

NEW GASTEROPODS FROM NORTH AUSTRALIA

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Large numbers of molluscs from collectors all over Australia are submitted to the National Museum for identification; among them are rare shells and, occasionally, undescribed species.

The specimens dealt with below were acquired in this manner and I should like to thank their donors for the generosity which has enabled me to record them and add them to the National Museum collections for use by future workers.

Family MURICIDAE

Murex (Murex) espinosus sp. n.

Plate. Figs. 1, 1A.

Shell of medium size (approximately 60 mm. long) solid, naked except for one or two fine short spines on the posterior end of the canal; whorls seven and a half, strongly convex, three varices on the body whorl; sculpture of spiral cords (8 on body whorl of type) and two or three axial ribs between the varices. The spiral cords tend to fade in the interspaces and strengthen on the axial ribs and varices giving them a nodulose appearance. Colour rose-orange with the rugosities lighter in tone; aperture oval, white; columella callus adhering above but free, thin, and extended below. Outer lip slightly produced and finely crenulate. Siphonal canal of medium length, shorter than the height of the whorls, slightly tapering and with one or two, fine, short spines aligned with the varices around its base. Nuclear whorls one and a half, smooth, rounded, deep rose; the following whorls sculptured with regular, fine, spiral cords and axial ribs; but as the whorls increase the sculpture becomes less regular. The smaller paratype shows traces of a thin, horn coloured periostracum. Operculum deep rose coloured, unguiculate, suboval and strongly sculptured with concentric ridges.

Measurements of type. 60 mm. long, 27 mm. wide.

Specimens examined. Holotype National Museum of Victoria No. F 17960. 2 Paratypes No. F 17960A, locality Tweed Head, New South Wales, dredged in 30 fathoms, presented by Mr. T. Garrard; 1 Paratype in collection of Mrs. N. Jackson, Sydney (measurements 72 mm. long, 37 mm. wide); radula in collection

of National Museum No. F 18865. In collection of Mrs. J. A. Grigg, 3 adults and 1 juvenile trawled Hervey Bay, Queensland; 3 dead shell with hermit crabs taken in fish traps at 60 fathoms off Wooli, Northern New South Wales; 1 specimen trawled in 10 fathoms, Morton Bay, on muddy bottom.

This shell is quite distinct from any other Australian species but shows some affinities with *Murce marcocensis* Sowerby from Florida; it differs in the lack of spines on the varices, and its much finer and less well defined spiral cords.

Family MELONGENIDAE

Pagilina griggiana sp. n.

Plate. Figs. 2, 2A, 2B.

Shell solid, bluntly spindle shaped, whorls 7 or 8, the anal groove forming a keel with above it a flat or slightly convex shoulder extending to the impressed suture. Uneroded shell covered with a thick dull brown periostracum bearing encircling rows of short stiff hairs which are longer on the keel and shoulder. Removal of the periostracum reveals the smooth red-brown shining shell surface sculptured with numerous, fine encircling cords (approximately 40 on the body whorl). Aperture narrow, deep flesh coloured, subquadrate and lengthened into a broad siphonal canal. Outer lip, deep red-brown in colour, thin and crenulated by the encircling cords. Inner lip covered with a thin cream glaze; columella heavy and twisted to usually obscure the umbilical chink. The first two or three adult whorls are faintly axially costate but the remaining whorls are without axial sculpture except for fine growth lines. Operculum unguiculate with an apical nucleus and fine, axial growth lines.

Measurements of type. 102 mm. long, 50 mm. wide.

