

Afgiftekantoor: Aarschot

# GLORIA MARIS

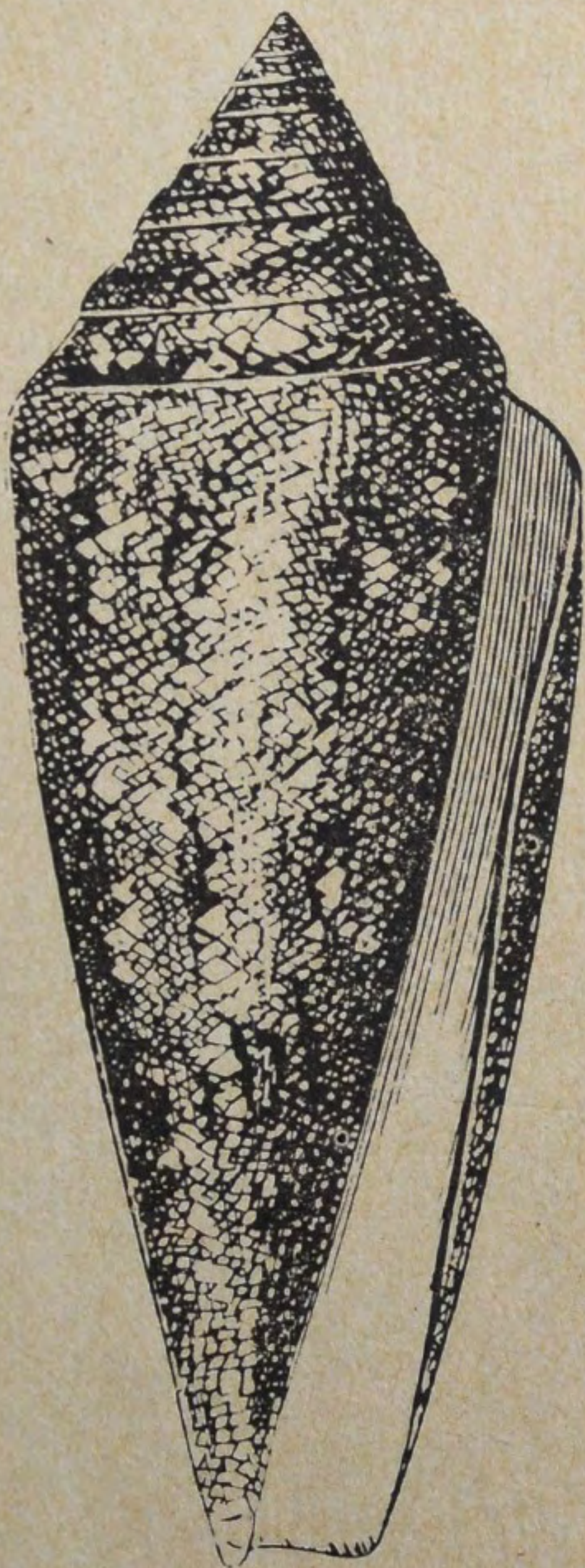
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***CONUS VISSERI***  
**A NEW SPECIES FROM PHUKET ISLAND.**  
**NOTE ON *CONUS COFFEA* GMELIN, 1791.**

A. Delsaerd

Stationsstraat 10, 3220 Aarschot, Belgium

**Abstract**

*Conus visseri* n. sp. is described from Phuket Island, Thailand. Nomenclatural consequence of the discovery by J.S. de Visser of the holotype of *Conus coffeae* Gmelin, 1791.

***Conus visseri* new spec.**

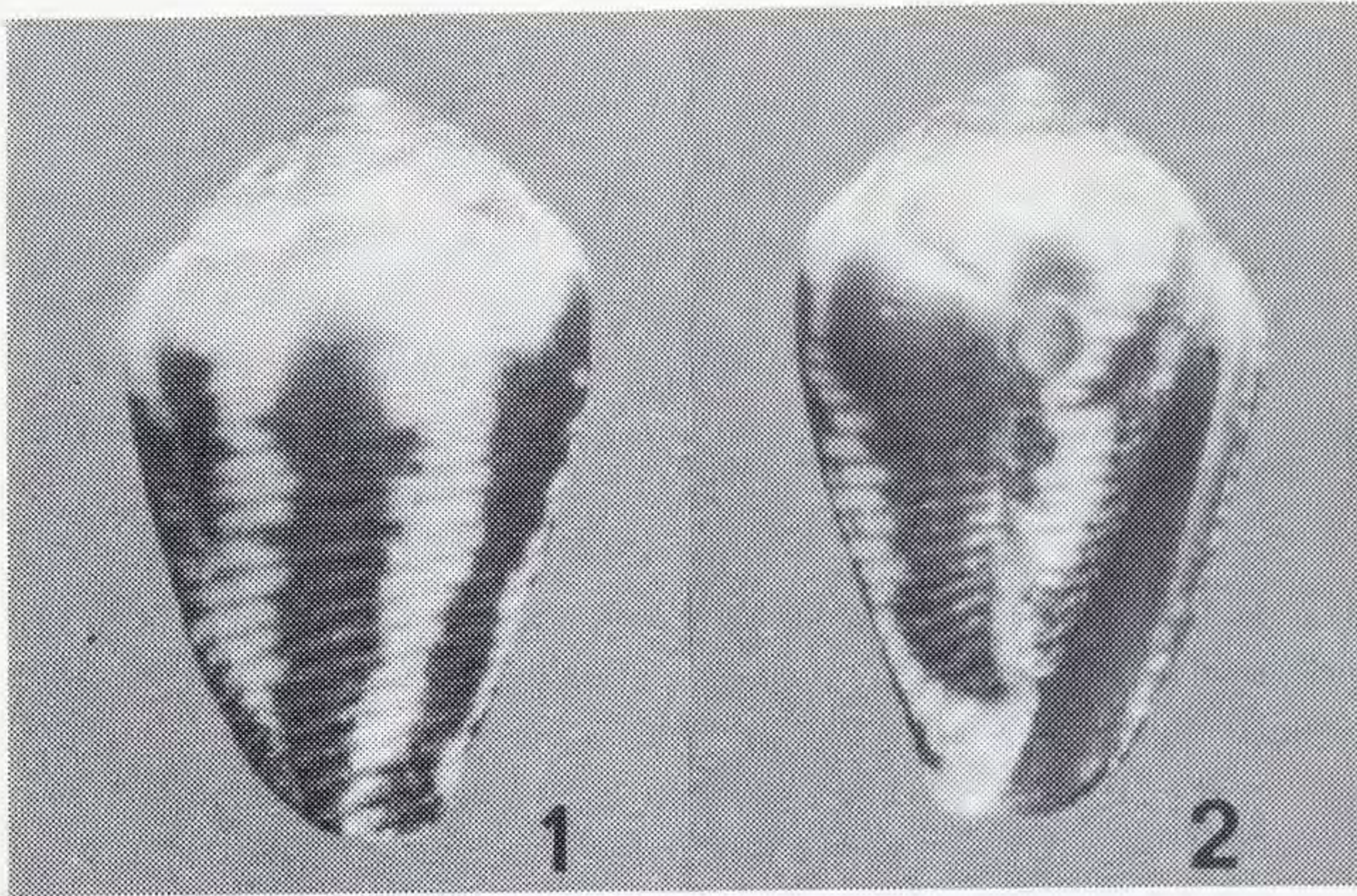
**Introduction.** — During his visits to Phuket Island (1983, '85, '86 and '88) J.S. de Visser collected in the same bay 5 specimens of a very small *Conus* species that we are not able to refer to a related species. Although clearly not juveniles (by the very small protoconch in comparison to the body whorl), we tried to find some resemblance with juveniles of Indo-Pacific Conidae. In our conclusion they belong to an unknown species, maybe overlooked as it is a very small one.

**Description.** — The conical shell is of a small size, length less than 10 mm. The spire is convex and smooth, bluntly pointed. Number of the whorls about 6. The sides of the body whorl is very regularly spirally grooved (about 20 grooves). The main colour is dirty white and the pattern consists of obviously axial and wavy flammules which extend all over the height of the last whorl. Under magnification the pattern consists of axial rows of white, rectangular patches between the grooves which are of the same reddish brown colour as the flammules.

**Type material.**

Holotype	: 8,7 x 5,3 mm (fig. 1-2).	In ZMA.
Paratype 1:	8,3 x 5,1 mm (fig. 4).	In Coll. de Visser.
Paratype 2:	7,1 x 4,6 mm (fig. 9).	In Coll. Delsaerd.
Paratype 3:	8,3 x 5,4 mm (fig. 10).	In Coll. de Visser.
Paratype 4:	7,3 x 4,6 mm (fig. 5).	In Coll. Wils.

**Type locality.** — All the types are collected in the same locality: Ka Lhim Beach, in the Patong Bay, Phuket Island, Thailand.



Holotype:  
(fig 1-2)  
Ka Lhim Beach,  
in Patong Bay,  
Phuket Island,  
Thailand.  
Dep. in ZMA.

Discussion. — There are no really comparable Indo-Pacific species, not even in juvenile state. A beginner should think that this new species is resembling juveniles of *Conus chaldeus* (Röding, 1798) or *Conus catus* Hwass, 1792. Serious study immediately eliminates *C. chaldeus*, as its juvenile has the spire much higher and concave. Juveniles of *C. catus* are also conical but much more pear-shaped (in ventral view) and their body whorl is not completely grooved when they are of the same length as the type material.

For the sake of completeness we will compare the new species with *Conus rutilus* Menke, 1843, although this is very different. *C. rutilus* is also a small species, well known from Western Australia. But its spire is flat, the shoulder very angulated and the body whorl straight.

Etymology. — The new species is named after J.S. de Visser.

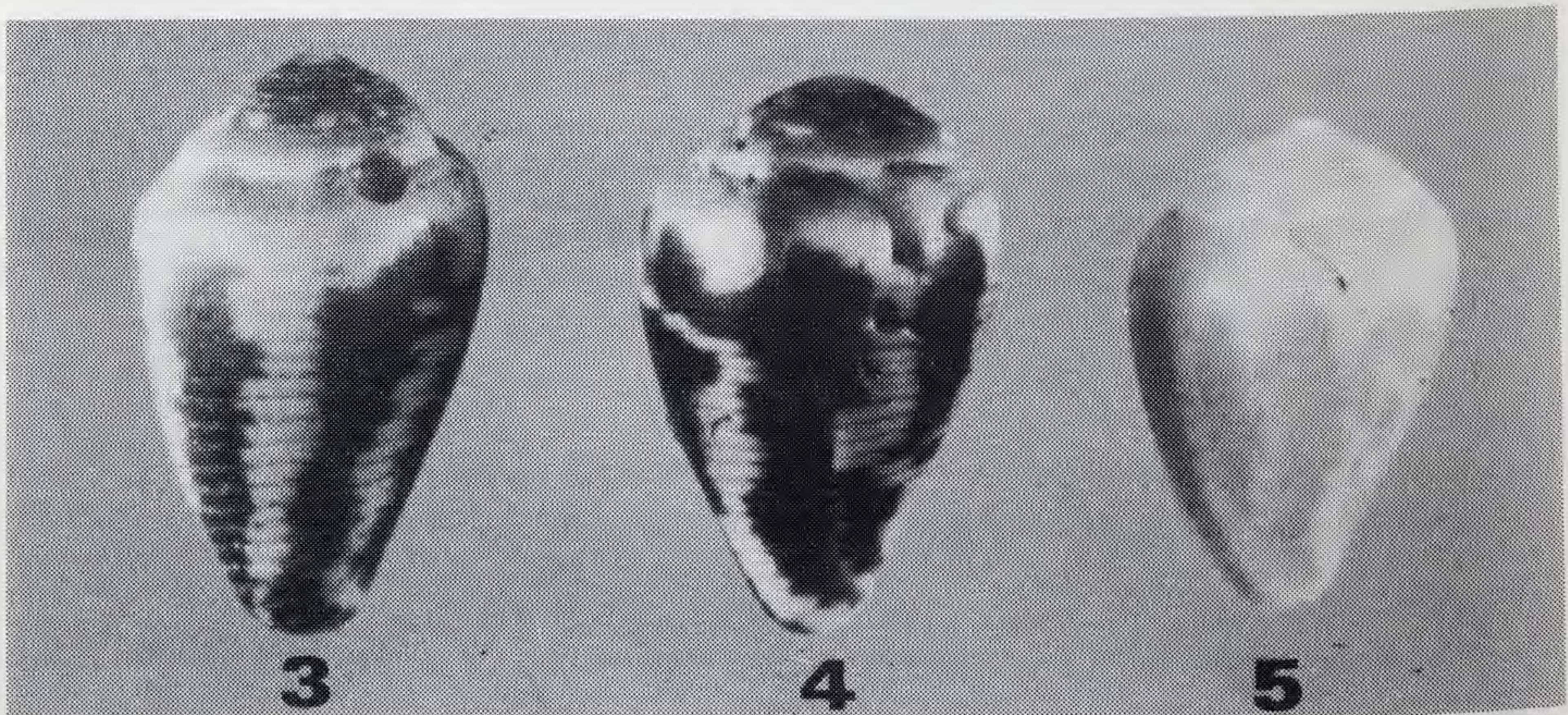


Fig. 3: Holotype. Fig. 4: Paratype 1. In Coll. de Visser. Fig. 5: Paratype 4. In Coll. Wils.

