

Gloria Maris	46 (3)	43-50	Antwerpen, augustus 2007
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## Description of two new *Colubraria* species from the South China Seas and the Philippines (Gastropoda: Colubrariidae)

Aart DEKKERS

Koewijzend 12 B, 1695 CG Blokker, The Netherlands  
aart.dekkers@wxs.nl

**Keywords:** COLUBRARIIDAE, *Colubraria*, China, Philippines, Pacific Ocean, taxonomy.

**Abstract:** A new species of the family **Colubrariidae** is described from the Pacific Ocean, from the South China Sea. The species is probably endemic to China, so far unknown to science. A striking new species from the Philippines is also described as new to science, unfortunately only based on the holotype.

**Introduction:** In the first months of 2007 the author acquired some *Colubraria* specimens from the South China Seas. They were sold to the author under the name of "*Colubraria castanea* Kuroda & Habe, 1952", a rather uncommon brown and large species in the Pacific Ocean, well-known from the Philippines and some other places. However, this newly bought species was different in the ornamentation of the shell and the constant smaller size of the shell.

After consulting Henk Dekker, collaborator of the ZMA, it became clear that this specimen is indeed a not yet described species.

After that two more specimens were acquired through the same dealer, and David Monsecour got the fourth shell from the same dealer.

This new species is described based upon the type material of four specimens, all from the same dealer and locality.

Furthermore, a remarkable and unbelievably beautiful species from the Philippines is described, only based on one specimen.

In this paper the family **Colubrariidae** is treated as a family on its own, as a member of the superfamily **Buccinoidea**, which I treat as a valid superfamily comprising the families **Buccinidae**, **Nassariidae**, **Colubrariidae**, **Columbellidae** and **Busyconidae**.

**Abbreviations:**

ZMA – Zoological Museum Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
 AMD – the collection of Aart M. Dekkers, the Netherlands  
 HD – the collection of Henk Dekker, the Netherlands  
 DM – the collection of David Monsecour, Belgium

**Systematics:**

Family: **Colubrariidae**, Schumacher, 1817

Genus: *Colubraria* Schumacher, 1817

Type species: *C. granulata* Schumacher

= synonym of *C. muricata* Lightfoot, 1786

***Colubraria pulchrafuscata* sp. nov.**

**Material examined:** a lot of 4 shells from the South China Sea, collected on sand in shallow water. As usual with a lot of Chinese shells, exact finding locations are lacking.

**Type material:**

Holotype in ZMA, number Moll.4.07.049

Paratype 1 in the collection AMD, unnumbered

Paratype 2 in the collection of HD, unnumbered

Paratype 3 in the collection of DM

All type material from the same locality.

**Type locality:** South China Sea, China.

**Distribution:** So far only known from the type locality. The depth range is not known.

**Description:** Shell length about 38-45 mm, rather solid, elongate-fusiform with a tall spire, with typical appearance of a *Colubraria* species. Protoconch small and white,

about 2 whorls. The spire continues with eight whorls, very roundest on the shoulder, followed by the body whorl having the same round appearance. The whorls on the spire are coarsely ornamented with many spiral ridges bearing numerous round knobs. The last whorl before the body whorl bears 8 spiral lines with knobs, all knobs are of lighter colour than the ground colour of the shell. All the knobs are the crosspoints of spiral lines and axial small ribbing. The varices on the whorls are all  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a whorl after the previous one, thus forming a triangle seen from the top. All varices are broad and have the same colour as the shell itself. The knobs are also present on the varices, but smaller than on the shell itself. The inside of the aperture is ornamented with about 14-15 shallow, raised, but clearly visible lines of about 3 mm into the mouth. On the outer edge of the lip, small brown dots occur on the place of the lines. Siphonal fasciole smooth and highly enamelled. Inside of aperture and columellar shield cream to brown. Columellar callus with shallow lines. The aperture is elongate. Aperture with a distinct, but shallow anal canal, bordered by a white elongated denticle.

Basic colour cream with dark brown banding, which gives the impression of being a totally brown shell.

**Variability:** the type material is of about the same size and the spiral lines are more or less pronounced as in the holotype. In the table below the size indications are given for the type material and for two other Indo Pacific species which the new species is compared with (these are from the author's private collection).

