

**Note on giant white land snail *Burtoa nilotica* Pfeiffer, 1861  
(Family: Achatinidae) of Domwe Island from cape maclear,  
Southeast Arm of Malawi (13°59'39.8"S 34°50'38.4"E)**

**Thiruvengadam V.<sup>1\*</sup>**

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**Abstract**

The present investigation of giant white land-snail *Burtoa nilotica* Pfeiffer, 1861 have recorded at Domwe Island from Cape Maclear, Southeast Arm of Malawi at a depth of 2 meter. *B. nilotica* were reported to 13°59'39.8"S 34°50'38.4"E, Domwe Island, Republic of Malawi.

**Keywords:** Mollusca, Achatinidae, Gastropoda, *Burtoa nilotica*, Domwe Island, Southeast Arm of Malawi

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1- International University of East Africa, Kampala, Uganda, East Africa

\*Corresponding author's Email: vaitheeswaranthiruvengadam69@gmail.com

## Introduction

Southeast Arm of lake Malawi harbours a significant interesting freshwater fauna and flora the most special group of molluscan fauna along with a number of endemic elements. The accessibility of some extensive new collections of gastropods biodiversity of molluscs enables preparation of this preliminary summary, but it must be highlighted that our knowledge is still very incomplete from Domwe Island from Cape Maclear, Southeast Arm of Malawi. Many researchers were discussed on the freshwater molluscs from other parts of Malawi (Brown, 1980; Solem and Van Bruggen, 1984; Jennifer *et al.*, 2018). The Giant African Snail, *Burtoa nilotica* Pfeiffer, 1861 is a tropical species with a widespread distribution across to East Africa, the Indian subcontinent,

Southeast Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean. It belongs to a family of African snails, the Achatinidae (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Stylommatophora, Achatinoidea), that includes more than 200 species in 13 genera (Schileyko, 1999). Louda *et al.* (1983) has reviewed that the total number of nineteen species of shallow water gastropods were reported the Lake Malawi. The gastropods fauna has seemed to vertical distribution between 6-24 m (Louda *et al.*, 1983).

## Materials and methods

One specimen (Total length 35 mm; weighing about 95 gm). *Burtoa nilotica* (Fig. 1) was collected were reported to 13°59'39.8"S 34°50'38.4"E, at a depth of 2 m, from the Domwe Island, Republic of Malawi, Central Africa (Fig. 2).



Figure 1: *Burtoa nilotica*, Domwe Island, Southeast Arm of Malawi.



**Figure 2: Sampling sites in the *Burtoa nilotica*, Domwe Island, Southeast Arm of Malawi.**

## Results and discussion

### *Taxonomy*

Class: Gastropoda

Order: Stylommatophora

Super Family: Achatinoidea

Family: Achatinidae Swainson, 1840

Genus: *Burtoa* Bourguignat, 1889

*Species: nilotica*

### *Colour*

The conical shell is light brown in colour, though the colour pattern may vary (Schotman, 1989). The presence of streaks is associated with a dominant allele such that homozygous recessive individuals have un-streaked shells (Allen, 1983). However, variation in shell morphology in terms of size, shape and colour exists and has been largely attributed to environmental conditions (Mead, 1961).

### *Distribution*

The specimens examined agree quite well with the original description and figures provided by (Pfeiffer, 1865; Jennifer *et al.*, 2018). Even though

have been distributed in several zones around the sphere, it is possible to illuminate the route of dispersal of *Achatina fulica* since before the 1800's. The snail is thought to be original to East Africa, West Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius Tanzania, Kalangala Sese Islands, Bwendero Village, Uganda and most islands of the Pacific (Mead, 1961), the Caribbean (Schotman, 1989) and South America (Paiva, 1999; Thiengo *et al.*, 2007). It is also a known intermediate host of the rat lungworm, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, which can infect humans and cause eosinophilic meningitis.

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