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A New Species of *Laoma* (*Phrixgnathus*)
(Gastropoda: Laomidae)
from the North Cape-Cape Reinga Area

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Abstract

A new species, *Laoma aupouria* is described from the northernmost areas of the North Island mainland. Superficially it resembles *Laoma* (*Phrixgnathus*) *mariae* (Gray) but may be distinguished readily by the absence of the parietal lamella.

INTRODUCTION

CUMBER (1966) in a study of variation and distribution in *Laoma* (*Phrixgnathus*) *mariae* (Gray) indicated that the form resembling this species from the North Cape-Cape Reinga area represented a further undescribed species. In referring this new species to the genus *Laoma*, the writer has followed Suter (1913) who recognised the presence of the lamellae within the aperture as having only sub-generic significance, and accordingly gave only sub-generic rank to the genus *Phrixgnathus* erected by Hutton (1883).

Laoma aupouria n.sp. (Fig. 1)

Shell small, subperforate, lentiform, thin, glossy, with a pattern of obliquely radiating red-brown, mottled bands. *Sculpture* consisting of fine, oblique growth lines, about 16 per mm on the body whorl and more prominent on the upper surface, the lower surface with obvious but very fine, microscopic spiral lines which may also be seen under high magnification on the embryonic whorls. *Colour* brownish, due to rufous pattern on corneous background; radiating bands showing occasional zigzags and with wider peripheral and sutural colour patches. *Epidermis* thin, glossy. *Spire* conoidal, approximating the height of the aperture. *Protoconch* rounded, shiny, of $1\frac{1}{2}$ whorls. *Whorls* 5- $5\frac{1}{2}$, slightly convex, periphery keeled; base convex, slightly impressed at the centre with a narrow umbilicus. *Suture* distinctly margined on older whorls. *Aperture* oblique, rounded, with slight peripheral angle. *Peristome* with upper margin advancing slightly. *Columella* short, arcuate, with slight callus.

Diameter, 5-6mm; height, 2.5-3mm.

Holotype in the Auckland War Memorial Museum; single paratypes in the Dominion Museum, Wellington, and the writer's collection.

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