

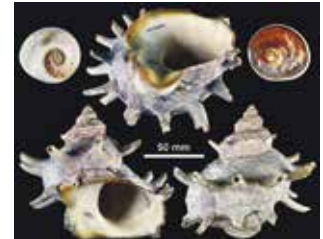


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Taxonomy, nomenclature and conservation of molluscan taxa

Molluscs including shellfish, snails, slugs and so on are a very diversified animal group and consist of more than 80,000 Recent species in the world, but their taxonomy and recognition of species are still poorly understood. For example, *Turbo sazae* is one of the most well-known marine snails in Japan since ancient age, but nevertheless the species has long been misidentified with *Turbo cornutus*, a species endemic to China, until recently and documented to be unnamed in 2017. Another edible species *Tegula kusairo* exhibited the similar case and it was described as a new species in 2020. Furthermore, many species become extinct or critically endangered by artificial environmental changes before recognizing their presences by human beings. The alpha-taxonomy of this group is thus highly important and an urgent matter in terms of biodiversity conservation.



Turbo sazae Fukuda, 2017.

Collection and databasing of molluscan specimens



Sunetta beni Fukuda, Ishida, Watanabe,
Yoshimatsu & Haga, 2021.

Molluscs live in most habitats on land and in water. Because they have poor migration ability, they are closely linked to the environmental conditions of the place than any other organisms, and are useful for understanding the historical transition and current status of environment. It is the best as an environmental indicator. We are collecting molluscs from all over Japan, preparing specimens, and making a database. As of June 2021, about 30,000 lots of specimens have been registered.