	Height in mm	Width in mm	Height/width ratio
Holotype	44,3	16,7	2,65
Paratype 1	39,9	16,5	2,42
Paratype 2	38,0	15,1	2,52
Paratype 3	49,8	18,2	2,74
<i>C. castanea</i> no 1, dwarf	45,1	18,8	2,40
<i>C. castanea</i> no 2, medium sized	64,3	26,0	2,47
<i>C. springsteeni</i>	34,4	12,1	2,84

**Etymology:** The species is named for the beautiful (=pulchra) brown (=fuscata) colour of its shell.

**Comparison:** This new species is different from *Colubraria castanea* Kuroda & Habe, 1952 by its darker brown colour, the fewer spiral lines (in *C. castanea* about 12 spiral lines, also bearing much smaller knobs), the much coarser sculpture (knobs), the lack of the dark brown band on the body whorl, and the constant smaller size (*C. castanea* reaches 75 mm according to Springsteen & Leobrera, species 15 of plate 34,

but specimens of 100 mm are known). Furthermore, *C. castanea* has more rounded whorls.

The new species differs from *Colubraria springsteeni* Parth, 1991 by its larger size and broader shell and by having more incised whorls (*C. springsteeni* reaches 55 mm according to Sprinsteen & Leobrera, species 14 of plate 34).

The new species is remarkably similar to the Caribbean *Colubraria testacea* (Mörch, 1877) as far as the body whorl pattern and texture is concerned. However, the mouth is much heavier in *C. testacea* with heavy dentations on the inside of the lip and it also differs by having lirae at the underside of the columella, which are absent in the new species.

For comparison, one specimen of *C. springsteeni* and one of *C. castanea* is pictured on the plates.

### *Colubraria albometulaformis* sp. nov.

**Material examined:** One single shell from the Philippines is known.

**Type material:** Holotype to be stored in the collection of AMS, but at present in the personal collection of AMD, unnumbered.

**Type locality:** Philippines, Aliguay Island, dredged at 120-200 metres deep.

**Distribution:** So far only known from the type locality. The depth range is based upon the depth of the single catch. There is no further information available.

**Description:** Shell length about 30 mm, rather solid, elongate fusiform, looking similar to a *Metula* species, but differs in having varices and a typical **Colubrariidae** mouth. The measurements of the holotype are: Length: 29,5 mm; Width: 10,2 mm. The protoconch and teleoconch are a deep purple-brown colour, slowly fading to clear white on the later whorls. Spire ornamented with spiral ridges and axial ribbing, with raised little knobs on the points where they cross. The last spire whorl (the one preceding the body whorl) bears 10 spiral lines, stronger ones and less strong ones alternating. The body whorl is ornamented with spiral ridges bearing numerous little

rounded knobs. Aperture elongate. Aperture with an indistinct anal canal, bordered by a faint white denticle. Half way the aperture, the columella bears a white denticle. The columella is small and smooth and glossy white. Inside of mouth slightly thickened; outer lip smooth on the inside.

Overall colour white, no cream or brown as in other *Colubrariidae*. Only on the last varice (at the mouth) some cream colour is shown.

**Variability:** unknown.

**Etymology:** The species is named for the striking white colour (albo), as well as for the resemblance with a *Metula* species (family: **Buccinidae**, *Pisaniinae*).

**Comparison:** This new species is different from all known *Colubraria* species. A comparison is not meaningful.

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks go out to Mr. Henk Dekker, the Netherlands, collaborator of the ZMA, for sharing the same enthusiasm for this small, but not very well-known family and for confirmation of the two shells being new species. Special thanks go to David Monsecour for his critical reading of the manuscript, editing and handling of the plates and the kind trust in my knowledge of this family.

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**Plate**

- 1: *Colubraria pulchrafuscata* sp. nov. Holotype, front and dorsum
- 2: *Colubraria pulchrafuscata* sp. nov. Paratype 1, front and dorsum
- 3: *Colubraria pulchrafuscata* sp. nov. Paratype 2, front and dorsum
- 4: *Colubraria pulchrafuscata* sp. nov. Paratype 3, front and dorsum
- 5: *Colubraria castanea*, dwarf, 45,1 mm, Philippines, coll. A.M. Dekkers, unnumbered, front and dorsum
- 6: *Colubraria springsteeni*, 34,4 mm, Philippines, coll. A.M. Dekkers, unnumbered, front and dorsum
- 7: *Colubraria testacea*. Colombia. Coll A.M. Dekkers, unnumbered, front and dorsum.
- 8: *Colubraria albometulaformis* sp. nov., Holotype, 29,5 mm. Front and dorsum.





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