### Note on *Conus coffeae* Gmelin, 1791

During the 19th and 20th century the whereabouts of the type specimen of *Conus coffeae* was unknown and the identity of the nominal species problematic. J.S. de Visser discovered the holotype of *C. coffeae* in the private collection of the late L. de Priester (1880-1968) who was living in Flushing, in the Netherlands. It is proved that L. de Priester received the type in exchange from the Zoological Museum in Berlin before World War II. The holotype is now in the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam (nr. 191001).

After the discovery of the type, **Conus coffeae** must be considered the valid name for the Indo-Pacific species known as *Conus scabriusculus* Dillwyn, 1817. The discovery and the nomenclatural consequence are published by Coomans & de Visser (1987). It is clear that this can not be found in the alphabetical revision of the Conidae by Coomans, Moolenbeek & Wils (7. *cingulatus* to *cylindraceus*. 1985) in which the authors still agreed with Kohn (1966) to consider *C. coffeae* Gmelin, 1791 as a nomen dubium.

Actual nomenclatural status:

#### **Conus coffeae** Gmelin, 1791

Syn.: *C. caffer* (Röding, 1798)

*C. scabriusculus* Dillwyn, 1817

*C. fabula* Sowerby, 1833.

#### Acknowledgment

Two paratypes of *Conus visseri* are studied in the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam: Dr. H.E. Coomans and his assistant R.G. Moolenbeek were unable to identify the type material. Also Ed. Wils tried to identify the types and he became convinced that they belong to an unknown species. J.S. de Visser allowed me to describe this new species. He donated the holotype (ZMA) and two paratypes (Coll. Delsaerdt and Coll. Wils). I am grateful to all.

- the author -

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### Samenvatting

Viermaal bezocht J.S. de Visser Phuket Eiland (1983, '85, '86 en '88) en verzamelde telkens, in dezelfde baai, een exemplaar van een kleine *Conus* soort. Het bleek onmogelijk deze te determineren. Het zijn duidelijk geen juvenielen van één of andere soort, want de eerste windingen zijn heel klein in verhouding met de schelp. We kwamen tot de overtuiging dat het om een nog niet beschreven soort ging.

Beginnelingen in de Conidae zouden in ons materiaal misschien de juvenielen menen te herkennen van *Conus chaldeus* (Röding, 1798) (uitgaande van de axiale vlammentekening) of van *Conus catus* Hwass, 1792 (in vorm enigszins gelijkend). Een juveniele *C. chaldeus* heeft echter een veel hogere en concave spira. Juvenielen van *C. catus*, ventraal bekeken, zijn meer peervormig; bovendien zijn exemplaren van dezelfde afmetingen niet over de hele lengte van de schelp gegroefd, wat nu juist een opvallend kenmerk is van ons materiaal.

Een mini-soort in de Conidae? *Conus rutilus* Menke, 1843, een heel bekende, kleine soort van West Australië, haalt volwassen ook maar een 12 mm.

De voornaamste kenmerken van *Conus visseri*: De opvallend convexe schelpvorm; de laatste winding is over de ganse lengte regelmatig en concentrisch gegroefd (ongeveer 20 groefjes); een axiaal geordend patroon van witte blokjes.

We hebben de nieuwe soort van Phuket genoemd naar J.S. de Visser, die al een andere belangrijke ontdekking op zijn naam heeft staan: Hij vond het verloren gewaande type terug van *Conus coffeae* Gmelin, 1791 en wel in de Collectie de Priester (Vlissingen). Dit heeft nomenclatorische gevolgen die elke *Conus*-verzamelaar aangaat: *C. coffeae* is inderdaad de oudste en geldige naam voor de soort die algemeen als *Conus scabriusculus* Dillwyn, 1817 in omgang is. Een artikel hierover verscheen van Coomans & De Visser in *The Veliger* (1987: 437-441). In de Alfabetische Revisie van de Conidae door Coomans-Moolenbeek-Wils (1985 - 7. *cingulatus* - *cylindraceus*) vinden we nog: "*Conus coffeae* Gmelin, 1791 nomen dubium". Inderdaad deed J.S. de Visser zijn ontdekking van het type na het verschijnen van dit deel van de genoemde revisie.

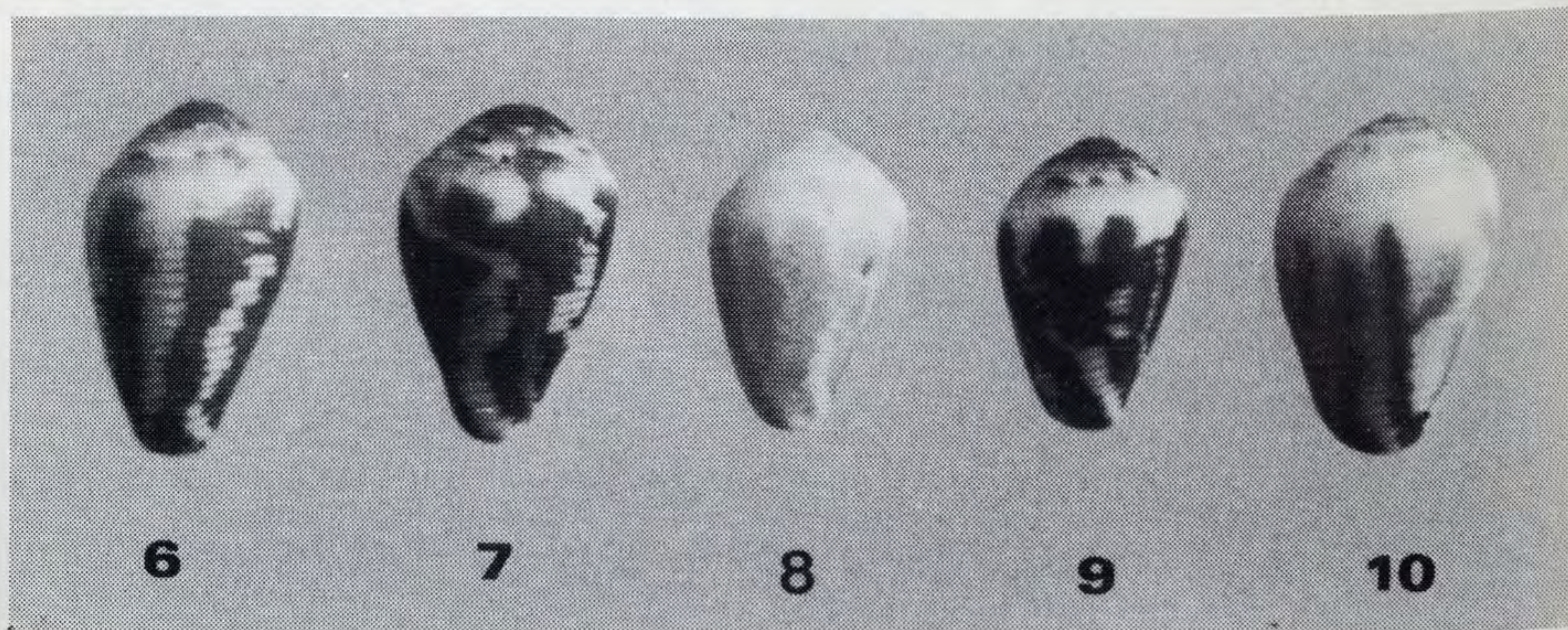


Fig. 6: Holotype. Fig. 7: Paratype 1. In Coll. de Visser. Fig. 8: Paratype 4: In Coll. Wils. Fig. 9: Paratype 2. In Coll. Delsaerdt. Fig. 10: Paratype 3. In Coll. de Visser.

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**COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION CONCERNING  
*CONUS LEMURIENSIS* WILS & DELSAERDT, 1989  
AND *CONUS MILNEEDWARDSI* JOUSSEAUME, 1894.**

A. Delsaerdt

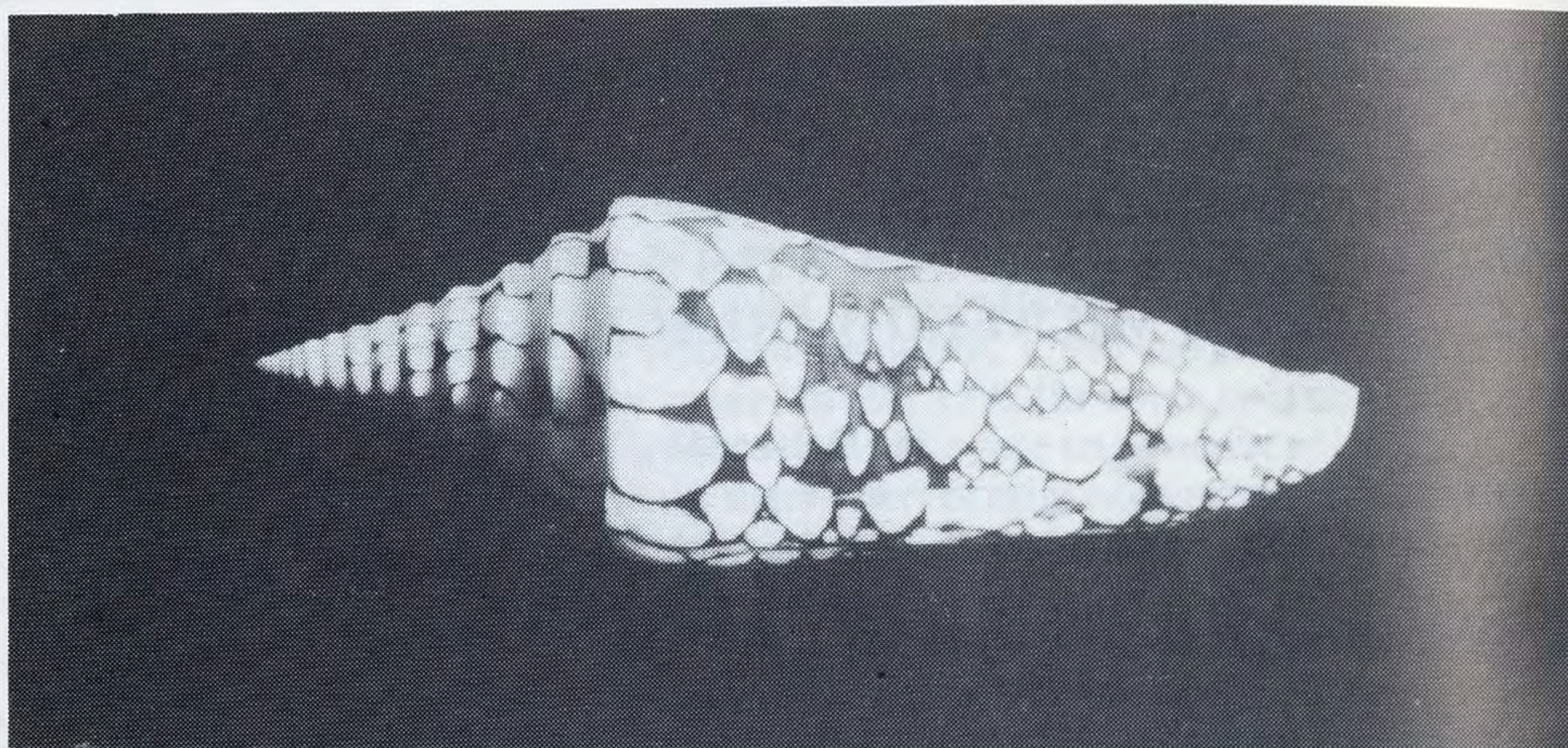
When we described *Conus lemuriensis* it was still undecided where the type material should be deposited. Now we can inform that the holotype and paratype 1 will be kept in the KBIN-Brussels. They are inscribed in the general register as nr. A.I. 27586, and as Mollusc type nr. 448.

An important confirmation can be found in Rossiniana (1988, 32: 23): A colour photo shows 7 gem specimens of *Conus lemuriensis*, collected off Reunion Island by scuba diving at a depth of 70 m by J.L. Peppuy, at the end of 1986. Of course these specimens were still identified as "Conus milneedwardsi".