Specimens examined. Holotype National Museum No. F 17571, 6 Paratypes F 17571A. Locality 10 miles upstream from the mouth of the Port Keats River, Northern Territory, collected by Mrs. E. B. Grigg. Mrs. Grigg collected 40 living specimens among mangroves in solid mud. She also collected a number of *Volegalea wardiana* Iredale, 1938, at two localities, Mindil Beach, near Darwin, living in sand and rock, and at Wallaby Island, north of the Port Keats River, living buried in mud among the mangroves. *V. wardiana* differs from the present species in having strong axial costae on all whorls (particularly on the body whorl) and its encircling cords become obsolete towards the shoulder. The periostracum lacks the encircling lines of hairs

except for two or three rings close to the suture. One of Tryon's figures of *Melongena cochlidium* (Manual Conch. III., plate 43, fig. 227) appears to represent *griggiana*.

The Melongenidae are noted for variation of the axial sculpture within a species. However, because of the distinctive periostracum, a lack of any sign of gradation between *wardiana* and the present species, and in view of the quite distinct habitats of the two, it seems reasonable to consider them as separate species. I have placed this shell in the genus *Pugilina* Schumacher as I cannot see any valid reason for its generic separation from *P. morio* Linne, the type of *Pugilina*. I would also include *V. wardiana* Iredale, thus reducing *Volegalea* to the synonymy of *Pugilina*.

Family FASCIOLARIIDAE

Peristernia aethiops sp. n.

Plate. Fig. 3.

Spindle-shaped, spire approximately same length as mouth; sculptured with strong close-set encircling cords and axial costae (10 on body-whorl); colour red-brown with some cords all white or white on the apex of each costa; mouth mauve, outer lip thin, finely crenulate, interior showing impressions of the costae, inner lip smooth and two faint plaits at the base of the columella which is twisted and reflected to almost close the umbilicus in the type. Anterior canal short, reflected.

Measurements of type. 30 mm. long, 15 mm. wide.

Specimens examined. Holotype National Museum No. F 18466, Paratype in the collection of Mrs. E. B. Grigg, Locality Portland Roads, North Queensland, collected by Mrs. Grigg.

Family OLIVIDAE

Alocospira rosea sp. n.

Plate. Fig. 4.

Shell acuminate, elongate, fusiform, whorls seven including two nuclear; mouth slightly longer than the spire; colour light pink fading to white at the base of the body whorl, sutural band and columella callosity flesh coloured; spire ornamented with five, distinct, encircling cords which commenced above the outer lip; aperture elongate, ovate; outer lip thin; columella twisted; operculum large, thin, horn-coloured.

Measurements of type. 14 mm. long, 9 mm. wide.

Specimens examined. Holotype National Museum No. F 18467; 3 Paratypes No. F 18468; 5 specimens in collection of Mrs. E. B. Grigg. Locality Green Island, Cairns, Queensland, living in weedy sand around low tide mark, seldom taken in the daytime.

Family CONIDAE

Conus rufimaculosus sp. n.

Plate. Figs. 5, 5A, 5B, 5C.

Shell approximately 35 mm. long, light, smooth, strong, conical. Colour white with irregular red-brown splashes which in the type specimens are irregularly tent-like. Periostracum very fine straw-coloured, showing the pattern beneath. Outer lip thin, translucent showing the external colouring; aperture rose pink within, narrow, widening a little towards the anterior. Whorls 8 to 10, the outer edge sharply raised to form a narrow vertical ridge. Spire slightly elevated, canaliculated, the canal forming a notch at the posterior end of the aperture, apex raised and pointed. Sculpture appears to consist only of spiral incised lines on the anterior third of the shell but under the glass a faint tracery of encircling lines and longitudinal growth lines becomes visible. The operculum of the holotype had been lost but it was retained in a specimen lent for comparison by Mrs. N. Jackson and this has been figured. It is thin, horny unguiculate with a bulb-like process on the inner side close to the rounded anterior margin.

Measurements of type. 34 mm. long, 18.4 mm. wide.

Specimens examined. Holotype National Museum No. F 18465; presented by Mr. L. Black; 2 Paratypes No. F 18188, presented by Mr. T. Garrard. Locality Tweed Head, New South Wales, dredged at night in 15-30 fathoms.

