

**Description of two new *Favartia* species  
(Gastropoda: Muricidae: Muricopsinae)  
from Masirah Island, Oman, Arabian Peninsula**

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**KEYWORDS.** Eastern Indian Ocean, Arabian Peninsula, Oman, Gastropoda, Muricidae, *Favartia* n. sp.

**ABSTRACT.** Two new species of Muricidae are described and compared with similar looking species from the western Indian Ocean. The *Favartia* species from the studied area are all illustrated.

## INTRODUCTION

There are currently 64 known Recent species of *Favartia* s.s. and 22 of *Favartia* (*Pygmaeapterys*) (sensu Houart, in litt.). Twenty-five of these species occur in the Indian Ocean of which 12 are also recorded in the western Indian Ocean and 8 in the studied area, more precisely, Oman and nearby areas: *Favartia* (*Favartia*) *cecalupoi* Bozzetti, 1993, *F. (F.) cyclostoma* (Sowerby, 1841), *F. (F.) deynzeri* Houart, 1998, *F. (F.) flexirostris* (Melvill, 1898), *F. (F.) marjoriae* (Melvill & Standen, 1903), *F. (Pygmaeapterys) adenensis* (Houart & Wranik, 1989), *F. (P.) paulboschi* Smythe & Houart, 1984 and *F. (P.) yemenensis* (Houart & Wranik, 1989).

The Mollusca of this part of the world were recently commented on and illustrated in several publications and books. The first publication, by Biggs (1973), includes Mollusca of the Trucial Coast, at the southern end of the Persian Gulf (United Arabs Emirates), but only a few muricids were listed and one was illustrated: *Hexaplex kusterianus* (Tapparone-Canefri, 1875). Doreen Sharabati (1981) followed with a fully illustrated volume with over 100 species of mollusks depicting their habitats, their uses by man throughout the years and illustrating many species in their habitat. In 1982, Kathleen Smythe published a small book about the seashells of the Arabian Gulf,

but only a few species were illustrated. Still in 1982 and then in 1989, Donald and Eloise Bosch published two very useful books devoted to the seashells of Oman and of Southern Arabia with numerous color illustrations of the shells. Then more recently, a team of specialists, well known for their many contributions to the study of mollusks, Donald T. Bosch, S. Peter Dance, Robert G. Moolenbeek and P. Graham Oliver (1995) published a huge and impressive book where more than a thousand species were described and illustrated.

Three *Favartia* species were illustrated by these authors: *F. (F.) cyclostoma* (Sowerby, 1841) (Bosch et al., 1995: 119, fig. 470), *F. marjoriae* (Melvill & Standen, 1903) (Bosch et al., 1995: 119, fig. 472), *F. (P.) paulboschi* Smythe & Houart, 1984 (Bosch & Bosch, 1989: 58; Bosch et al., 1995: 119, fig. 472) and *F. (P.) colombi* n. sp. [under the name *F. (P.) yemenensis*] (Bosch et al., 1995: 120, fig. 478).

*Favartia marjoriae* (Melvill & Standen, 1903) (Figs 23-25) is probably conspecific with *F. (F.) maculata* (Reeve, 1845) (Fig. 26), a species living throughout the Indo-West Pacific and known to have very variable shell characters. The protoconch of *F. marjoriae* has not yet been examined, but this and eventually DNA studies of *F. marjoriae* and of different forms of *F. maculata* will be necessary to confirm or refute their conspecificity.

**Table 1.** Terminology used to describe the spiral cords and apertural denticles (after Merle, 1999 and 2001)  
Terminology in parentheses: erratic feature.

P :	Primary cord
S :	secondary cord
IP :	Infrasutural primary cord (primary cord on subsutural ramp)
adis :	adapical infrasutural secondary cord (on subsutural ramp)
abis :	abapical infrasutural secondary cord (on subsutural ramp)
P1 :	Shoulder cord
P2-P6 :	Primary cords of the convex part of the teleoconch whorl
s1-s6 :	secondary cords of the convex part of the teleoconch whorl
example:	s1 = secondary cord between P1 and P2; s2 = secondary cord between P2 and P3, etc.
ADP :	adapertural primary cord on the siphonal canal
MP :	median primary cord on the siphonal canal
ABP :	abapertural primary cord on the siphonal canal
ads :	adapertural secondary cord on the siphonal canal
ms :	median secondary cord on the siphonal canal
abs :	abapertural secondary cord on the siphonal canal
eabs :	extreme abapertural secondary cord on the siphonal canal
Example:	eabs1 = secondary cord between EABP and EABP1

#### APERTURE

ID:	Infrasutural denticle
D1 to D6:	Abapical denticles

#### Abbreviations

BMNH: Natural History Museum, London, U.K.  
IRSNB: Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium.  
MNHN: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France.  
JC: Collection of Jacques Colomb, Marseille, France.  
RH: Collection of Roland Houart.  
SG: Collection of Sando Gori.

