

A second record of *Zootecus insularis* (Ehrenberg, 1831) from an archaeological site in Sinai, Egypt

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Zootecus insularis is reported from the excavation of a PPNB-site near Tarfat Qudrein, wadi Feiran, Sinai, Egypt. This is the second find of an almost 9000 year old shell of this palaeotropical species in Sinai.

The excavation of a Pre Pottery Neolithic „B” (PPNB) site near Tarfat Qudrein, Wadi Feiran, Sinai, Egypt, in the mid 70's, yielded among others a number of molluscs. They are currently being studied by Mrs. D. Bar-Yosef (Cambridge, U.S.A.). The material contained also a single landsnail, which was submitted for identification to the author.

It turned out to be a perfectly preserved specimen of *Zootecus insularis* (Ehrenberg, 1831) (Fam. Subulinidae) (fig. 1). This palaeotropical species is now known from two archaeological sites in Sinai. Another single shell was reported from Currelly's site near Wadi Riketiyah, +20 km NE of Santa Catharina (Mienis, 1979). That site is of about the same age as that in Wadi Feiran i.e. some 9000 years BP.

Altogether three records of *Zootecus insularis* are now known from the Sinai Peninsula. Pallary (1924a-b) had already recorded a recent find from Gebel Halal (fig. 2).

It is not clear whether this landsnail is indeed such a rare species in Sinai. Large parts of the peninsula are still „terra incognita” from the malacological point of view. Also the

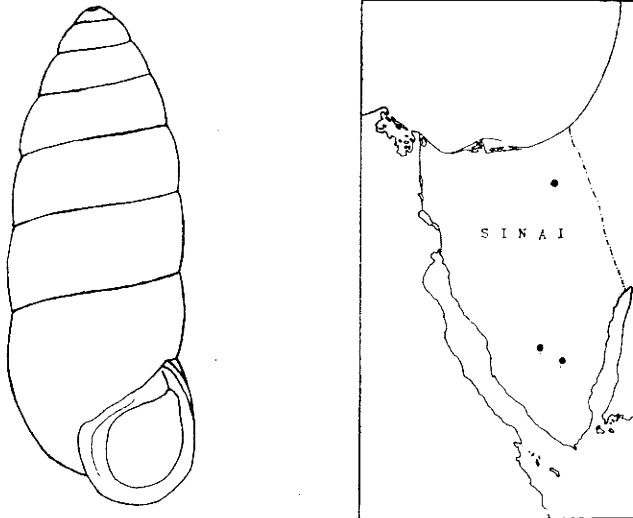


Fig. 1. *Zootecus insularis* (Ehrenberg, 1831) Actual size 14.8 mm.

Fig. 2. Records of *Zootecus insularis* from the Sinai Peninsula

fact that it lives mainly subterranean, only ascending to the surface during heavy rains, does not stimulate the number of finds of *Zootecus* in this arid and largely deserted area. Thanks are due to Mrs. D. Bar-Yosef for showing me the shell.

Literature

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