Concerning *Conus milneedwardsi* an interesting photo is published in La Conchiglia (1989, 246-249: 57): A. Stephant figured 4 specimens, collected Northwards off Somalia, near Cape Guardafui. There is a striking resemblance with the specimen figured in Gloria Maris (1989, 6: 108, fig. 8) which is also from Somalian waters. In his article Stephant noted that this form is called "somalica". But we know by personal communication that the name "somalica" is only found on dealer's lists and without any taxonomic nor nomenclatural value (Stephant in lett. 20-2-1990). Stephant added that he collected one specimen "crabed and in bad condition" near Moka, North Yemen, in the Red Sea, in 12 m (Stephant in lett.). A photo of *Conus milneedwardsi*, trawled in the Red Sea by fishermen, is published in Hawaiian Shell News (1971, 5: 4). This specimen is kept in the private collection of D. Peled (Israel). Interesting information everywhere, but not thrilling as much as when you hold a *milneedwardsi* in your hands, gem quality and 116 mm!

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*Conus lemuriensis*

(Photo A. Gaspard).

### Samenvatting

Het holotype en paratype 1 van *Conus lemuriensis* werden ondergebracht in de collecties van het KBIN (A.I. 27586; type nr. 448).

Eind 1986 vond J.L. Peppuy voor Réunion zeven gem exemplaren van *C. lemuriensis*, op een diepte van 70 m. Ze staan afgebeeld in Rossiniana (1988, 32: 23), natuurlijk nog geïdentificeerd als "*Conus milneedwardsi*".

A. Stéphant beeldde vier specimens af van *Conus milneedwardsi* in La Conchiglia (1989, 246-249: 57). Gevonden voor Noord Somalia, komen ze volledig overeen met het exemplaar van *C. milneedwardsi* in Gloria Maris (1989, 6: 108, fig. 8) eveneens van Somalia. Stéphant noemde deze vorm in zijn artikel "somalica". Uit onze briefwisseling vernamen we dat "somalica" alleen in verkopers lijsten gebruikt was. De naam heeft dus geen taxonomische of nomenclatorische waarde. Bovendien schreef Stéphant ons dat hij een gerold exemplaar van *C. milneedwardsi* had gevonden in de Rode Zee, bij Moka (N. Jemen), slechts 12 m diep! Dat sluit aan bij een eerder bericht in Hawaiian Shell News (1971), waarin de foto van een *C. milneedwardsi* die ook zou zijn gevonden in de Rode Zee en nu zou bewaard worden in de Coll. Peled (Israël).

Boeiende informatie. Maar het wordt pas adembenemend wanneer een gem exemplaar van *C. milneedwardsi* in je handen wordt gelegd van maar liefst 116 mm!



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## AN IRRITATING *EPITONIUM* FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

A. Delsaerdt

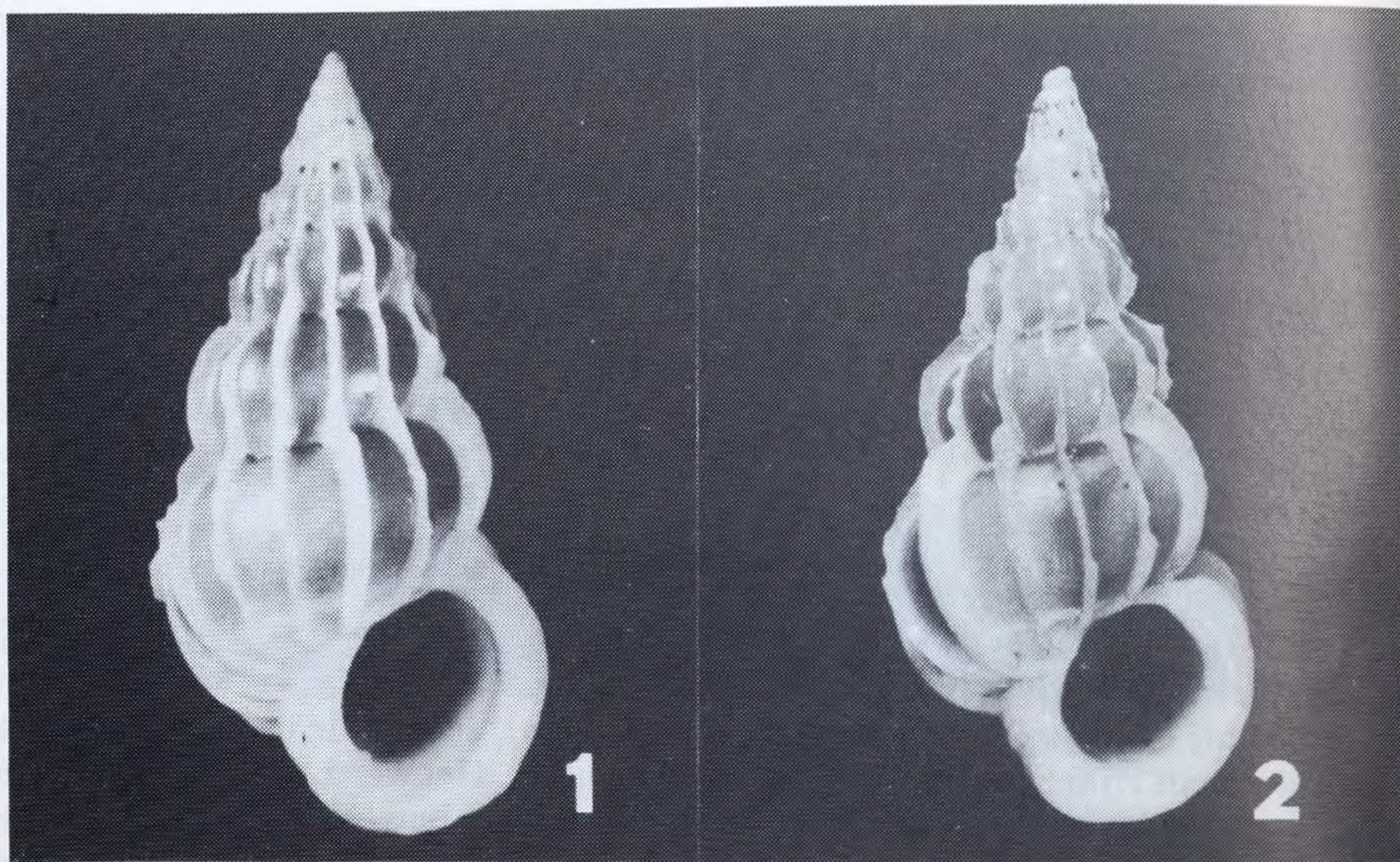
### Er zijn zo van die onvergetelijke momenten...

Guadalcanal, 16 juli 1987. Johnson Kengalu had in een euforie de weddenschap afgesloten dat hij met zijn duikers een *Conus gloriamaris* kon vangen. Terwijl ze met hun vieren bij Lungga Point afdaalden naar - 40 m, snorkelde ik de baai af in de hoop mijn reeds rijkelijke buit nog wat aan te vullen. Het werd echter een grote teleurstelling. De bodem was modderig en bij de minste beweging vertroebelde het water nog meer dan het al was. Meer dan een uur schuimde ik vruchteloos het terrein af. Resultaat: Twee exemplaartjes van een *Epitonium*. Een derde schelpje (van welke soort ook) was er niet te zien! Ontmoedigd zwom ik weer naar onze boot, een lange, polyesteren kano met een grommende buitenboordmotor. De duikers kwamen de één na de andere boven en waren al even teleurgesteld: Met drieën slechts twee schelpen van een alledaagse *Oliva* kunnen tonen, was wel een uitermate magere vangst. Ook Johnson kroop met een somber gezicht in de boot en de terugweg geschiedde in een bedrukte stemming. Bijna weer thuis, zie Johnson: "Hier nog een Oli vaatje" en legde een levende *gloriamaris* van 79 mm in mijn hand!

Telkens ik trots en met veel heimwee in mijn Salomon-verzameling *duik*, beleef ik dat hoogtepunt opnieuw. Maar dat is nog niet het hele verhaal.

Diezelfde 16e juli kwam er een Amerikaan langs bij de Kengalu's. Ik luisterde het gesprek af. Voor een *Conus gloriamaris* van meer dan 10 cm beloofde die man een fabelachtig pak dollars (een prijs van vóór 1975, maar dan met een flinke indexaanpassing!). Zelfs voor een kleintje was hij bereid een in verhouding eveneens record bedrag neer te tellen. Zijn enige voorwaarde: Het exemplaar moest volledig gaaf zijn. Ik veronderstelde dat de duikers een race naar Lungga Point zouden doen, er viel immers goed geld te verdienen, maar Johnson ging er niet op in. "Die denkt dat ze voor 't oprapen liggen!" was zijn enige commentaar. Met vier zeer ervaren duikers een vol uur hard zoeken in een onderwater-landschap dat ze als hun broekzak kenden... Het was toevallig één keer gelukt (voor mij op het goede moment), maar je moest niet vermetel worden.

Ik vertroetel die *Conus gloriamaris* in mijn collectie en nu begrijpt u ook mijn emotionele band met die twee Epitoniumpjes. Het irriteert me dan ook met de dag erger dat ik ze niet kan identificeren. Vandaar mijn oproep: **Wie kan mij de naam geven van deze wenteltrapschelp?** Ik kan het niet langer meer aanzien dat, overigens uitzonderlijk en uitgerekend bij deze, het label "-species" vermeldt!



**Epitonium** species. Fig. 1: 8,3 x 3,6 mm. Fig. 2: 17,5 x 8,0 mm. Lungga Point, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, 1987. (Photo: A. Verhecken).

**Summarized story.** — Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands), 16 July 1987. While Johnson Kengalu and his divers were trying to catch a *Conus gloriamaris* for me (off Lungga Point, - 40 m), I was snorkeling. It was a muddy bottom and during more than one hour I could not find any shell, except two small specimens of an *Epitonium* species. I was disappointed. Also the divers had a poor catch: They could show two specimens of a very common *Oliva*. Their comment on the *Epitonium*: "Never seen". Only the outboard motor disturbed the deep silence on the way back. Then Johnson said: "Here, an other small *Oliva*..." and he put in my hand a living *Conus gloriamaris* of 79 mm!

But it is not the whole story. In the afternoon an American visited the Kengalu's shop. He promised an incredible, high price in cash dollars (as before the seventies!) for a gem *C. gloriamaris* of more than 100 mm. Even for a juvenile he would pay an excentric price. But Johnson did not move. And than I understood: Four experienced divers, working during one hour in a familiar territory, had caught one *gloriamaris* (lucky I was!). To hope on a good luck two times a day was too much for these realistic men. Imagine my feelings and the emotional attachement to this *C. gloriamaris* and to the *Epitonium* specimens in my Solomon-collection. I become irritated more and more being unable to identify this *Epitonium*. **Who can help me to find the name?** I can take it no longer that especially these specimens are labeled (exceptionally) "-species"!

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**A NEW ACRILLA  
FROM THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES  
(Mollusca. Gastropoda: Epitoniidae)**

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(Zoölogisch Museum)

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**Samenvatting**

Een nieuwe soort behorende tot de familie van de wenteltrapjes (Epitoniidae) wordt hier beschreven als *Amaea (Acrilla) alistairi* n.sp. Zij is alleen bekend van de type localiteit, het eiland Cebu, alwaar zij in diep water voorkomt.

**Introduction**

Returning from a trip to the Philippine Islands in the autumn of 1987 Mr. Alistair Moncur, a well known shelldealer from London, brought under my attention a large epitoniid species that required identification. Soon all efforts to carry out such an identification lead to the presumption that I had to deal with a new species belonging to the (sub)genus *Acrilla*. However, as it is not recommended to base a new species on one shell only, in particular in cases of complex groups like the Epitoniidae, the matter rested until Mr. Moncur acquired a second specimen last autumn. As both specimens have all their characteristics in common with each other, it seems evident we have to deal with a distinct species and not an exceptional form. Mr. Moncur donated the holotype specimen to the Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam (ZMA).

There is a lot of disagreement on the epitoniid taxonomy above the specific level (Kilburn, 1985: 240). For instance *Acrilla* H. Adams, 1860 is considered by Wenz (1940: 800) and Kilburn (1985: 249) to be a subgenus of *Amaea* H. & A. Adams, 1853, while Du Shane (in litt. to F. J. Springsteen) is of the opinion that it should be raised to generic level. At present I consider the distinction between the cancellate superficial sculpture in *Amaea* and the strong axial ribs and fine spiral striae in *Acrilla* not of such importance to recognize both taxa of separate generic order.

