

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY OF NEW YORK MAY 27, 1948 NUMBER 1374

A NEW *THAIS* FROM ANGOLA AND NOTES ON *THAIS HAEMASTOMA* LINNÉ

BY WILLIAM J. CLENCH AND RUTH D. TURNER¹

The extensive collection of marine shells obtained by Herbert Lang and Rudyerd Boulton, Jr., in April, 1925, at Lobito Bay, Angola, contains a fine large species of *Thais* that apparently has not been described. Recently E. Fischer-Piette, in his published presidential address before a meeting of the Zoological Society of France,² stated that there are still many areas on the west African coast that have been explored but little, and that from recent collections made in this area there are many large species that have proved to be new.

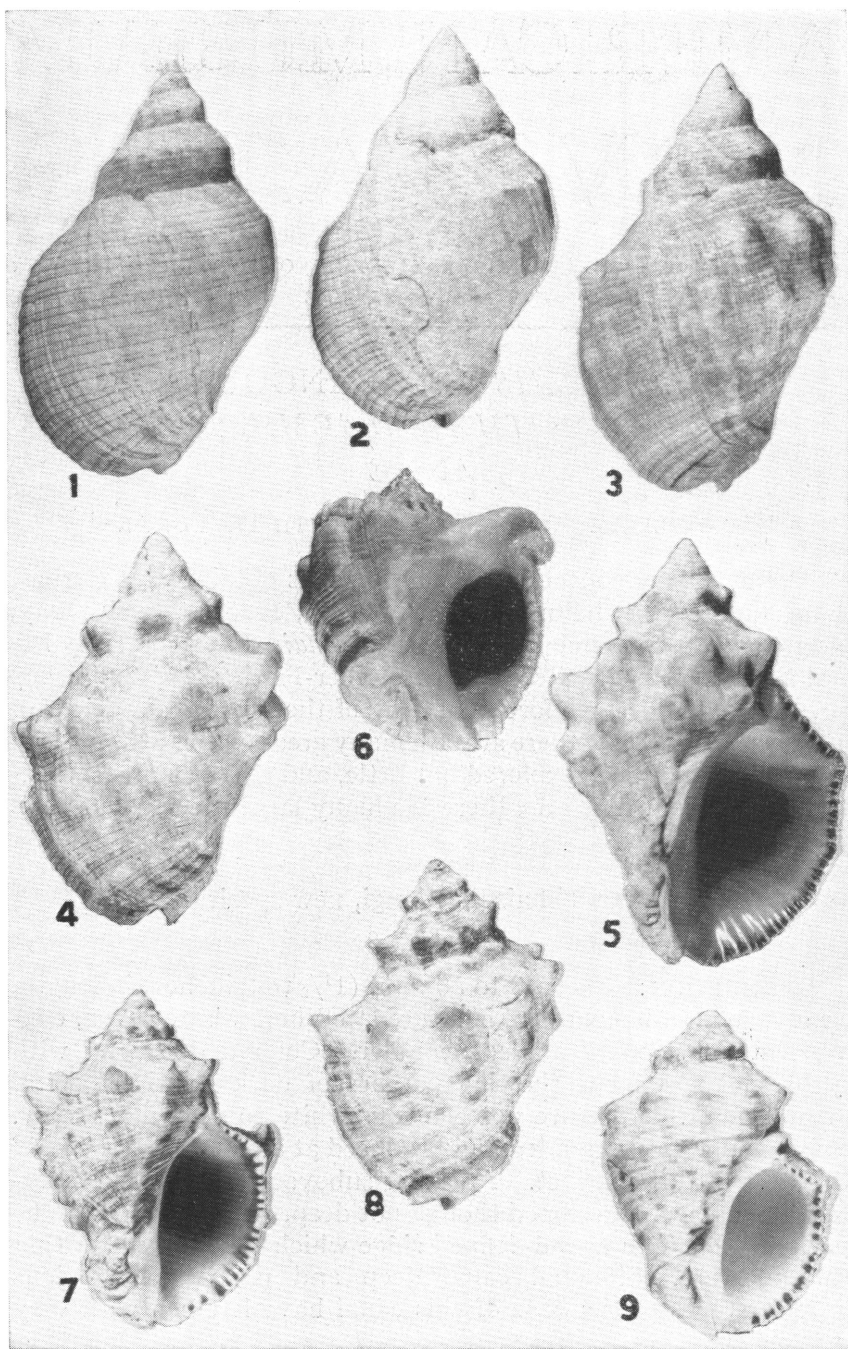
Thais (*Thaisella*) *langi*, new species

