

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SECOND *LAOTIA* SAURIN, 1953; A GENUS NEW TO THE FAUNA OF VIETNAM (GASTROPODA: CYCLOPHOROIDEA)

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper reports the second species of the genus *Laotia* Saurin, 1953. *L. pahiensis* Saurin, 1953 was described from Laos, Pa Hia, whereas the new species, *L. christahemmenae* n. sp. was collected in Ha Noi Province, Vietnam, approximately 350 km NE of the type locality of the Laotian species. The new species is approximately twice larger than its congener, and has a ribbed shell with a smooth area behind its aperture. In contrast, *L. pahiensis* is ribbed until the peristome or the ribbing stops very close to the peristome. It is uncertain if *Laotia* should be placed in Diplommatinidae or in Alycaeiidae.

**KEY WORDS:** taxonomy, new species, Vietnam, Laos, Diplommatinidae, Alycaeiidae, *Chamalycaeus*

### INTRODUCTION

*Laotia* was described by SAURIN (1953) from Laos; its only species, *Laotia pahiensis* Saurin, 1953, was found exclusively in the type locality (Pah Hia, 100 km S of Xieng-Khouang).

*Laotia pahiensis* has a small, regularly ribbed, flat shell, with approximately a quarter of the body whorl turned upwards (Figs 1–2). As a result, the aperture points obliquely in the direction of the apex. The shell is similar to that of the genus *Chamalycaeus* Kobelt et Möllendorff, 1897, which nevertheless possesses a breathing tube (or “snorkel”) (KOBELT & MÖLLENDORFF 1897) characteristic of the family Alycaeiidae. The alycaeid tube starts close to the aperture and runs along the suture. Its length can exceed half a whorl, but is usually shorter than that. The measurements (shell diameter: 2.5–2.7 mm) of *L. pahiensis* given by SAURIN (1953) are not correct. The syntypes of *L. pahiensis* are 2.2–2.25 mm in diameter (measured by V. HÉROS, MNHN).

*Laotia* may represent a group of Alycaeiidae without a tube. In SAURIN'S (1953) view, *Laotia* is similar to *Helicomorpha* Möllendorff, 1890, which is classified within the subfamily Diplommatininae (MÖLLENDORFF 1890, KOBELT 1902). Additional

studies are necessary to resolve the systematic position of *Laotia*.

Below, I describe the first species of *Laotia* from Vietnam, which lives approximately 350 km NE of the type locality of the Laotian *L. pahiensis*.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** MNHN – Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France); SMF – Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

**SUPERFAMILY:** CYCLOPHOROIDEA GRAY, 1847

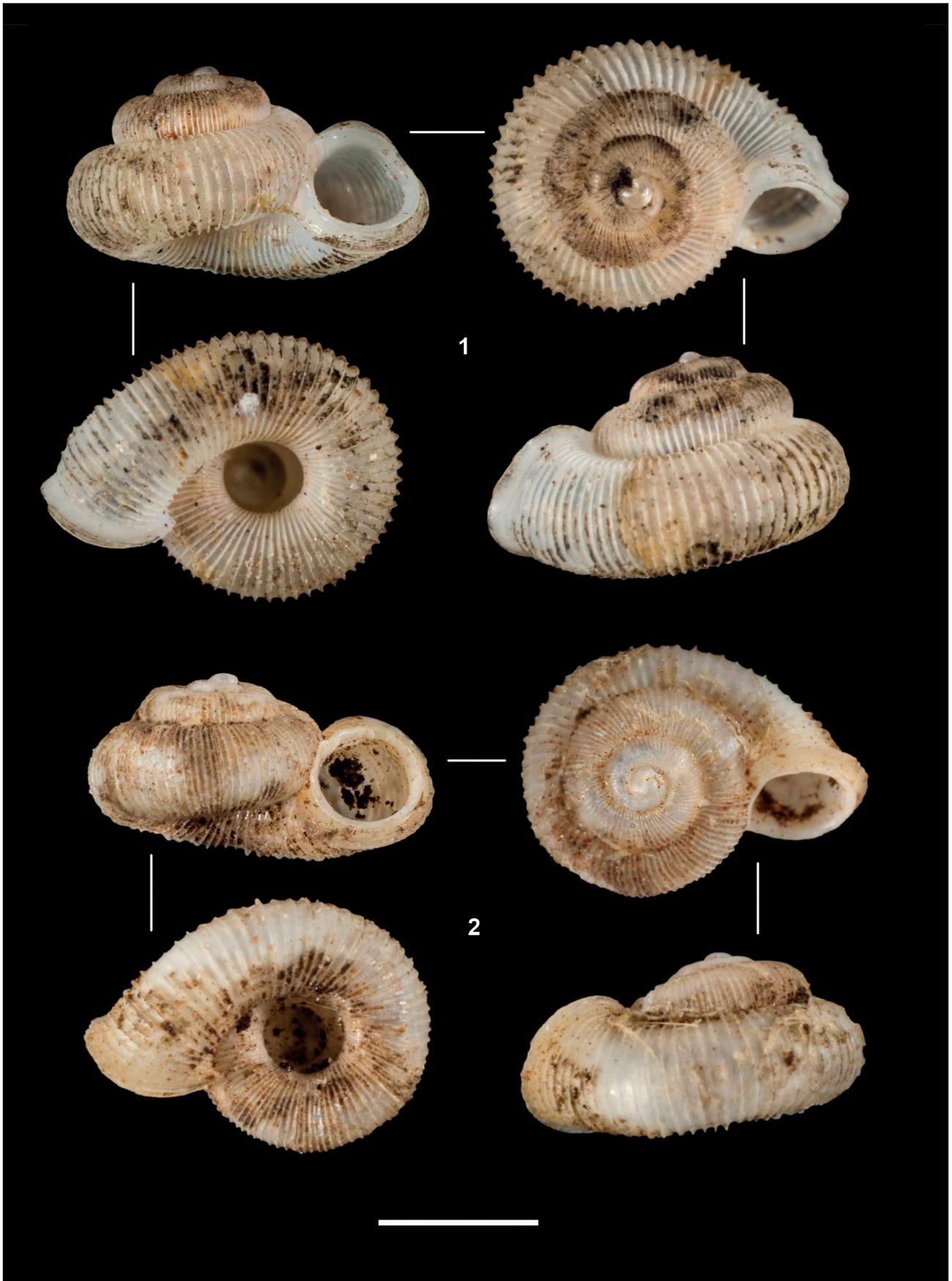
**Family:** uncertain (Diplommatinidae or Alycaeiidae)

