TWO SPECIES OF LAND SNAILS IN SAUDI ARABIA. — Eike Neubert. — Two species of terrestrial mollusks were incidentally collected in shore debris at the former Bird's Rescue Center at Haij al-Huwaylat, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in January 1992 during a biological survey conducted for the European Community project "Establishment of a Marine Habitat and Wildlife Sanctuary for the Gulf Region."

Polygyra (Polygyra) cerceolus.

(Fig. 1)

Helix cerceolus Meegerle von Mühlfeldt 1816. Magazin der Gesellschaft naturforsclender Freunde Berlin, 8(1): 11, Taf. 11, Fig. 16a,b.

Bank (1990) established that the correct date of publication of Helix cerceolus Meegerle von Mühlfeld is 1816 and not 1818 as stated by many previous authors.

The native distribution of Polygyra (Polygyra) cerceolus includes coastal areas from South Carolina and Florida, westward to Texas (Pilsbry, 1940). However, in recent years this species has been extensively introduced with ornamental shrubs and grass sod in much of Florida and some metropolitan areas and roadsides throughout the southeastern United States (Auffenberg). Nevertheless, its presence in Saudi Arabia is remarkable.

Only two specimens of Polygyra cerceolus were found in the beach debris. Very likely the shells were transported from surrounding gardens or other suitable areas. The collection site was beside a small run-off irrigation channel from a housing area west of the beach. No living animals were found, although the two shells are still translucent and seem to be fresh.

Introduced subtropical North American plants were not observed near the collecting site. The vegetation in the housing areas is mainly composed of tropical plants from Asia. On the other hand, during the war "Desert Storm" in 1991, a lot of supplies were shipped directly from the United States to Saudi Arabia, which certainly could provide an opportunity for the introduction of a small snail like Polygyra cerceolus.

In the future, an investigation of the vegetation should be carried out to obtain living animals for dissection. Also, the capability of the population to survive under these arid conditions should be examined.

FIG. 1. Shell of Polygyra (Polygyra) cerceolus, dorsal view (left) and ventral (base) view (right).

Pupoides coenopticus (Hutton 1843)

(Fig. 2)

Pupa coenopticus Hutton 1834, Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 3: 85,93.

Pupa coenopticus is widespread over the Saharo-Sindian region. For recent information about the status of this species see Seddon (1992). The specimens were found in shore debris as well as under low bushes of the saltmarsh vegetation with Halocnenum sp. as the most abundant

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