In the last few months the National Museum has received for identification from several collectors seven specimens of this shell from the above locality. In addition I have seen three specimens from the collection of Mrs. E. B. Grigg, trawled at 10 fathoms off Jumpin Pin, southern end of Morton Bay, Queensland.

This species corresponds quite well to the description of *Dendroconus* Swainson, 1840, but as a satisfactory subdivision of *Conus* as a group has not yet been carried out, it is better not to adhere to divisions which in many cases are unnatural. Therefore *Conus sensu lato* has been used for this species.

Family VASIDAE

Tudicula rasilistoma Abbott*

Plate. Figs. 6, 6A, 6B, 6C.

Shell solid, heavy, fusiform; whorls 7 to 8 including the protoconch of $1\frac{1}{2}$ smooth rounded whorls, nodulose keeled, and bearing 7 to 8 rounded axial ribs; spire moderately produced, pyramidal; sutures indistinct, wavy; aperture oval continuous with the narrow siphonal canal, shining smooth, lips pink splashed with brown, interior white. Columella callus well-developed, bearing three spiral plaits below the curve, the central plication being the strongest. Outer lip strong, smooth. Umbilicus shallow, funnel-shaped. Mouth and siphonal canal more than half length of shell. The shell is ornamented with numerous very fine encircling lirae which are crossed at irregular intervals by lines of growth giving the shell a wrinkled appearance. Periostracum grey-brown, felt-like, and persistent; eroded shells are red-brown with two narrow white bands on the keel and one on the canal.

Measurements. Holotype 72 mm. long, 39 mm. wide; Paratype 58 mm. long, 32 mm. wide.

Specimens examined. Holotype National Museum No. F 18189, Paratype No. F 18189A, locality Tweed Head, New South Wales, dredged in 30 fathoms; 2 Paratypes No. F 18761, Tin Can Bay, Queensland (30 fathoms); all presented by Mr. T. Garrard; 2 Paratypes, off Brisbane, Queensland, presented by Mr. L. Black (one National Museum No. F 19866, one sent in exchange to Academy Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Catalog number A.N.S.P. #227669). A water-worn specimen from Caloundra, Queensland, is in the collection of Mrs. L. Brown.

NEW NAME FOR *MYODORA GABRIELI* MACP.

J. Hope Macpherson.

Myodora gabrieli Macp. was described in *Memoirs National Museum Victoria* 17, 1951, p. 81, but the name is preoccupied by a fossil *Myodora gabrieli* Chapman and Crespin, 1928, so I propose that it should be replaced by *Myodora latilirata*.

* Since writing the above description, M.S. of which was supplied to Tucker Abbott, Part I. of *Indo Pacific Mollusca* has been published containing the description, and by priority the authorship of the species must be attributed to him. The TYPE remains in the National Museum of Victoria.