#### SYSTEMATICS

Family MURICIDAE Rafinesque, 1815  
Subfamily MURICOPSINAE Radwin & D'Attilio, 1971  
Genus *Favartia* Jousseaume, 1880  
Type species by original designation: *Murex breviculus* Sowerby, 1834, Recent, Indo-West Pacific.

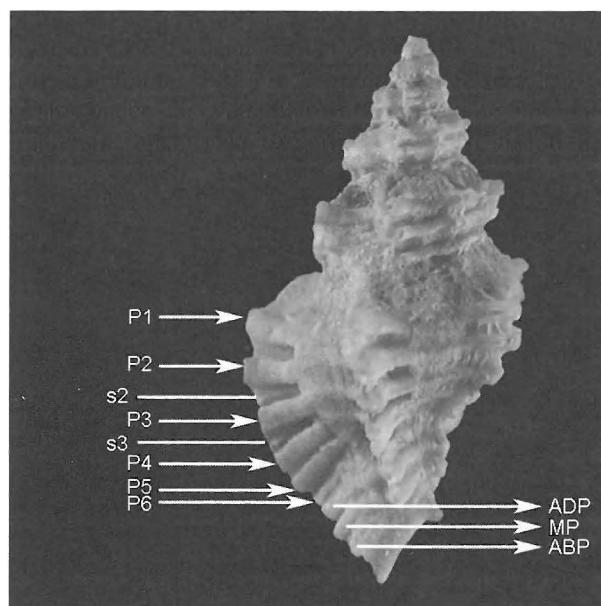
*Favartia (Favartia) colombi* n. sp.  
Figs 1, 2-6, 27

*Pygmaeapterys yemenensis* – Bosch et al. 1995: 120, fig. 478.

**Type material.** Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, 20°29'42" N, 58°57'029" E, 21 m, on coarse sand, holotype IRSNB IG 31676/ MT 2316.

Paratypes: Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, 20°29'42" N, 58°57'029" E, 21 m, on coarse sand, 1 MNHN 23206; Sur Masirah, east of Masirah Island, 1 m, low tide, under stones, 1 BMNH 20100521; Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, 20°39'504" N, 58°52'138" E, 21 m, on sand 4 RH, 7 SG; Masirah Island, 2 m, 1 JC, 1 RH.

**Other material examined.** Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, 20°32'895" N, 58°57'420" E, 13 m, on sand (8 SG, 2 RH); Masirah Island (3 JC); Masirah Island, 2 m (2 JC); Sur Masirah, east of Masirah, 1 m, low tide, under stones (15 JC); North of Muscat, Mina al Fahl, 24-30 m, dredged, sand and mud (4 RH).



**Figure 1.** Terminology of the spiral sculpture morphology in *Favartia colombi* n. sp.

**Distribution.** Oman, north of Muscat and Masirah Island.

**Description.** Shell medium-sized for the genus, up to 16.5 mm in height at maturity. Height/width ratio 1.63-1.93:1. Slender, lanceolate, shoulder weakly sloping, weakly concave.

Greyish-white or tan with lighter colored primary spiral cords. Aperture light brown within.

Spire high with 1.6 protoconch whorls and teleoconch up to 5 weakly angular, strongly shouldered whorls. Suture impressed, partially obscured by third primary spiral cord (P3) of previous whorl. Protoconch small. Whorls with a single strong but narrow adapical keel. Terminal lip thin, erect, weakly curved.

