, the clausilium has been removed. l.i., lamella inferior.

3. surroundings of Kampong Baupapa, south coast of Lake Paniai, limestone, 1750 m, 5-I-1955, on a tree stem, 1 m high, leg. Dr. L. B. Holthuis.

shell		aperture		number of whorls
length	diameter	height	width	
14.8	3.1	3.0	2.0	10

These three samples are preserved in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden, the Netherlands (Cat. no. 1206).

The presence of this Celebes species in New Guinea is very interesting.

Not only is the occurrence of a Clausiliid of interest, as up to now no Clausiliidae were found there, but the occurrence of a species from Celebes is striking, for one would expect the specimens from so distant a locality to differ at least subspecifically. There are two possibilities, either the occupation of the New Guinea localities is a comparatively recent one, or the species did not alter much during a long period. The latter possibility seems the most likely to me, as in other cases this is also the most obvious explanation (Loosjes, 1953, p. 212).

The genus *Paraphaedusa* is known now from Celebes, Borneo, and New Guinea; it has its nearest allies in *Euphaedusa* species.

REFERENCES

- LOOSJES, F. E., 1953. Monograph of the Indo-Australian Clausiliidae. Beaufortia, no. 31, pp. 1-226, 56 figs.
SARASIN, P. & F., 1899. Die Landmollusken von Celebes. Wiesbaden, 248 pp., 31 pls.
ZILCH, A., 1949. Studien Paul Ehrmann's über asiatische und süd-amerikanische Clausiliiden, Arch. Molluskenk., vol. 78, pp. 69-98, 3 pls.