**Genus:** *Laotia* Saurin, 1953

1953 *Laotia* Saurin (1953: 113–114, pl. IV: figs 1–2)  
1953 *Laosia* (sic!) Saurin (1953: 120)

**Type species:** *Laotia pahiensis* Saurin, 1953 (by monotypy)

**Diagnosis:** *Laotia* is characterised by a dextral, flat, deeply umbilicated, regularly ribbed shell without a



Figs 1–2. Syntypes of *Laotia pahiensis* Saurin, 1953 (MNHN-IM-2000-28217). Photo: M. CABALLER, Project E-Recolnat, MNHN, Scale bar represents 1 mm

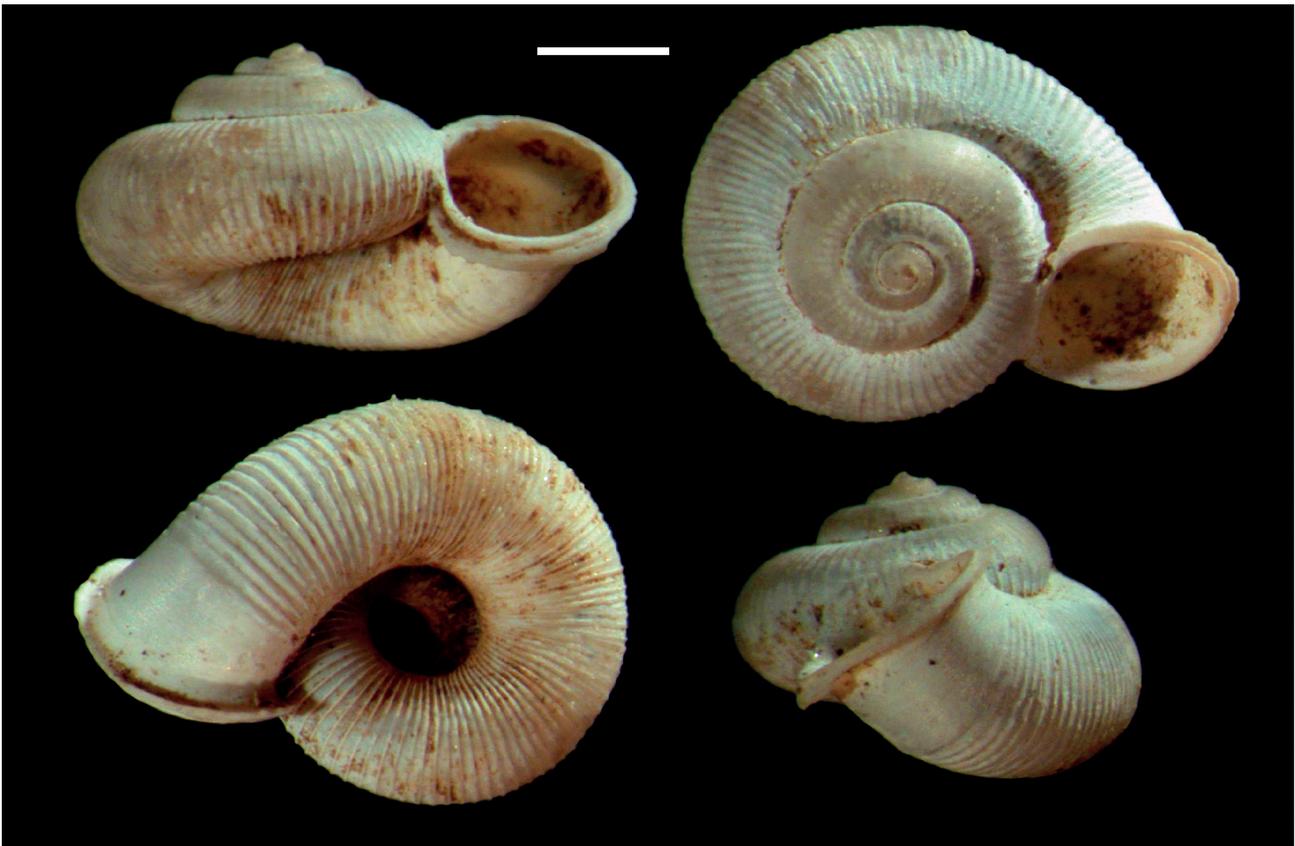


Fig. 3. Holotype (SMF 344899) of *Laotia christahemmenae* n. sp. Photo: B. PÁLL-GERGELY. Scale bar represents 1 mm

sutural tube. The aperture is rounded, the peristome thickened and somewhat reflexed, approximately a quarter of the body whorl is turned obliquely upwards, so that the aperture is directed toward apex.

#### *Laotia christahemmenae* n. sp.

**Material:** Holotype (SMF 344899) and 1 paratype with incomplete aperture (collection HEMMEN, Wiesbaden) – both from the type locality, leg. HEMMEN, CH., 27.09.2012.

**Type locality:** Vietnam, Ha Noi Prov., Ba Vi National Park, road to parking area of the National Park at km 10, 21°04.112'N, 105°21.499'E.

**Etymology:** The new species is dedicated to Mrs. Christa Hemmen who collected the specimens.

