

the South Island, but Suter (1913) records the dentition of the two species as "quite distinct".

DISTRIBUTIONAL AND ECOLOGICAL NOTES

As indicated above, there may be two main areas for this species, one extending from Napier-Whakatane to East Cape, and the other from Wanganui to Cape Egmont. It has yet to be shown that these areas are contiguous in the sense under discussion. The species is usually taken in materials amongst or beneath fern clumps, and in the Wanganui-Kai Iwi bush remnants may be quite common.

VARIATION

Post-nuclear whorl riblet frequencies and protoconch widths have been determined for the greater part of the material available and are shown in Table IV. Again, there is considerable ranges in these statistics, the eastern and western fractions, if the areas indicated above may be denoted thus, showing some differences, more notably in protoconch width, and riblet frequencies of the third post-nuclear whorl, and these look fairly significant. There are some grounds for subspecific distinction.

The shape and fine sculpture of the protoconch are rather like that of *P. tholoides* and *P. giveni*, but the fulvous pattern on the distal portions is a distinctive feature. Spiral striation is often marked in post-nuclear whorls, but sometimes it is indistinct and difficult to trace. The variations as yet encountered in this species do not appear to bring it into confusion with *Phelussa hypopolia* of the northern portions of the South Island. It would be useful to check on the radula of *P. hypopolia*, however, to substantiate Suter's claims.

THE *P. stokesi* COMPLEX

This complex is not so straightforward as had originally been anticipated. As will be seen from the information presented here, there appear to be two main forms present—that from the south of the North Island, and that from the north of the South Island. The grounds for separating the South Island form as a subspecies would appear quite strong, but in keeping with the tendency adopted of avoiding subspecific distinctions, the species is redescribed to include the South Island form. The two forms are roughly paralleled in the superficially similar species *Charopa coma coma* (Gray, 1843) and *Charopa coma globosa* (Suter, 1892), which species have added to the confusion in unravelling the synonymy of *P. stokesi*.

Phenacohelix (*Neophenacohelix*) *stokesi* (Smith, 1884) (Figs. 31–36)

1883. *Patula lucetta* Hutton, *Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 16, 162, 192.
 1883. *Charopa lucetta* (Hutton): Hedley and Suter, P.L.S., N.S.W. (2), vii, 654.
 1884. *Helix* (*Patula*) *stokesi*: Smith, P.Z.S., (6), v, 275, pl. 23, f. 17, 17a, 17b.
 1887. *Helix* (*Patula*) *lucetta* (Hutt.): Tryon and Pilsbry, *Man. Conch.* (2), iii, 22, pl. 3, f. 7–9.
 1887. *Helix* (*Patula*) *stokesi* Smith: Tryon and Pilsbry, *Man. Conch.* (2), iii, 262, pl. 22, f. 48–50.
 1894. *Endodonta* (*Charopa*) *lucetta* (Hutt.): Suter, *J. de Conch.*, xli, 268.
 1899. *Flammulina* (*Phenacohelix*) *lucetta* (Hutt.): Murdoch, *P. Mal. Soc.*, iii, 323.
 1913. *Phenacohelix stokesi* (Smith): Suter, *Man. N.Z. Moll.* 668, Atlas, 1915, pl. 26, f. 9, 9a, 9b.
 1937 (57). *Phenacohelix stokesi* (Smith): Powell, *Shell. N.Z.* 118.

Shell rather depressed, moderately umbilicated, thin and fragile, costate, translucent, not shining. Sculpture of post-nuclear whorls consisting of arcuate, radiating, retractive, threadlike, subequidistant riblets extending over the base; first whorl with 15–50, usually 26–45, lectotype 40; second whorl 31–65, usually 41–60, lectotype 58; third whorl 46–90,