

# First record of the little-known land gastropod genus *Nobuea* Kuroda et Miyanaga, 1943 (Gastropoda Diplommatinidae) from Jeju Island, South Korea

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## ABSTRACT

*Nobuea* Kuroda et Miyanaga, 1943 (Gastropoda Cyclophoridae) is one of the least-known genera of terrestrial gastropods. An individual of this genus was collected from Jeju Island, South Korea, the first record of *Nobuea* from this island. Further studies are needed to investigate the taxonomic and conservation status of the Jeju *Nobuea* reported here.

## KEY WORDS

Conservation; nonmarine gastropods; insular biodiversity; new records; geographic distribution.

Received 14.12.2019; accepted 01.03.2020; published online 26.03.2020

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Nobuea* Kuroda et Miyanaga, 1943 (Gastropoda Diplommatidae) represents one of the least-known genera of land gastropods. There are two recognized species of this genus: *N. elegantistriata* Kuroda et Miyanaga, 1943 and *N. kurodai* Minato et Tada, 1978.

The first species was described based on a single specimen collected on Geomun Island, South Jeolla Province, South Korea (Kuroda & Miyanaga, 1943) and no living individual has been encountered at least for the last three decades (National Institute of Biological Resources, South Korea, 2012). In the Korean literature, few illustrations of *N. elegantistriata* occur, e.g., Kwon et al., (1993; 2001), Min et al., (2004) and Lee & Min (2005). The illustration in Kwon et al., (2001) is repeated in the two subsequent publications. *Nobuea kurodai* was recorded from Tushima-cho, Ehime Prefecture, Japan (Minato & Tada, 1978)

and, subsequently, an additional population was found on Mt. Kamon, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan (Minato & Nishi, 1996).

At present, as far as we know, only five individuals of this species have been reported (four from the type locality and one from the second population). Because of the low population densities and/or restricted distributions, both *Nobuea* species are listed in national level red data books (National Institute of Biological Resources, South Korea, 2014; Ministry of Environment, Japan, 2019).

Jeju Island is the largest island in South Korea, with an area of about 1800 km<sup>2</sup>, and is situated about 80 km south of the Korean peninsula. The non-marine gastropod fauna of this island has been relatively well examined (e.g., Habe & Kosuge, 1970; Noseworthy et al., 2007). At present, 52 species of land snails and eight freshwater snails have been recorded from Jeju Island (Habe & Kosuge, 1970; Joo et al., 1979; Noseworthy et al., 2007; Kimura et al., in press).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

On 10 October 2018, a field survey was conducted, and a single specimen of the genus *Nobuea* was collected at the parking lot of Geolmae Eco Park, Seogwipo, Jeju Special Self-governing Province (33°14'53.9"N 126°33'15.1"E) (Fig. 1). Its shell was examined under a light microscope. Because the specimen was preserved in 100% ethanol soon after being collected, the details of its anatomy were not obtained. The examined specimen was deposited in the personal collections of K. Kimura (Voucher No: MNKS2551)

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Systematics*

Phylum MOLLUSCA Cuvier, 1797

Classis GASTROPODA Cuvier, 1795  
Subclassis CAENOGASTROPODA Cox, 1960  
Ordo ARCHITAENIOGLOSSA Haller, 1890  
Superfamilia CYCLOPHOROIDEA Gray, 1847  
Familia DIPLOMMATINIDAE Pfeiffer, 1857  
Genus *Nobuea* Kuroda et Miyanaga, 1943

### *Nobuea* sp.

**DESCRIPTION.** Shell small, strongly depressed, thin, rather dull white. Measurements: height 1.8 mm, width 4.0 mm (Fig. 2, Voucher No: MNKS2551). Whorls three, with regularly increasing diameter. Protoconch with 1½ whorls, with smooth, glossy surface. Teleoconch finely rib-striated at irregular intervals, lower whorls more densely than upper ones. Ribs not parallel; spiral striae absent. Aperture circular, slightly oblique. Periphery round. Suture deep. Umbilicus wide and