Axial sculpture of teleoconch whorls consisting of prominent, narrow varices, each with short, scabrous, open spinelets decreasing in strength and length abapically, connected to each other with scabrous flange. Nine varices from first to third teleoconch whorl, decreasing to 6-8 on fourth whorl and 4 or 5 on last whorl. Spiral sculpture of high, strong, narrow, smooth primary cords and occasionally very narrow secondary cords. First and second whorls with visible P1 and P2 or P1-P3. Third and fourth whorls of juvenile specimens with P1, P2, s2, P3, P4, P5, P6, ADP and MP. Fifth whorl with P1, (s1), P2, s2, P3, (s3), P4, P5, s5, P6, (s6), ADP, MP, ABP. Shoulder ramp smooth except for axial varices. P1-P4 almost similar in size and strength, P4 and P5 close to each other, P5 weakly narrower, P6 narrower spiral cord, almost half the size of P1-P4; ADP and MP broad. Primary cords more obvious on adapertural part of varices. Secondary cords very narrow, only obvious on varices.

Aperture moderately small, ovate. Columellar lip narrow, smooth, rim partially erect at abapical extremity, otherwise adherent. Anal notch shallow, broad. Outer lip weakly erect, weakly crenulated, with weak, elongate denticles within: ID, D1 or D1 split, D2 split, D3 split, D4 and D5. ID very low, D1 low, D2-D5 increasing in strength abapically. Siphonal canal short, 23-29% of total shell height, narrow, weakly dorsally recurved at tip, narrowly open, with 2 or 3 short scabrous spines originating from ADP, MP and ABP. ADP broadest.

Operculum and radula unknown.

**Remarks.** Other *Favartia* s.s. species occur in the western Indian Ocean, mostly along the East African coast, up to Somalia and the Red Sea. The species most similar to *F. colombi* n. sp. are *Favartia* (*Favartia*) *cecalupoi* Bozzetti, 1993, *F. cyclostoma* (Sowerby, 1841), *F. nucula* (Reeve, 1845), *F. peasei* (Tryon, 1880), *F. rosamiae* D'Attilio & Myers, 1985 and *F. sykesi* (Preston, 1904).

*Favartia cecalupoi* (Fig. 13) from Somalia differs in many respects i.e. the protoconch which consists of 2 smooth bulbous whorls. The shell is more rounded with a broader last teleoconch whorl, the varices are

lower and the spiral cords are more numerous. *F. cyclostoma* is larger relative to the number of teleoconch whorls, the shell is also much broader with a rounded paucispiral protoconch of 1.5 whorls. *F. nucula*, *F. rosamiae*, *F. peasei* and *F. sykesi* differ in many respects such as breadth and height of the shell, axial and spiral sculpture and mainly by having different protoconch whorls, small, rounded and paucispiral in *F. nucula* and *F. peasei*, conical and multispiral in *F. rosamiae* (Figs 14, 32) and *F. sykesi*.

*Favartia* (*Pygmaepterys*) *paulboschi* Smythe & Houart, 1984 (Figs 15-16, 28), another *Favartia* species from Oman differs in having a relatively narrower shell vs its height, broader and flat primary spiral cords, fewer or absence of secondary cords, narrower varices with more adapically recurved shoulder spine, and relatively shorter and broader siphonal canal.

*Favartia* (*F.*) *colombi* was also confused with, and wrongly identified as *F.* (*P.*) *yemenensis* Houart & Wranik, 1989 (Figs 17-18, 29) (Houart, in litt.) which also has a keeled protoconch, and therefore was also illustrated as *Pygmaepterys yemenensis* in Bosch et al. (1995: 120). However, *F. yemenensis* differs from *F. colombi* n. sp. in having a more angular and broader shell with higher and narrower varices, in having a comparatively broader aperture, a longer siphonal canal and more numerous secondary spiral cords.

*Favartia* (*Pygmaepterys*) *adenensis* (Fig. 19) also occur in this area but is very different and does not need to be compared here.

**Etymology.** *colombi*: Named after Jacques Colomb (Marseille, France) who collected several specimens of the new species in Masirah, together with the junior author.

#### *Favartia* (*Favartia*) *roseotincta* n.sp. Figs 7-12, 30

**Type material.** Oman, Masirah, Ras Al Ya, 20°39'504" N, 58°52'138" E, 21 m, on sand, holotype MNHN 23205

Paratypes: 3 RH, 3 SG.

**Distribution.** Oman, Masirah Island.

**Description.** Shell small for the genus, up to 8.3 mm in length at maturity. Height/width ratio 1.66 – 1.86:1, biconical, narrow, weakly spinose. Shoulder strongly sloping, weakly convex.

Pinkish white or light pink, occasionally with white varices and white siphonal canal. Aperture pink within, surrounded with white on columellar lip outer rim and outer apertural lip.