***Amaea (Acrilla) alistairi* n. sp.**

Figs. 1-2

Material examined. - PHILIPPINES: Cebu, Mactan Island, Punta Engano, taken at deep water by tangle nets, don. A. Moncur (September 1987). - holotype (ZMA no. 3.90.004); Cebu, Mactan Island, Punta Engano, taken at deep water by tangle nets, don. A. Moncur (September 1989). - Paratype (coll. Wagner no. 1453).

Description. — Shell narrowly acuminate with about 10 evenly and gently convex teleoconch whorls, aperture oblong-ovate, labrum thin and slightly expanded, columella thin, base imperforate, with a very thin peripheral cord. Axial ribs very strong and thick in the early whorls, but more towards the last whorl becoming less distinct, slightly sinuous, 15-16 on the first teleoconch, increasing to 22-24 on the fifth and sixth teleoconch, decreasing to 21-22 obscure axial ribs on the last whorl, initially the teleoconchs are with fine spiral grooves in between the weak spiral ribs that become indistinct on later whorls, in contrary to the spiral ribs that become stronger and more numerous (up to 25) towards the last whorl. Colour ranging from brown at the protoconch, until the last whorl purplish grey with a narrow white band at the suture, the last whorl being creamy and white with grey patches.

Protoconch worn, but seems to be orthoconic, of 3.5 slightly convex whorls, and apparently smooth.

Dimensions: The holotype measures 62.1 x 19.9 mm; paratype 73.5 x 20.7 mm (lip broken).

Remarks. — The new species is a giant among the *Acrilla* species, and due to its remarkable ribbing (fading of axial ribs and stronger becoming spiral ribs towards the last whorl), in first instance it seems to resemble an *Amaea* rather than an *Acrilla*. However, the absence of a crenulate structure as normally observed in *Amaea* s.s. exclude the new species from latter genus in the strict sense. In addition, the way the axial ribs are developed initially classifies this species without any doubt as an *Acrilla*.

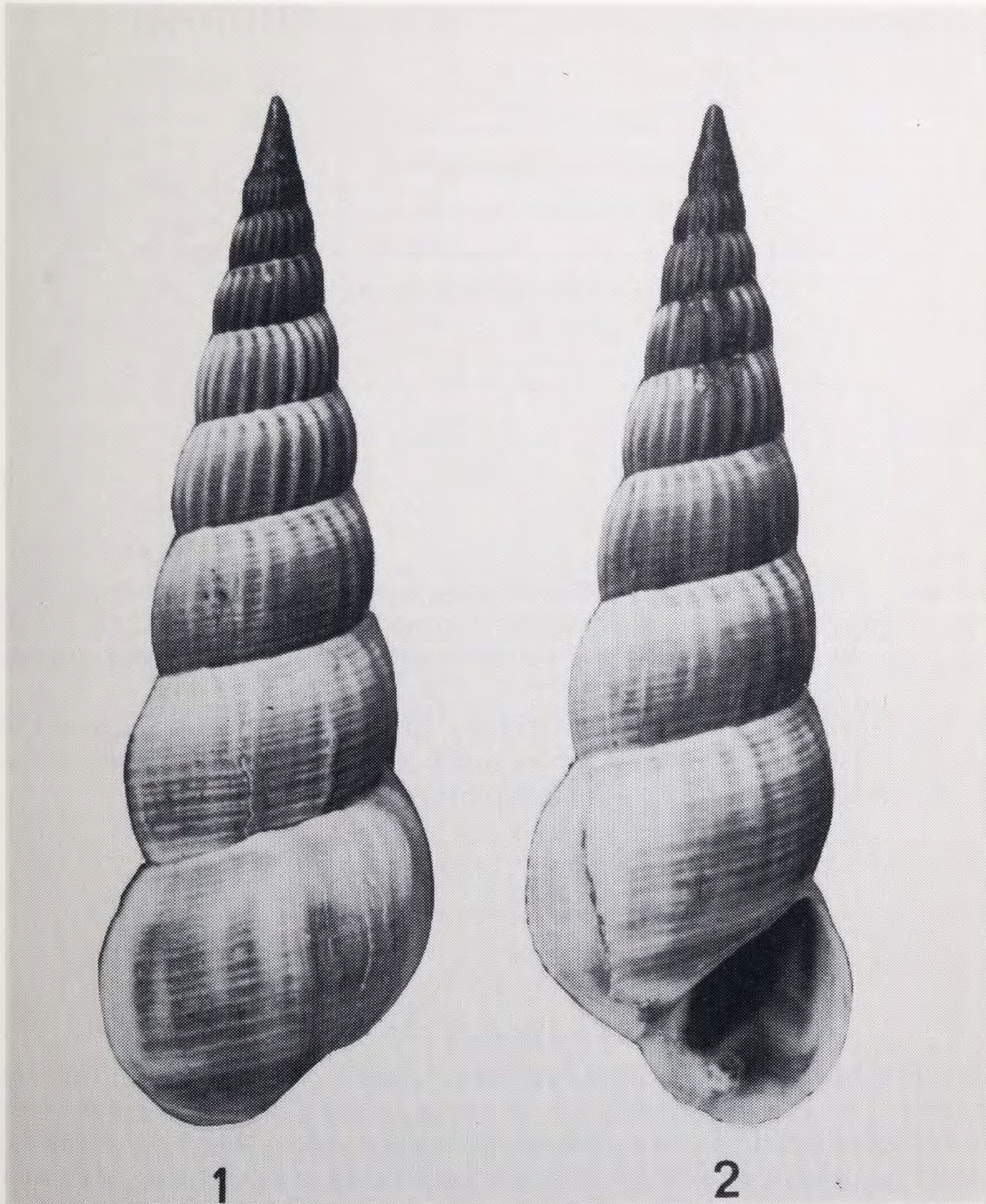
Etymology. — The new species is named after Mr. Alistair Moncur, who brought this species under my attention.

### Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements are due to Mr. Alistair Moncur, for entrusting me the material. I am most indebted to Mr. Jim Springsteen (Melbourne, Australia) and Mrs. Helen Du Shane (Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, California, U.S.A.) for their valuable comments on the material described above. My gratitude also goes to Dr H. E. Coomans (Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam) and my wife Elsa for critically reading the manuscript and commenting upon.

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Figs. 1-2. *Amaea (Acrilla) alistairi* n. sp., holotype in dorsal (1) and ventral view (2).

Gloria Maris	29 (1)	12 - 16	Antwerpen, april 1990
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## NOTES ON *CANCELLARIA FUSCA* SOWERBY (NEOGASTROPODA: CANCELLARIOIDEA)

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Scientific Collaborator  
Recent Invertebrates Section  
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**Samenvatting:** In drie Europese Musea werden in totaal vier schelpen aangetroffen die zeer waarschijnlijk het materiaal vormen waarop Sowerby de beschrijving baseerde van *Cancellaria fusca*. Deze soort werd in de literatuur nooit meer vermeld.

**Abstract:** Four shells, located in three European Museum, are identified as probably the specimens on which Sowerby based the description of *Cancellaria fusca*, a species ignored in the literature of the last century.

### Introduction

*Cancellaria fusca* Sowerby, 1889, is a rather small shell described for four specimens collected by R. Hungerford. There has been not a single reference to this species in the literature subsequent to Sowerby's publication. Reasons for the lack of knowledge on this taxon might be either the great rarity of this species, or its small dimensions, or the fact that its description and figure did not allow a good recognition. Moreover, the whereabouts of its type material was unknown.

While visiting the major malacological collections in Europe, I came across a total of four shells, in three Museums, labeled *Cancellaria fusca* Sowerby. The dimensions of these shells closely agree with those given in the original description. Also the labels of all these specimens refer to Sowerby, so that it may be concluded with great probability that these four specimens constitute the type-material of this species.

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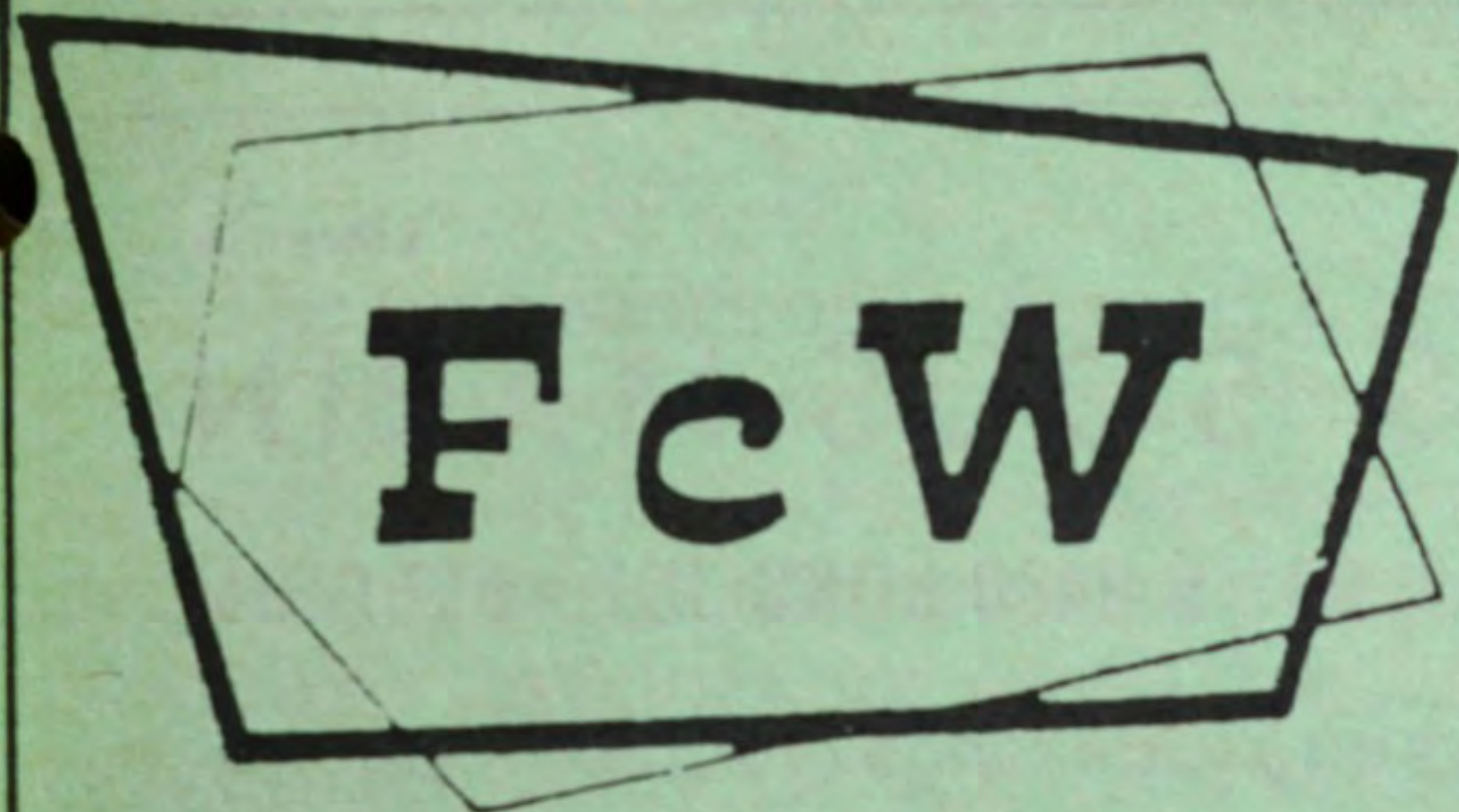
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### Locality and nomenclatural status

Sowerby (1889: 568) while describing the new species distinguished *Cancellaria fusca* (one specimen 14 x 7 mm) and a variety *minor* (three shells, 8 x 5 mm). The locality "Hong Kong" was given immediately after the description of this variety. A strict interpretation of the text might lead to the conclusion that the locality of the typical *C. fusca* is unknown, whereas the variety *minor* occurs at Hong Kong. However, Sowerby used this same arrangement (description of species; dimensions; variety description; dimensions; locality) also in other cases (e.g. 1889: 569), and it is difficult to accept the idea that in each case the locality of only the variety was known, and not of the nominal species. Therefore, the locality "Hong Kong" is here accepted as the type locality of *C. fusca*; but since no depth data are given, it cannot be inferred whether the species and its "variety" occur sympatrically or not.

The type-series of *C. fusca* (s.s.) consists of only the single larger specimen, excluding the three smaller shells referred to as variants (ICZN 72 b i), consequently this shell is the holotype by monotypy (ICZN 73 a ii). Because of our ignorance about the sympatric occurrence of species and "variety", Sowerby's text does not reveal that infrasubspecific rank is meant for the "variety". Consequently, the latter is of subspecific rank (ICZN 45 g ii), and the three smaller shells are syntypes of *Cancellaria minor* Sowerby, 1889, a subspecies-rank name introduced as a variety of *C. fusca*.