**Differential diagnosis:** *Laotia christahemmenae* n. sp. differs from *L. pahiensis* in being ca. twice larger, with a thinner peristome, a slightly more oblique aperture and a smooth area behind the aperture.

**Description:** Shell (Fig. 3) dextral, depressed, consists of slightly more than 4 rounded whorls separated by deep suture; approximately quarter of last whorl turns obliquely upwards, so aperture is directed toward apex; both available shells are corroded, therefore protoconch sculpture cannot be observed; teleoconch with microscopic spiral sculpture clearly visible between sharp, hollow, regular radial ribs; both

types of sculpture extend into umbilicus; radial ribs on body whorl are approximately two times coarser than on penultimate whorl; area behind peristome is covered only by growth lines (and would be covered by 8–10 ribs if ribbing continued to peristome); umbilicus deep; aperture rounded; peristome thickened and slightly reflexed; operculum unknown.

**Measurements of holotype:** shell diameter: 4.4 mm, shell height: 2.6 mm.

**Distribution:** *Laotia christahemmenae* n. sp. is known from the type locality only (see also Fig. 4).

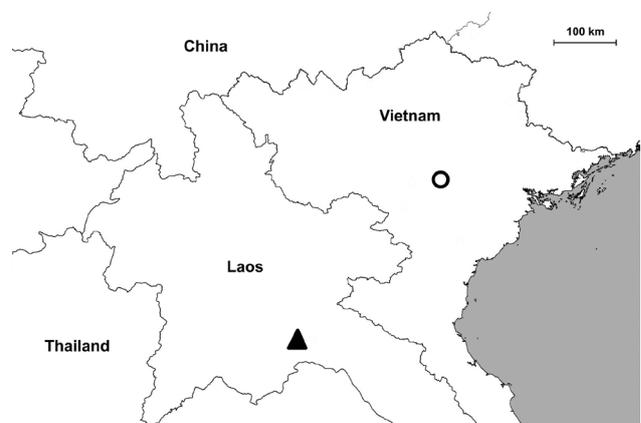


Fig. 4. Distribution of *Laotia* Saurin, 1953: solid triangle – *Laotia pahiensis* Saurin, 1953; hollow circle – *Laotia christahemmenae* n. sp.



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