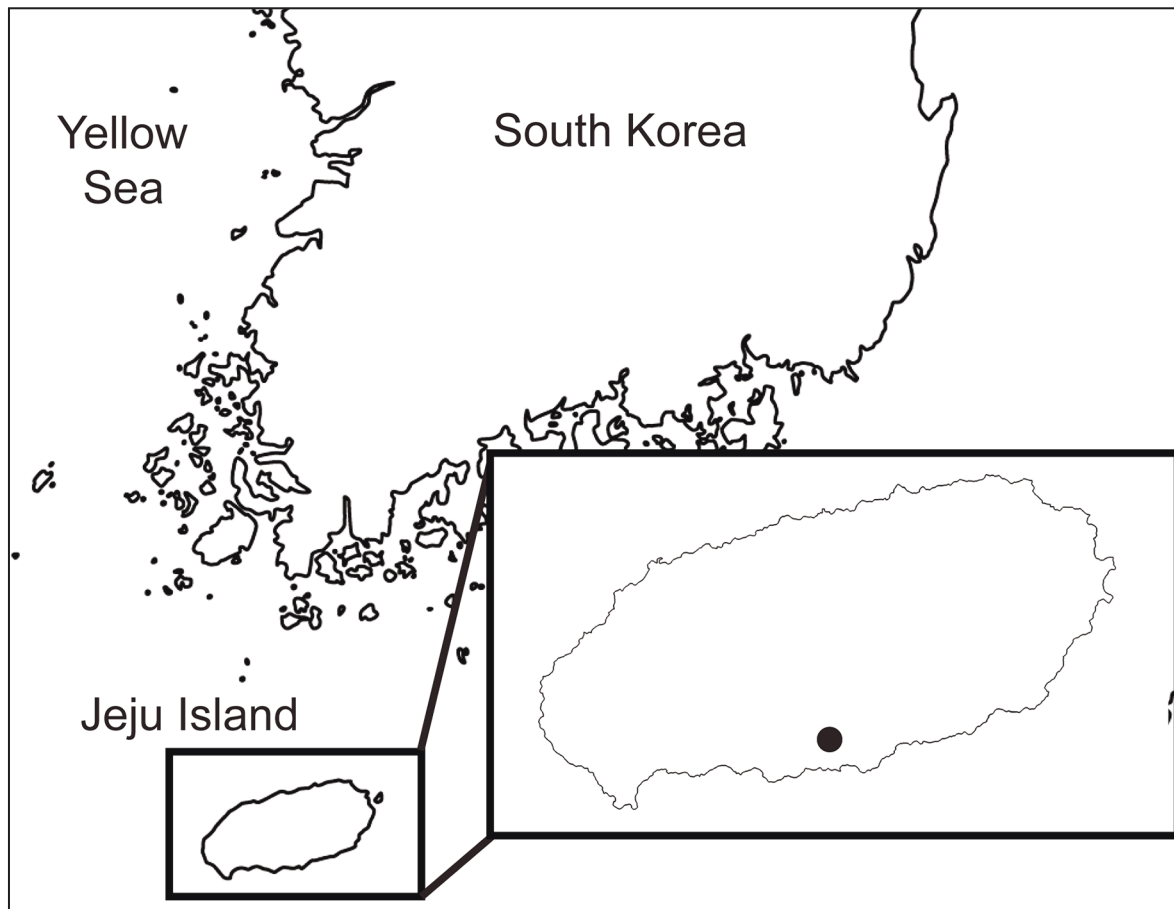


Figure 1. Sample collection locality in Jeju Island, South Korea.

deep, showing the upper whorls within. Operculum circular, thin, not calcareous, with multiple spiral lines.

**DISTRIBUTION AND BIOLOGY.** The genus *Nobuea* is known from two Korean islands (Geomun and Jeju Islands) and western Japan (Ehime and

Miyazaki Prefectures). There is few information on the ecology and life history of this genus.

**REMARKS.** The specimen examined here was probably an immature individual, and therefore adult shell size, shape, and anatomy of mature individuals remain to be elucidated. However, the specimen exhibited distinct differences from the two other *Nobuea* species. The Jeju *Nobuea* has a flatter shell, with fewer and more prominent ribs on its shell surface than found in *N. elegantistriata* and *Nobuea kurodai*. In addition, the Jeju *Nobuea* can be distinguished from *N. elegantistriata* by its larger shell size. Further studies using additional adult specimens are needed to confirm the taxonomic status of this *Nobuea*. It should be noted that the taxonomic position of the genus *Nobuea* is still controversial (Kwon et al., 1993; Azuma, 1995; Minato & Nishi, 1996). Although the original description by Kuroda & Miyanaga (1943) places *N. elegantistriata* in Diplommatinidae, Kwon et al., (1993) include it in the Alycaeidae. Subsequently, Minato & Nishi (1996) and more recent publications regard the genus *Nobuea* as a member of the Cyclophoridae. In this study, we placed the genus in Diplommatinidae in accordance with Kuroda & Miyanaga (1943).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our sincere gratitude to Joy Noseworthy for considerable assistance in the field survey, and Daishi Yamazaki for providing the information on Japanese *Nobuea*. This research was supported by Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education (2016R 1 A6A1A050119 10).

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Figure 2. Shell of the *Nobuea* specimen collected on Jeju Island. Scalebar: 1.0 mm.

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