It must be remarked that the variety name *Cancellaria minor* Sowerby is invalid as a junior primary homonym of *Cancellaria minor* Grateloup, 1847. Study of the material reported here shows there is no need for a distinction between the typical form and the smaller shells, so that a replacement name is not necessary; *C. minor* Sowerby can be considered as a junior subjective synonym of *C. fusca*. The use of the name *minor* in the present paper is merely to distinguish the smaller type-shells from the larger one; no taxonomic value should be attached to it.

### Probable type-specimens

Four shells have been located in three Museum collections:

— In British Museum (Natural History), London, two shells were seen in the General Collection in 1978, labeled "V. W. Mc Andrew Colln. Acc. No. 1563", each with an old label showing a red dot:

\* one shell, 14.3 x 7.9 mm (fig. 1); the old label mentions "(Sow. CD/)"

\* one shell, 9.0 x 5.1 mm (fig. 2); the old label mentions "(Sow. B/.) *C. fusca* Sow. var. *minor*".

According to dr P. Mordan (BMNH) [pers. comm.] this means that these specimens originate from Sowerby, but that the red dot should not be interpreted as a type-indication.

Both specimens are now in the Type-collection, labeled respectively "1989034, probable holotype. This specimen fits the measurements given and closely resembles the figure"; and "1989035, probable syntype. 'Hong Kong' in ref.; no locality on board". The labels also state "The species was described from material collected by R. Hungerford, some of whose collection passed into the hands of R. R. Mc Andrew. Upon his death, part of his collection was bought by his nephew V. W. Mc Andrew".

— In Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussels, the Dautzenberg collection (I.G. 10591) keeps one shell, 7.8 x 4.7 mm (fig. 3) labeled "Hong Kong, Sow. + F., 25-ix-00, 3/0". "Sow. + F." most probably refers to G. B. Sowerby (III) and H. C. Fulton, who had a joint shell business between 1897 and 1916 (Dance, 1966: 223). Obviously, Dautzenberg purchased this shell in 1900 from these dealers; "3/0" is probably a price indication.

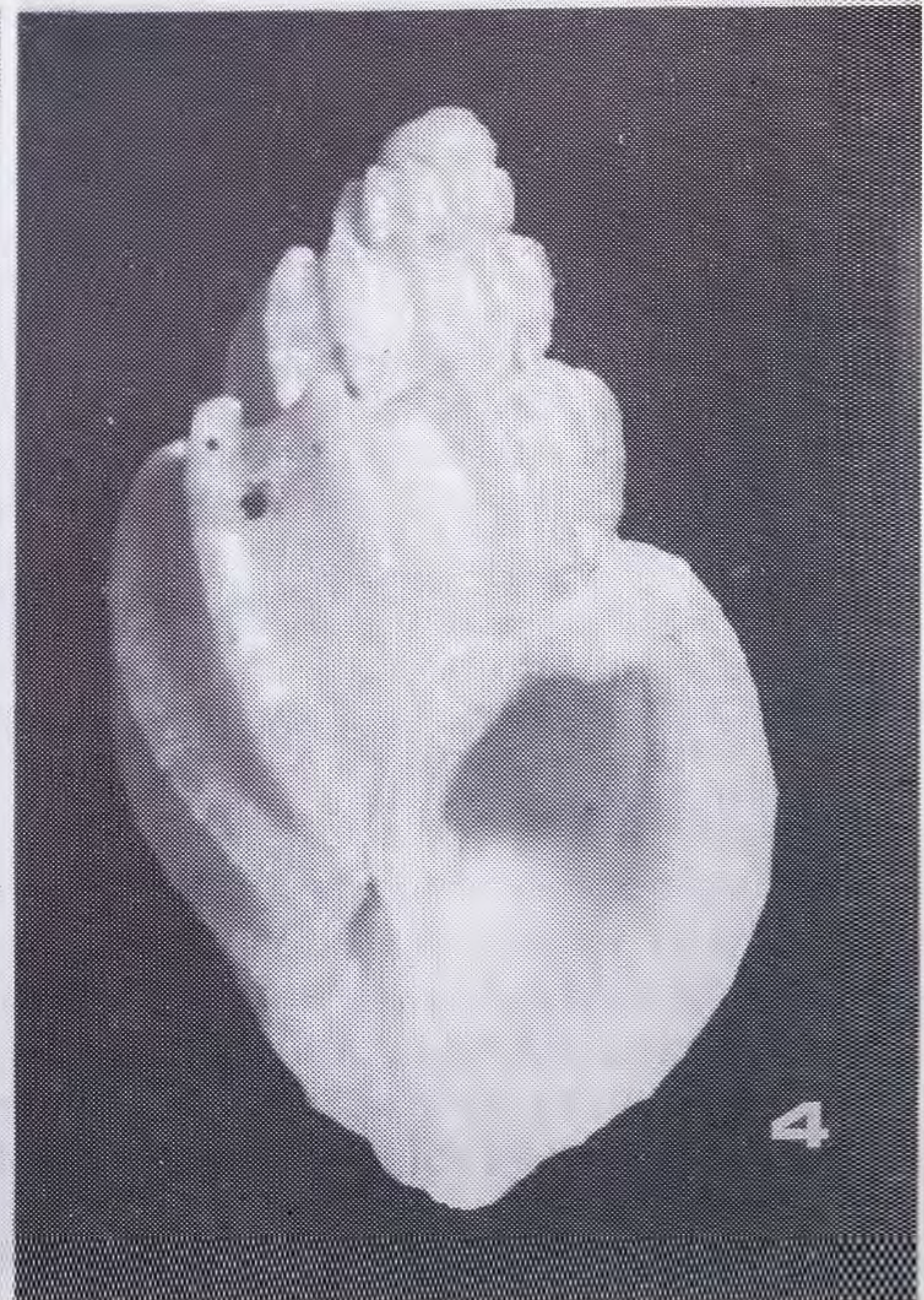
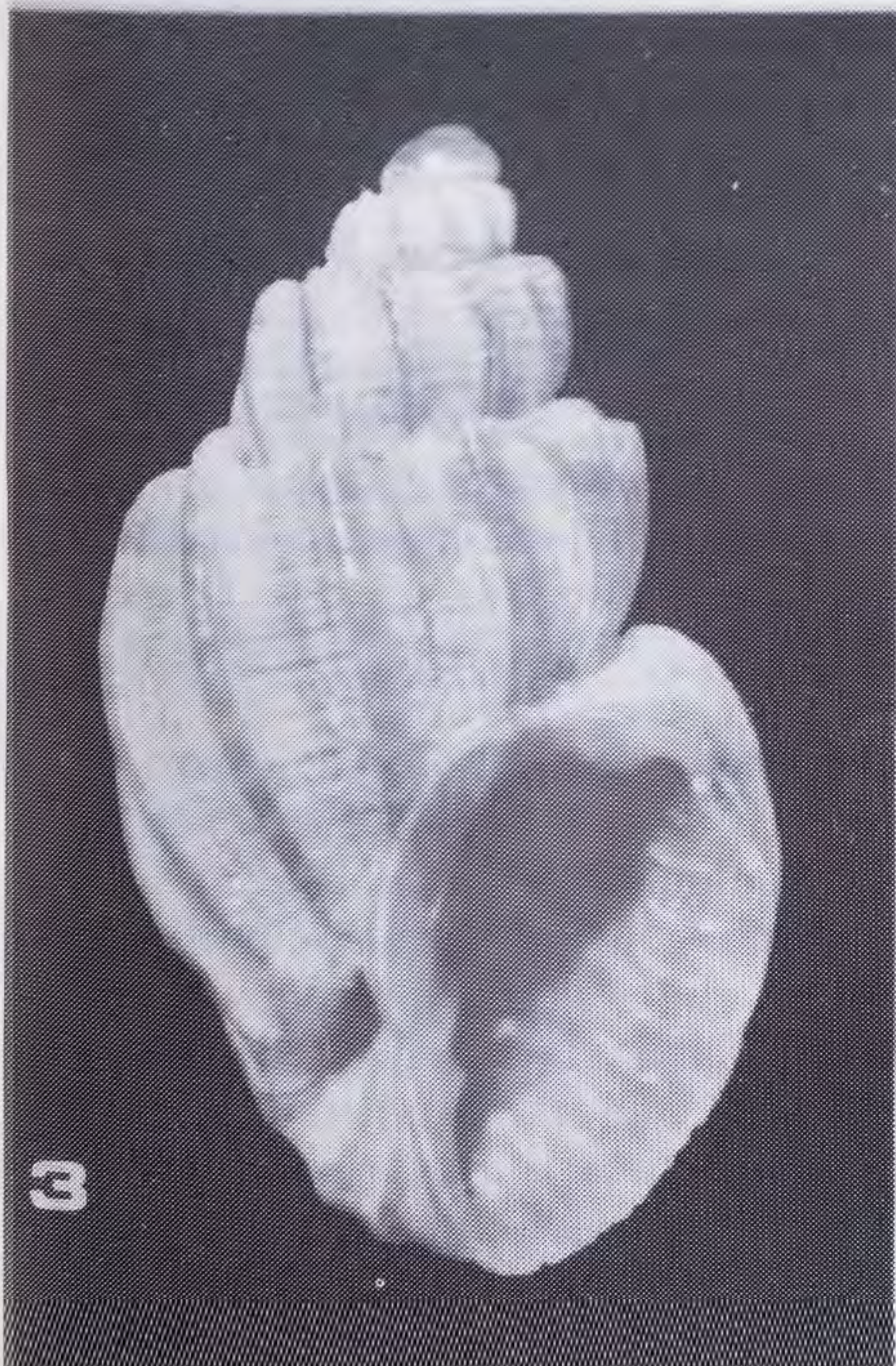
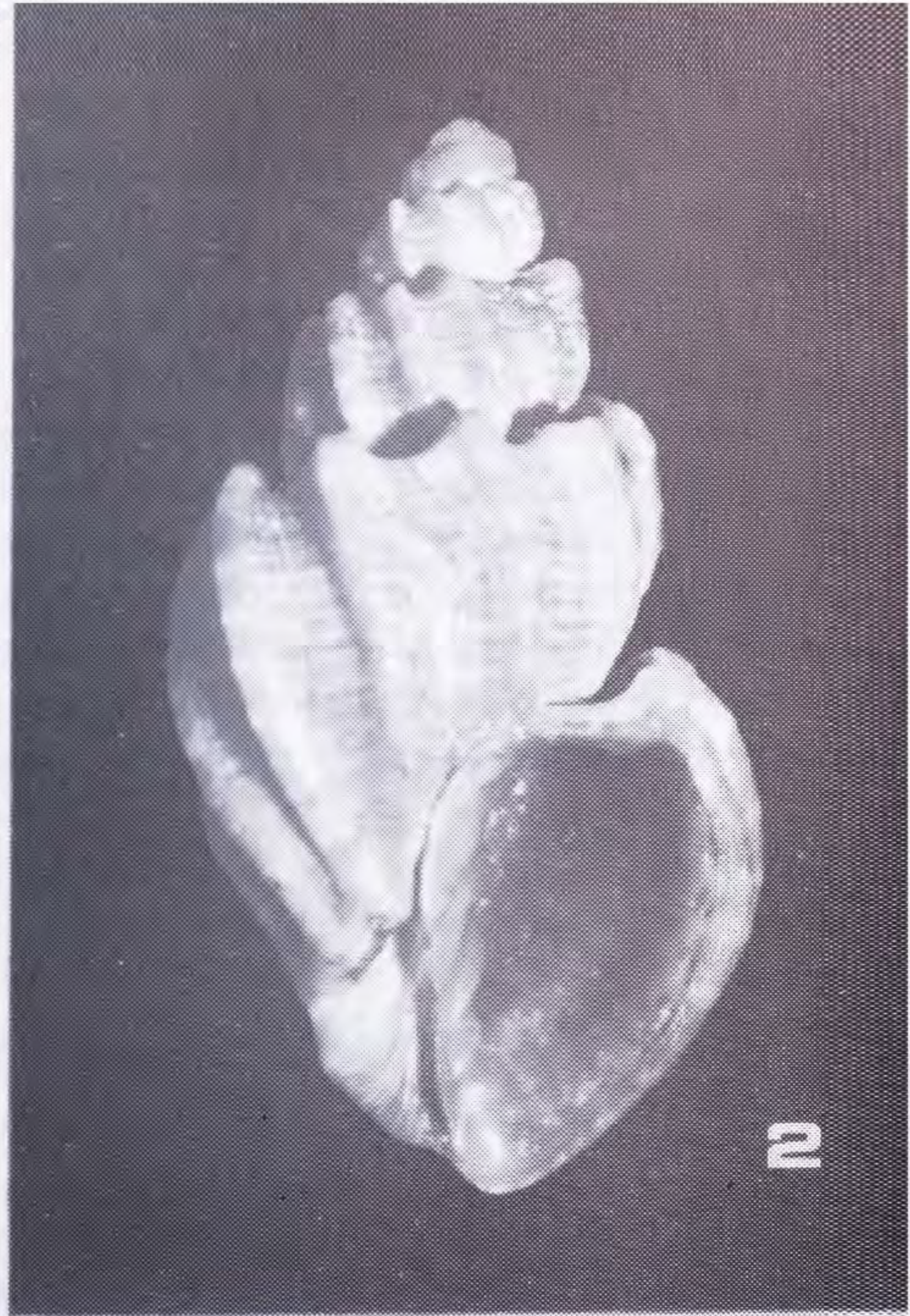
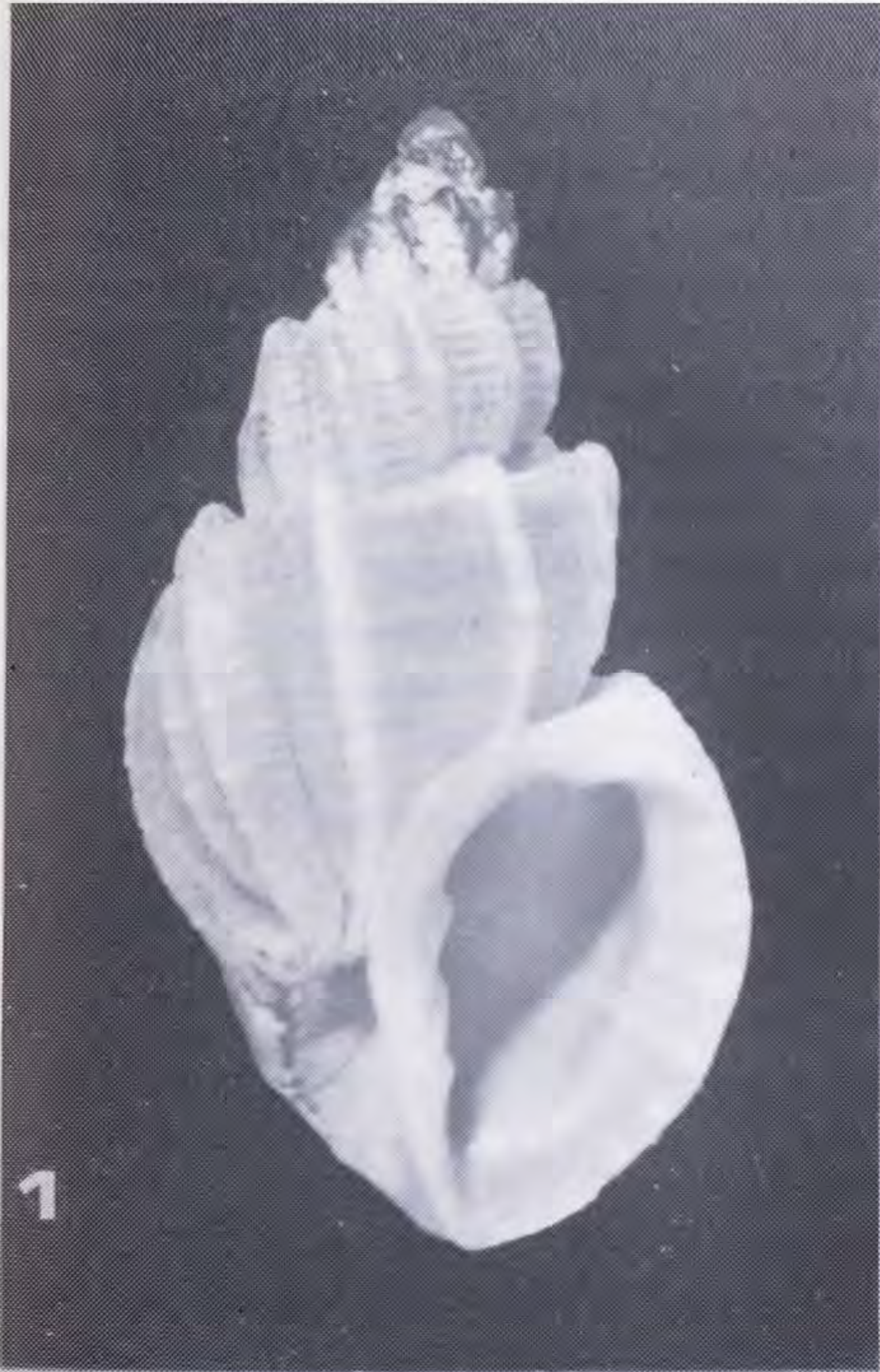
— Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève, Switzerland, holds one shell (MHNG 11535), 8.6 x 5.1 mm (fig. 4), labeled "Hong Kong. Ach. Sow.". The last note clearly means "purchased from Sowerby", which would imply a sale before 1897. Purchases from Sowerby in 1888 and 1890 are indeed documented in MHNG, but not precise data on this species could be found (Y. Finet, *in litt.*).