Figures 7-9

DESCRIPTION: Shell 40 to 50 mm. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches) in length, heavy, solid, and coarsely sculptured. Whorls six to seven, convex with a strongly angled shoulder. Color a dull gray with occasional specimens showing patches of dark brown in spiral arrangement. Aperture porcelaneous white to very light ivory. Spire moderately extended and produced at an angle of about 60° to 70° . Suture distinct. Aperture subovate and angled. Posterior canal well developed though not deep, and margined on the parietal wall with a well-defined ridge which follows back within the aperture. Siphonal canal deep and recurved. Previous growth stages of the base of this canal have left behind a very

¹ Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

² 1947, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, vol. 72, p. 11.



FIGS. 1-5. *Thais haemastoma* Linné. FIG. 6. *Thais coronata* Lamarck. FIG. 7. *Thais langi*, new species, holotype. FIGS. 8, 9. *Thais langi*, new species, paratypes.

broad and strongly developed basal ridge. Palatal lip simple and strongly crenulated, the crenulations generally produced in groups of two. Depressions between these short crenulations colored a chocolate brown. Parietal wall glazed and forming a rather broad shield over the umbilical area. Sculpture consisting of numerous small and rather regular, incised, spiral grooves. In addition, there are generally about four spiral nodulose ridges, the uppermost, or shoulder, ridge being by far the most strongly developed. Axial sculpture consisting of rather coarse growth lines. At the suture the successive margins of the posterior or anal canal remain as a fine series of irregular, arcuate growth lines. Operculum unguiculate, chitinous, rather thin, and strongly sculptured with concentric growth lines.

	Length	Width	Aperture
Holotype	44.5	35	31 × 13 mm.
Paratype	48	34	33 × 17
Paratype	46	31	34.5 × 13.5

TYPES: Holotype, A.M.N.H. No. 72715, Lobito Bay, Angola, Africa, Lang and Boulton collectors, April, 1925. Paratypes in the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

REMARKS: *Thais langi* differs quite sharply from *T. coronata* Lamarck (fig. 6), the only other member of the subgenus *Thaisella* from the west African coast that is known to us. *Thais langi* has a more extended spire and a much reduced anal canal. In addition, there is almost no development of the scale-like growth stages behind the canal. In *T. coronata* the aperture within is generally a salmon color, while in *T. langi* it is white to very pale ivory.

Our figure 6 of *Thais coronata* Lamarck was made from a specimen collected at Curucá, Pará, Brazil, a figure previously published in Johnsonia. The same species, however, occurs in the eastern Atlantic from the Cape Verde Islands south to the Belgian Congo, as shown by the large series in our possession. We have no knowledge of the range of *Thais langi* as, to date, it is known only from the type locality, Lobito Bay, Angola, Africa.

***Thais* (*Stramonita*) *haemastoma* Linné**

Figures 1-5

An exceedingly fine series of this species was collected at Lobita Bay. All gradations exist from the relatively smooth forms

(typical *haemastoma* Linné, figs. 1-3) to the strongly nodulose forms (*forbesii* Dunker, figs. 4-5). The specimens at hand certainly indicate that *Thais forbesii* Dunker is only an extreme variant of the typical *haemastoma*, though it appears that this variant is confined to the southwest African coast of the eastern Atlantic area.

In Johnsonia¹ the senior author indicated that *forbesii* Dunker, though merging into the typical form, was a subspecies and represented the *haemastoma* complex in southwest Africa. Our present series certainly indicates that this is not the case, but that typical *haemastoma* also is found at least as far south as Lobito Bay, Angola. The name *forbesii*, if retained at all, should be considered as only a variant or a form name and not as a significant geographic subspecies.

¹ Johnsonia, 1947, vol. 2, no. 23, p. 76, pl. 36, fig. 7.