

The Taxonomy of Naticidae Guilding, 1834 (Mollusca: Gastropoda) Collection from Sarawak Natural History Museum

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on the taxonomic study of the gastropod family Naticidae based on specimens at Sarawak Natural History Museum. A total of 146 specimens were investigated. There are 6 species found in the boxes of specimen's collection which are *Mammilla melanostoma* (Gmelin,1791), *Neverita didyma* (Röding,1798), *Paratectonica tigrina* (Röding,1798), *Polinices albumen* (Linnaeus,1758), *Polinices mammilla* (Linnaeus,1758) and *Tanea lineata* (Röding,1798). A list of specimens of each species is provided in this study. From all the available specimens in the museum, a dichotomous key is formed. It is hoped that this study serves as a basis for further work on gastropods especially the family Naticidae in Sarawak.

Key words: Naticidae, taxonomy, museum, specimens, dichotomous key

INTRODUCTION

Taxonomy is an integral component of biological systematics, the science of biodiversity and deals with the naming and classification of organisms (Purvis & Hector, 2000). The taxonomic study provides information that is essential to all branches of biology. Current taxonomy focuses on multi-character integrative techniques that consider all potentially helpful sources of data offered by diverse domains of biology (Huxley, 1940).

The Naticidae Guilding, 1834 is a diverse gastropod family that can be found from the intertidal zone to thousands of meters below the surface. Naticidae members are easily identified by their globular to ovate-conical shell shape, distinctive features and unusual predatory behaviour (Carpenter & Niem, 1998). According to Kabat (1996), there are an estimated 260– 270 recent species in this family which to have originated in the late Triassic or early Jurassic (Wenz, 1941; Bouchet & Warén,

The earliest museum in Borneo was established at Kuching in 1886 when R.V. Awdry, the Private Secretary to the Rajah was authorised to receive contributions for the proposed museum. In 1888, a proper museum building was designed by the Rajah's French valet. The building was further extended to its present form in 1911. The early development was in the personal interest of the second