Sowerby (1889) did not give the whereabouts of the material he described. In the same paper he states for three other species, but not for *C. fusca*, that the shells are in the collection of J.J. Mc Andrew. Consequently there is no bibliographic evidence that the BMNH specimens were in the V. W. Mc Andrew collection when the species was described. It appears that Sowerby somehow acquired parts of the Hungerford collection not obtained by R. R. Mc Andrew, described the species and sold the types to V. W. Mc Andrew (date?), MHNG (before 1897) and Dautzenberg (1900).

The finding of only these four specimens in European Museum collections, together with their correct dimensions and their historical pathway, suggests that they are to all probability the four type specimens used by Sowerby. His latin descriptions is fairly complete; a few additional descriptive notes are given here: Protoconch fawn-coloured, multispiral with  $2\frac{1}{8}$  -  $2\frac{7}{8}$  whorls, maximum diameter 0.9-1.05 mm, max. height 0.7-0.8 mm. Teleoconch with  $4\frac{1}{4}$  whorls ( $3\frac{1}{4}$  -  $3\frac{5}{8}$  for *minor*); number of axial ribs on first to third whorl: 11-12, 10-12 and 9-11 respectively; the fourth whorl of the largest shell has 9 axial ribs; body-whorl with 8-9 axials. Spiral striae weak, numbering resp. 3-5, 5-8 and 8-9 on first to third whorl. Lirae inside outer lip: 0 (largest specimen) or 9-10 (*minor*).

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1. Probable holotype of *Cancellaria fusca* Sowerby, BMNH 1989034, 14.3 x 7.9 mm, Hong Kong.  
2-4. Probable syntypes of *C. fusca minor* Sowerby. Locality Hong Kong: 2, BMNH 1989035, 9.0 x 5.1 mm; 3. MHNG 11535, 8.6 x 5.1 mm; 4. KBIN, I.G. 10591, 7.8 x 4.7 mm.



### Remarks

Sowerby stated that *Cancellaria fusca* is close to *C. costifera* Sowerby, 1832 (= *C. scalariformis* Lamarck, 1822; cfr. Verhecken, 1986a: 53), but he did not give any differentiating character. The latter species occurs from the Cina Sea to Australia and the Red Sea (Verhecken, 1986b: 144); it reaches a height of 27 mm for 5 3/4 teleoconch whorls. It is conceivable that the types of *C. fusca* are only a small local variant of *C. scalariformis*. Minor differences are: the uniform brownish colour of *C. fusca* in contrast to *C. scalariformis* which has a white aperture and a pale spiral band near the periphery of the whorls, the axial ribs of *C. fusca* are narrower than in *C. scalariformis*, above the shoulder of the whorl they form narrow roundend lamellae slightly reflected spirally away from the aperture. Because of these minor differences and the small number of specimens from only one locality, the real affinities of *C. fusca* are difficult to establish at the moment. The short descriptive features given here might eventually lead to a better recognition of additional specimens of this species.

### Acknowledgments

Thanks are due to dr Y. Finet (Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève), dr P. Mordan and Ms. K. Way (British Museum [Natural History], London), and dr J. Van Goethem (Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussels) for access to the collections under their care and for the loan of material.

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**RED SEA MALACOLOGY**  
**IX**  
**COSTELLARIA WILSI**  
**A NEW VEXILLUM FROM THE RED SEA**

(Gastropoda, Muricoidea, Mitridae, Costellariidae)

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&

Henk Dekker

Scheidersweg 1, 1731 LX Winkel, The Netherlands.

#### Abstract

A new species of *Costellariidae*, already illustrated, but misidentified in Sharabati (1984) is here described as *Vexillum (Costellaria) wilsii*.

#### Introduction

Carl Friedrich Jickeli made an expedition to the Red Sea during the winter of 1870-1871. In one of his publications afterwards, (Jickely, 1874), he commented on a *Costellaria*-species from the Red Sea, Massaua [= Massawa (Mits'iwa), Ethiopia], which he placed under the name "*Turricula (Costellaria) Deshayesi* Reeve":

"Die Form des Rothen Meeres stimmt mit keiner der von Dohrn beschriebenen Varietäten [= *Mitra Deshayesii* Reeve and *Mitra Michau* Crosse] dieser Art." He compared it and noted the differences with the "*Turricula (Costellaria) Deshayesi*", but then from other localities [Cochinchina, Pulo Condor (= Vietnam, Con Son Island); New Caledonia; Uvea]; and with "*Mitra Dunkeri* Schmelz" and came to the conclusion: "Sie kan als besondere Varietät, wenn mann will, den Namen *M. Michau* Crosse führen".

During the period 1971-1989 members of the Belgian Society for Conchology went to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba on shell-collecting excursions. Some 560 different species were brought back. One of these was a *Vexillum*-species, of which no established name could be found in literature. It is the one mentioned and illustrated in a popular edition (Sharabati 1984, pl. 27, fig. 8.) as *Vexillum deshayesi* (Reeve, 1844). According to the description Jickely gave in his 1874 notes of the Red Sea *Costellaria*-species he obviously described the same species which he thought to be a variety of "*Turricula Deshayesi*".

Comparison of this species, however, with the original description of *Vexillum (Costellaria) deshayesi* (Reeve, 1844) and with specimens of this kind in the collections of the "Zoölogisch Museum" in Amsterdam and of the "Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum" in Leiden, as well as with specimens of *Vexillum (Costellaria) michau* (Crosse and Fisher, 1864) in the same collections proved it to be so different, the authors consider it a valid species and propose a new name.

**MURICOIDEA** Rafinesque, 1815, n.t. Thiele, 1929

**Costellariidae** MacDonald, 1860

**VEXILLUM** Röding, 1798

(*Costellaria* Swainson, 1840)

***Vexillum (Costellaria) wilsii spec. novum.***

### Description

Shell up to 22.1 mm in length, fusiformly elongate, sculptured with 9-11 narrow rounded axial ribs, in between interspaces with very fine growthlines, which are crossed by spiral striae. The latter are quite distinct on the earlier whorls, becoming less obvious in the more adult shells, except for the deeper grooves on the lower half of the bodywhorl. The intervals between the axial ribs are comparatively small in the early whorl, becoming rather broad in adult shells.

The whorls are gently rounded at the shoulders and in most cases somewhat globose. The height of the aperture is 35 % - 42 % of the total length of the shell. The aperture is fine spirally lirate within, these lirae end 2 - 3 mm before they should reach the edge of the lip. The columella with 3 - 4 pronounced folds.

The protoconch consists of 3 nuclear whorls and has a pale lavender to a golden yellowish-brown colour. The 3 post-nuclear whorls are in the same colour, but more dull and gradually changing in the colour of the body-whorl, which ranges from white to light cream. The shell is ornamented with 5 vividly interrupted spiral bands, which only seem to touch the upperpart of the axial ribs, thus forming a tessellated appearance. In the juvenile shells the axial ribs are close to each other, so there the spiral bands are more evident as such than in adult shells with their broader intervals. As these bands are about as broad as the ribs, they are orderly forming squarish or sometimes rectangular dots of colour in either orange, light brown or chocolatebrown. The third and fourth band from the top are quite close to each other, otherwise the dots are evenly divided over the length of the axial ribs. On the spire, below the postnuclear whorls, two rows of dots are visible.

The aperture is in the same light colour of the shell, but in some specimens in the lower half of the aperture there is a clear brown streak or even a brown spiral band, which always ends at the same place as the lirae. This brown colour is visible on the outside too as a leadgrey band just below the shoulder. The lip is colourless except when an axial rib is to be formed. In that case the coloured dots are visible at the edge. The columella is in the colour of the shell, though in 1 specimen it also has a purplish dash near the end of the siphonal canal.

