

Some new records of terrestrial snails from coastal continental Tanzania

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Abstract: This paper presents new records of nine terrestrial gastropod species collected from the coastal area of Bagamoyo, Tanzania, in early 2026. The findings include the first record of the introduced snail *Gastrocopta servilis* (Gould, 1843) for Tanzania, marking only its second known occurrence on the African continent. Additionally, the presence of *Streptostele acicula* (Morelet, 1877) is confirmed for the East African coast, and *Opeas delicatum* Taylor, 1877 is reported from a new locality outside of Amani.

Key words: Gastropoda, continental Africa, diversity.

Introduction

Information regarding the land snails of coastal continental Tanzania remains scarce (Verdcourt 1983, Rowson 2007). In this short note, I report several finds of terrestrial gastropods, all of which represent new records for the study area. Notably, one species, considered introduced, is reported from its second locality in continental Africa and represents a new record for Tanzania.

Material and Methods

Shells and living snails were observed in the coastal area of Bagamoyo, Tanzania, between 27 February 2026 and 6 March 2026.

Results

A total of nine species were found, as follows:

POMATIASIDAE

Tropidophora zanguebarica (Petit, 1850)

Numerous shells and living specimens were observed in the coastal area of Bagamoyo (6°26'S 38°54'E), including the yard of a lodge, during the study period.

CHONDRINIDAE

Gastrocopta servilis (Gould, 1843)

Two shells (one fragmented) were found in detritus near a concrete wall in a lodge yard in Bagamoyo on 06.03.2026 (6°26'05.3"S 38°54'21.0"E) (Fig. 1). Identification was made on the basis of analysis of shell characters, as the curvature of the whorls and sutures, the morphology and positioning of the apertural teeth, and the surface sculpture of the shell. This species is native to the Caribbean and Central America but has been

introduced to the Pacific, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Maldives. Recently recorded in South Africa as a first for the continent (Herbert & Willows-Munro 2022), this find represents the first record for Tanzania and the second for Africa.

VERONICELLIDAE

Laevicaulis sp.

Two specimens were observed under dead plant materials at a yard of a lodge in Bagamoyo town, 6°26'05.3"S 38°54'21.0"E on 06.03.2026. A detailed study is needed to determine whether this is the widely distributed *L. alte* (Férussac, 1821) (Forcart 1953) or the more rarely found *L. zanzibaricus* Forcart, 1953 (Verdcourt 1983).

CERASTIDAE

Rachis punctata (Anton, 1839)

Shells and live snails observed at a lodge yard in Bagamoyo between 27.02.2026 and 06.03.2026, 6°26'05.3"S 38°54'21.0"E. Widespread and common species along the coasts of many countries bordering the tropical Indian Ocean, introduced to Atlantic coast of Democratic Republic of Congo (Pilsbry 1919, Rowson 2007).

SUBULINIDAE

Opeas delicatum Taylor, 1877

One shell was found in detritus near a concrete wall in the yard of a lodge in Bagamoyo on 06.03.2026, 6°26'05.3"S 38°54'21.0"E. The species was known in continental Tanzania only from Amani (Verdcourt 1983).

Opeas lamoense Melvill & Ponsonby, 1892

Many shells observed at dry sandy coastal bushes and *Opuntia* sp. in a lodge yard, 6°26'02.6"S 38°54'21.5"E between 27.02.2026 and 06.03.2026. Widely distributed species along the East African coast (Verdcourt 1983, Rowson 2007).

Pseudoglessula subolivacea (E. A. Smith, 1890)

Many shells observed among coastal bushes and *Opuntia* sp. in a lodge yard, 6°26'02.6"S 38°54'21.5"E between 27.02.2026 and 06.03.2026. It is widely distributed species along the coastal Tanzania (Verdcourt 1983, Rowson 2007).

STREPTAXIDAE

Gulella sexdentata (von Martens, 1869)

Many shells observed at dry sandy coastal bushes and *Opuntia* sp. in a lodge yard, 6°26'02.6"S 38°54'21.5"E between 27.02.2026 and 06.03.2026. The species is very widely distributed from KwaZulu-Natal north to Tanzania (van Bruggen & van Goethem 1997).

Streptostele acicula (Morelet, 1877)

One shell was found in detritus near a concrete wall in the yard of a lodge in Bagamoyo on 06 March 2026, 6°26'05.3"S 38°54'21.0"E. Rowson (2007) suggested that this species, widely distributed among the western Indian Ocean islands, should also occur along the East African coast. The present record confirms this assumption, even though Rowson *et al.* (2024) did not find any *Streptostele* in the abundant subfossil materials of coastal Kenya.



Fig. 1. Shell of *Gastrocopta servilis* (Gould, 1843) found during present study at Bagamoyo, Tanzania.

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