

## REVIEW

THE GENUS *CHICOREUS* AND RELATED GENERA (GASTROPODA: MURICIDAE) IN THE INDO-WEST PACIFIC by Roland Houart. Mémoires de Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Zoologie, tome (A) 154, 1992. 188 pp., 480 figs., 4 tables. Price: Dfl 125.00 (about \$74.00) plus postage.

Species of the muricid genus *Chicoreus* Montfort are arguably the most beautiful of the family; certainly they are the most numerous in number of species (about 90 world-wide), and, as they frequently occur in shallow water or even intertidal environments, they are well-represented in most collections. They probably are also the most complex of the groups in the Muricinae, as a result of a more than average amount of infra-specific variation.

To give an idea of the magnitude of the problem, Houart has accepted a total of 64 Recent taxa in the three genera he is monographing. These 64 species have a

total of 77 synonyms between them. One well-known species, *Chicoreus brunneus* (Link), alone has ten synonyms.

To establish these synonymies Houart has done an amazing job of locating type material and, especially, figuring these obscure types. Of the over 400 illustrations of specimens, one third represents type material. But more than that, the illustrations are uniformly well done, and the four plates of color illustrations are especially beautiful.

In addition to the large number of illustrations of specimens there are also distribution maps for each taxon and enlarged drawings of protoconchs for 55 Recent species (often more than one example) and six fossil species.

In summary, Houart has done a superb job of making sense of a complicated group. The general format of the book and its overall excellent quality is a tribute to Philippe Bouchet, of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

-E.H.V.