### Type locality

Sharm el Nâqa Bay, 24 miles south of Hurghada, Red Sea coast of Egypt [26°53'50"N; 33°57'43"E]; fine sand, depth 2 meters.



**Holotype**

Measurements 14.5 x 5.5 mm; deposited in ZMA, number ZMA-MOLL 3.90.007 (collected by Buijse).

**Paratypes, measurements, depositories, data.**

Sizes in mm:	Collection + number	Locality:	
01. 22.1 x 6.8; Dekker	128-5 b	Sa'al Hashish	27°02'N 33°54'E
02. 20.2 x 7.0; Dekker	128-5 b	Sa'al Hashish	27°02'N 33°54'E
03. 20.2 x 6.8; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
04. 20.1 x 7.3; Dekker	128-5 c	Abu Minqâr Isl	27°13'N 33°53'E
05. 19.6 x 6.4; ZBM		typelocality	(collected by J. Goud)
06. 19.6 x 6.2; Buijse	4334	typelocality	
07. 19.0 x 6.0; Buijse	4214	Saudi Arabia	no collecting data
08. 19.1 x 6.4; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
09. 19.0 x 5.9; Buijse	4758	El Qalawa	26°32'N 34°04'E
10. 18.8 x 6.8; KBIN		Eilath	(collected by E. Wils)
11. 18.7 x 6.6; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
12. 18.3 x 5.8; Buijse	4334	typelocality	
13. 18.0 x 6.3; Buijse	4759	Gifâtîn Isl.	27°10'N 33°57'E
14. 17.9 x 6.0; NNM		typelocality	(collected by Buijse)
15. 17.6 x 6.2; Dekker	128-5 b	Sa'al Hashish	27°02'N 33°54'E
16. 17.6 x 5.7; NNM		typelocality	(collected by J. Goud)
17. 17.4 x 6.2; Dekker	128-5 b	Sa'al Hashish	27°02'N 33°54'E
18. 17.4 x 5.6; BMNH		typelocality	(collected by Dekker)
19. 16.9 x 5.9; Buijse	4334	typelocality	
20. 16.7 x 5.6; ZBM		typelocality	(collected by J. Goud)
21. 16.4 x 5.8; Buijse	4760	typelocality	
22. 16.4 x 5.5; E. Wils		Sinai, Dahab	(collected by E. Wils)
23. 15.8 x 5.5; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
24. 15.6 x 5.4; L. Steppe		typelocality	(collected by Buijse)
25. 15.5 x 5.1; Buijse	4761	Sa'al Hashish	27°02'N 33°54'E
26. 15.2 x 5.3; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
27. 14.9 x 5.3; Buijse	4760	typelocality	
28. 14.6 x 5.4; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
29. 14.5 x 4.9; ZBM		typelocality	(collected by J. Goud)
30. 14.3 x 5.5; lost		typelocality	(collected by Buijse)
31. 13.8 x 5.1; Buijse	4760	typelocality	
32. 13.7 x 4.7; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
33. 12.3 x 4.7; Buijse	4334	typelocality	
34. 11.7 x 4.8; NNM		typelocality	(collected by J. Goud)
35. 11.5 x 4.2; ZBM		typelocality	(collected by J. Goud)
36. 10.7 x 4.2; Buijse	4760	typelocality	
37. 10.2 x 4.2; NNM		typelocality	(collected by J. Goud)
38. 9.8 x 3.9; Dekker	128-5 a	typelocality	
39. 9.3 x 5.5; Buijse	4760	typelocality	
40. 7.5 x 3.4; Buijse	4760	typelocality	

The *cursive* specimens still have their protoconches.

The specimens in the collections of the authors were collected by themselves, unless otherwise stated.

### Discussion

The species is obviously very closely related to *V. deshayesi* (Reeve, 1844) and *V. michau* (Crosse and Fisher, 1864). But both these species have axial ribs, which are broader and more pronounced than *V. wils*. In the latter, the ribs are lower and therefore in adult shells the interspaces are apparently wider.

*V. wils* has gently rounded shoulders, while the other two species have angular shoulders, often bending inwards just below the periphery, causing a nodulous appearance at the shoulderlines.

*V. wils* has the columellafolds more pronounced than the other two species.

The height of the aperture in *V. deshayesi* is 44 % - 48 % of the length of the shell, in *V. michau* this is 42 % - 45 %, while in *V. wils* its ranges from 35 % to 42 %.

Another significant difference is in the interrupted coloured bands. In *V. wils* they only touch the top of the axial ribs, in some specimens giving the impression of existing axial colourlines in stead of spiralbands: there is no such colouration in the interspaces. In the other species the colour slopes upward often from the deepest point of the intervals to the top of the ribs, only intermittently colourless at the downward slope. Often in *V. michau* the colour is even at is brightest at the deepest point of the interspaces, in *V. deshayesi* sometimes this is the case.

*V. michau* differs also in the colour of the bodywhorl, which varies from brown to grey with a white band well above the middle of the bodywhorl. The aperture is brownish with in the upperpart the same white band.

In Drivas (1988) on page 104, pl. 37, fig. 6 a shell is illustrated under the name *V. deshayesi alauda* (Sowerby, 1874); no collecting data are mentioned. It differs from the Red Sea specimens of *V. wils* by the colour (= brown) and the height (= 46 % of the total length) of the aperture.

Sowerby (1874) refers under number 476 to Quoy as the author of "*Mitra alauda*". In Quoy & Gaimard (1833) there is no mentioning of this "*Mitra alauda*"; so there is no original description. Thus Sowerby is the author, but he made no description either. The typematerial is lost (Turner, pers. comm.). Sowerby stated under number 475: "MICHAUDI (fig. 157), Crosse et Fischer. - The ribs are smaller and more finely marked than in *M. alauda*."; hence the then known form *alauda* was even more heavily ribbed than *V. michau* and subsequently it is not the same species as *V. wils*. Also according to the illustrations in Sowerby (1874) the new species is definitely not the same; the illustrations are, according to the authors, referring to *V. michau* and in this matter they agree with Tryon (1882) and Cernohorsky (1972: p. 172). Whether *alauda* is a synonym or a subspecies of *V. michau*, or a nomen nudum, is not relevant and will consequently not be discussed here.

Fig. 1-6  
Fig. 7  
Fig. 8

Holotype

Paratype no. 14

Paratype no. 06

Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Paratype no. 19

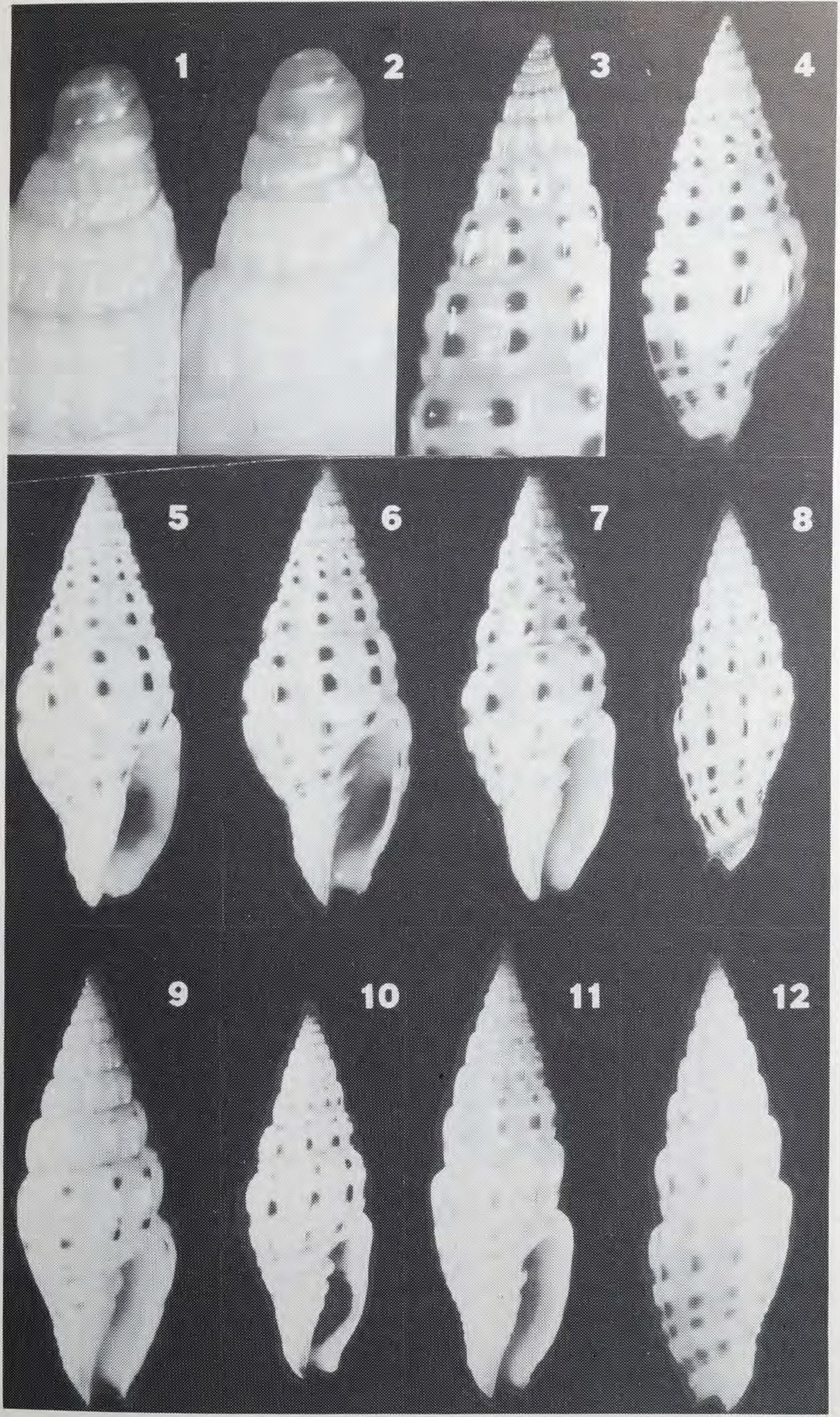
Paratype no. 25

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

Paratype no. 09

Paratype no. 09



### Etymology

The shell is named after Mr. EDWARD WILS, one of the very first members of the Belgian Society for Conchology, who payed more than his tribute to science, particularly in the studies of Conidae and last but not least in the studies of Red Sea Malacology. The species was first found by him in the Northern part of the Gulf of Aqaba in 1971. It was he who brought to the first author's attention the fact that probably this species was still unnamed.

### Habitat

The holotype, a small, slender and elegant shell, was collected in August 1988 in Sharm El Nâqa Bay. This bay hosts a scuba-diving center, due to the fact that a splendid reef is dropping down just 50 yards from the shore. In that stretch of 50 yards, at some places clustured with patches of seagrass, fine sand is gradually sloping down from the beach to a depth of 20 meters and more. About half an hour before sunset from that sand at a depth of about 2 meters the *Costellaria wilsii* emerged, probably starting its nightly foodsearching prowl.

More specimens were found in the same bay and were also commonly collected by the authors and others, in similar conditions between 1-3 meters, at Abu Minqâr Island, just 1.5 Sea Mile SE off Hurghada, in El Qalawa, 50 miles south of Hurghada and in several places at the Egyptian Red Sea coast in between. In daytime the species hides just beneath the surface of the substrate.

Mr. E. Wils found the specimen in the North of the Gulf of Aqaba in 1971 and in the centre of that Gulf in 1977 at the Sinain coast. It is also reported from Jedda, Saudi-Arabia (Sharabati, 1984). Jickeli reported his shell(s) [the largest measuring 24.2 x 7.7 mm] from Massawa, Ethiopia so the species is well distributed in the Red Sea.