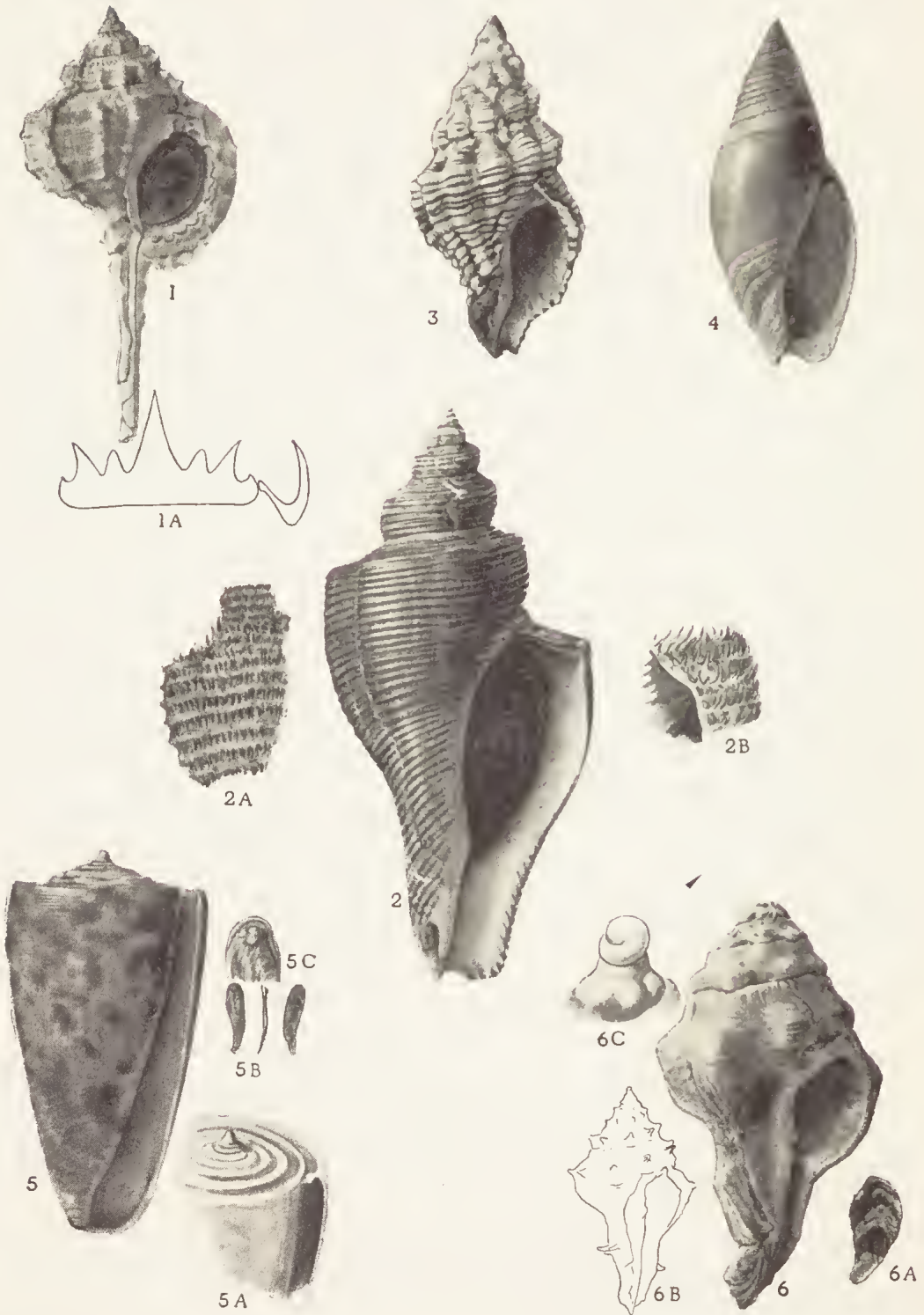


PLATE.

1. *Murex (Murex) espinosus* sp. n., holotype F 17960, x1.
- 1A. Radula (F 18865) of Paratype in collection of Mrs. N. Jackson.
2. *Pugilina griggiana* sp. n., holotype F 17571, x $\frac{3}{4}$.
- 2A. Epidermis on left side of body whole of small Paratype F 17571A.
- 2B. Epidermis on posterior margin of mouth of same shell.
3. *Peristernia aethiops* sp. n., holotype F 18466, x1 $\frac{1}{2}$.
4. *Alocospira rosea* sp. n., holotype F 18467, x2.
5. *Conus rufimaculosus* sp. n., holotype F 18465, x1 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- 5A. Spire of holotype.
- 5B. Operculum of shell in collection of Mrs. N. Jackson.
- 5C. Bulb of operculum x4 $\frac{1}{2}$.
6. *Tudicula rasilistoma* sp. n., holotype F 18189, x $\frac{3}{4}$.
- 6A. Operculum of paratype F 18189A enlarged to proportions of type.
- 6B. Paratype F 18761A.
- 6C. Protoconch of F 18761A enlarged.