

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

---

ZOOLOGY

---

VOL. 9

No. 14

31 AUGUST 1967

**Regional Variation in *Laoma (Phrixgnathus) sciadium* (Pfeiffer)  
(Gastropoda: Laomidae)**

By R. A. CUMBER

[Received by the Editor, 11 November 1966.]

*Abstract*

THE species occurs in the Auckland Peninsula from the North Cape-Cape Reinga area to the vicinity of Warkworth. A study of materials from some thirty sites throughout this range reveals considerable variation in form, coloration, and sculpture. North of the Rawene-Taheke-Kerikeri line a shell sculpture of numerous, fine, oblique, radiate striae produces a silky texture which contrasts with the smoother, shiny appearance of forms to the south.

INTRODUCTION

ALTHOUGH the distribution of *L. sciadium* is relatively limited, there is a considerable degree of variation in form and sculpture. Suter (1913) gives the localities—Tom Bowline's Bay; Whangaroa; Whangarei; and Broadwood. Hutton (1883) in his reference to this species from Seventy Mile Bush, Wellington, is obviously confused with *L. mariae* (Gray). The present work is based on a collection of specimens from some 30 sites in the Auckland Peninsula which indicates that the species occurs from the North Cape-Cape Reinga area in the north to the Wellsford-Warkworth district in the south.

*L. sciadium* may be found quite commonly on the forest floor in undisturbed areas. It prefers pockets of decaying leaf in communities including tree ferns, and is often taken beneath small pieces of rotting wood. Albino specimens are found occasionally.

METHODS

Protoconch and whorl-width measurements (micrometer eyepiece—1mm = 125 units) as used in the studies on *L. mariae* (Cumber, 1966) have been made on samples of six specimens taken from ten localities involving much of the range of the species. The data are summarised in Table I. A graphical representation of the averages is shown in Text-figure 2 which indicates the extremes of variation for the species. Camera lucida configuration diagrams for 12 forms are given in Text-figure 3, while dorsal and ventral views of some of these are shown in Figure 1.

---

*Published by the Royal Society of New Zealand, c/o Victoria University of  
Wellington, P.O. Box 196, Wellington.*