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### Abbreviations

BMNH: British Museum (Natural History), London, United Kingdom  
 BSC: Belgian Society for Conchology, Antwerp, Belgium.  
 KBIN: Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussels, Belgium

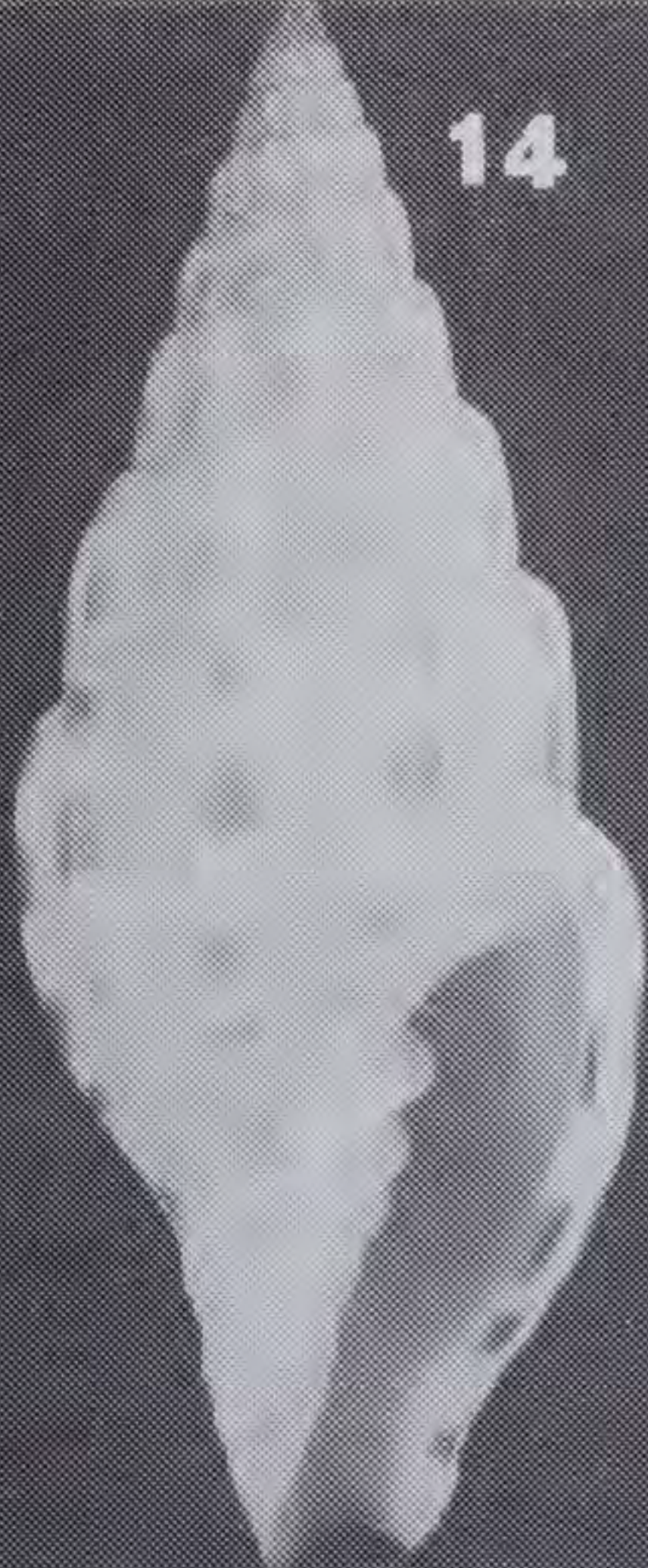
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Fig. 13	Paratype no. 19	Fig. 21	Paratype no. 12
Fig. 14	Paratype no. 31	Fig. 22	Paratype no. 13
Fig. 15 & 16	Paratype no. 09	Fig. 23	<i>V. deshayesi</i> (16.8 x 5.7 mm)
Fig. 17	Paratype no. 21	Fig. 24	<i>V. michaui</i> (15.5 x 5.2 mm)
Fig. 18	Paratype no. 13		
Fig. 19	<i>V. deshayesi</i> (14.6 x 5.5 mm) [collected Marshall Islands]		
Fig. 20	<i>V. michaui</i> (18.5 x 5.6 mm) [collected Solomon Islands, Ataa, Malaita]		

13



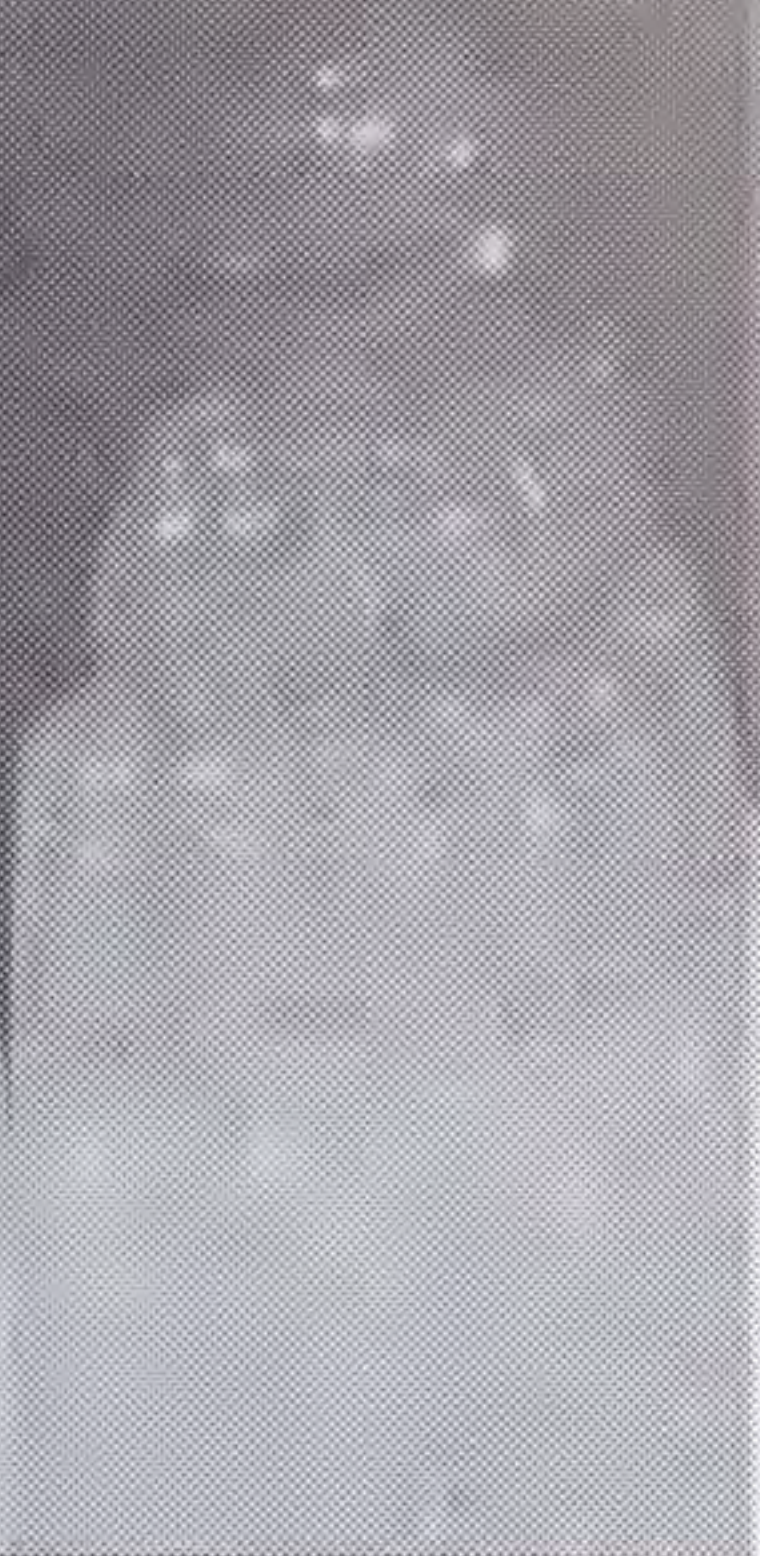
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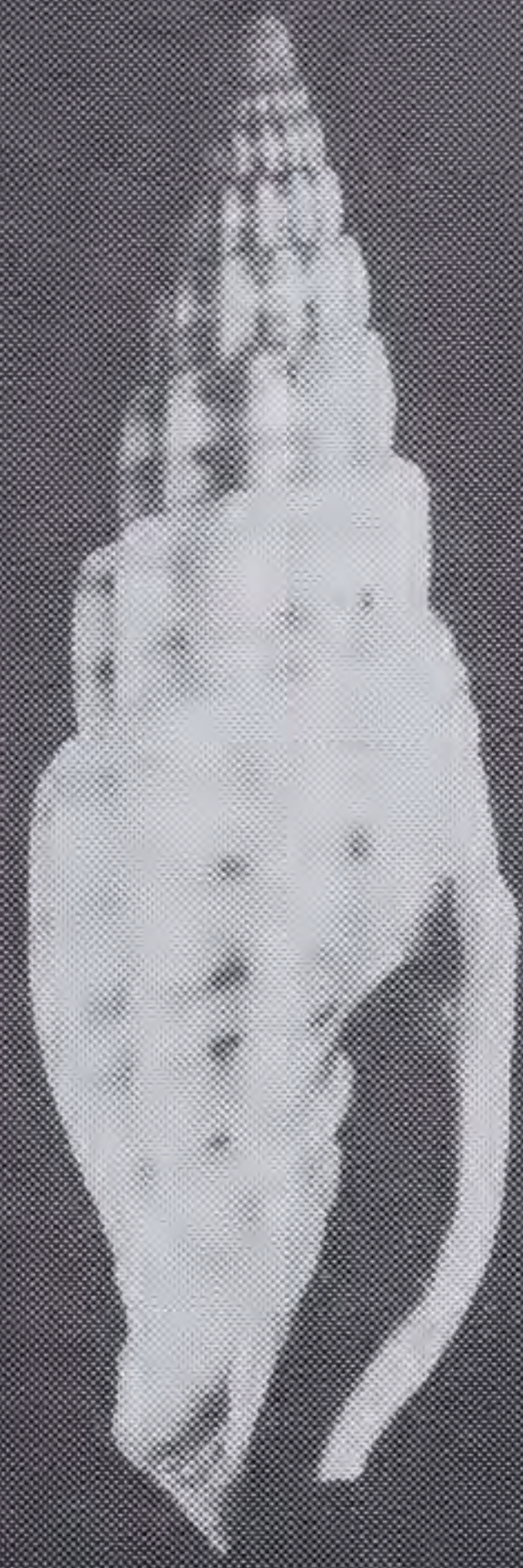
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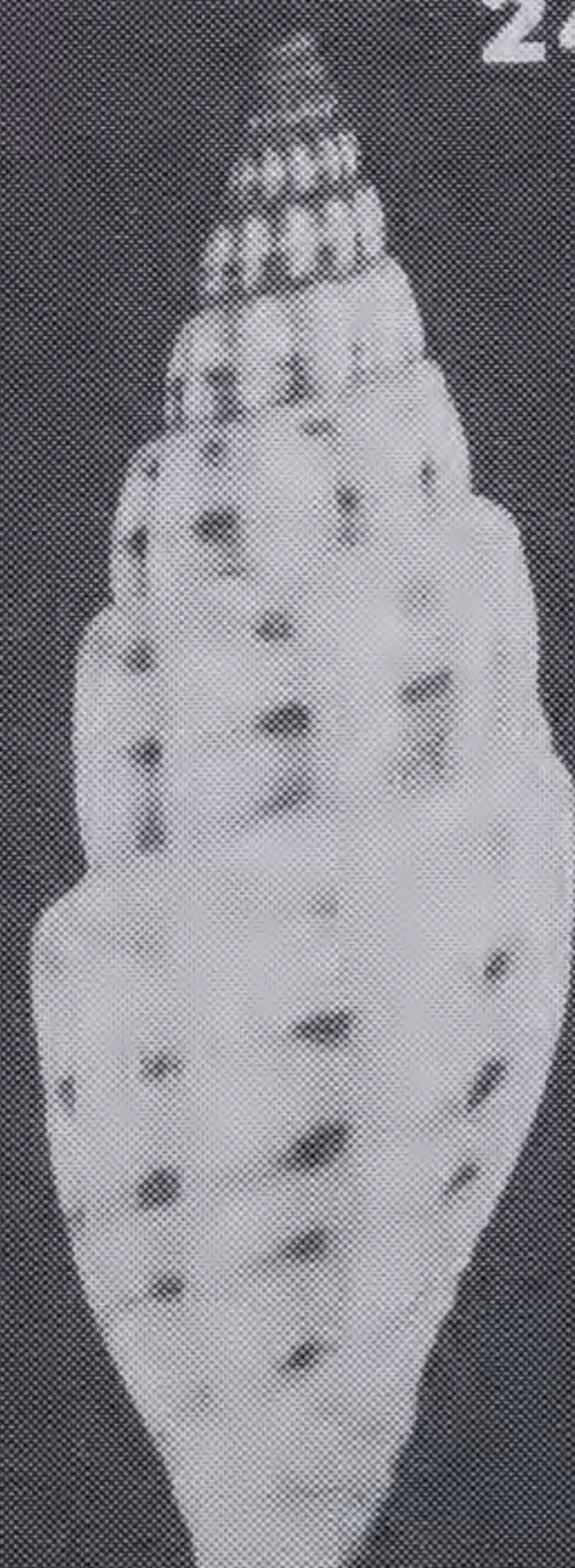
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- NNM: Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum (formerly RMNH), Leiden, The Netherlands
- ZBM: Zeebiologisch Museum, Scheveningen, The Netherlands
- ZMA: Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam (Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoölogie), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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