Spire high with 1.5 protoconch whorls and teleoconch up to 5 weakly convex, angular, strongly shouldered whorls. Suture impressed. Protoconch small, elongate, whorls rounded, last whorl strongly elongate. Terminal lip eroded.

Axial sculpture of teleoconch whorls consisting of high, strong, narrow varices, each with short, broad, blunt, open primary spines. First whorl with 8 varices, second to fourth with 8 or 9 varices, last whorl with 4 varices. Varices of last whorl broader and more distant from each other than in other whorls, with a large gap between third and fourth (apertural) varices, almost twice the distance between second and third varices. Spiral cords from first to penultimate teleoconch whorl of high, narrow, smooth primary cords. First and second whorls with visible P1 and P2, or P1-P3, P3 partially covered with next whorl, third and fourth whorl with visible P1-P3, P3 still partially covered by next whorl. Last whorl with IP, P1-P5, (s5), P6, (s6), ADP, MP. IP only weakly visible on axial varices, P1-P3 almost of same strength, P3 occasionally narrower, P4-P6 decreasing in strength abapically, P4 and P5 high, broad, P6 very small, almost obsolete, occasionally preceded by almost obsolete s5. Aperture small, ovate, columellar lip narrow, smooth, lip partially erect, adherent on shell at 30-40% of adapical extremity. Anal notch moderately broad. Outer lip erect, with weak elongate, narrow denticles within: ID (split), D1 split, D2 (split), D3, D4, D5. Siphonal canal short, narrow, strongly dorsally recurved at tip, narrowly open, with ADP and MP giving rise to short, open, blunt spines. Operculum and radula unknown.

**Remarks.** A few species of *Favartia* have an elongate and narrow shell such as observed in *F. roseotincta* n. sp., namely *F. flexirostris* (Melvill, 1898), *F. guamensis* Emerson & D'Attilio, 1979, *F. iredalei* Ponder, 1972, *F. jeanae* Bertsch & D'Attilio, 1980 and *F. peregrina* (Olivera, 1980).

*Favartia flexirostris* (Figs 20, 31) which also occurs in Oman, differs from *F. roseotincta* n. sp. by many shell characters, namely in having a rounded, globose protoconch (Fig. 31), more rounded teleoconch whorls with a globose last whorl and a

rounded aperture, numerous, broad, secondary spiral cords on the whole shell, and a longer, more strongly tapered siphonal canal.

*Favartia guamensis* differs also in many ways, namely by having a very different, conical protoconch of sinusigeral type, consisting of 3-3.5 whorls, denoting planktotrophic larval development. Its geographical distribution is therefore also much more expanded, ranging from off Mozambique (East Africa) to the Tuamotus (Central Pacific). Other differences are numerous such as the lower and broader spire whorls, the narrower and straighter shoulder ramp, the broader and more squamous primary spiral cords, the small, rounded aperture with a characteristic narrow, deep anal notch and the single spine (ADP) on the narrower siphonal canal.

*Favartia iredalei* (Fig. 21) from Lord Howe Island, NSW, Australia and West Sumatra also has a different protoconch of 1.5 rounded whorls. It differs also in having a less sloping and narrower shoulder ramp with IP, or adis and IP, and in having more squamous primary cords and obvious secondary cords on the convex part of the last teleoconch whorl.

Both *F. jeanae* and *F. peregrina* from the Philippines also differ in having a different larval development, denoted by their conical, multisprial protoconch of 3-3.5 whorls and a terminal lip of sinusigeral type. The shell morphology of *F. jeanae* is close to *F. roseotincta* n.sp but besides the protoconch differences, the shell differs in having a comparatively higher spire, narrower primary spiral cords, obvious adis and IP on the shoulder ramp, and a narrower, tapered siphonal canal.

*Favartia peregrina* differs in many ways and does not need to be compared further here.

Another species from Elat (Red Sea), was named *Favartia elatensis* Emerson & D'Attilio, 1979 but it actually turned out to be a *Murexsul* species (Houart, 1994, Merle & Houart, 2003) and differs from *F. roseotincta* in many respects.

## Figures 2-22

### 2-6. *Favartia (Favartia) colombi* n. sp.

2-3. Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, 20°29'42" N, 58°57'029" E, 21 m, holotype IRSNB IG 31676/ MT 2316, 15.6 mm; 4-5. Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, 20°39'504" N, 58°52'138" E, 21 m, paratype RH, 12 mm; 6. Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, 20°29'42" N, 58°57'029" E, 21 m, paratype MNHN 23206

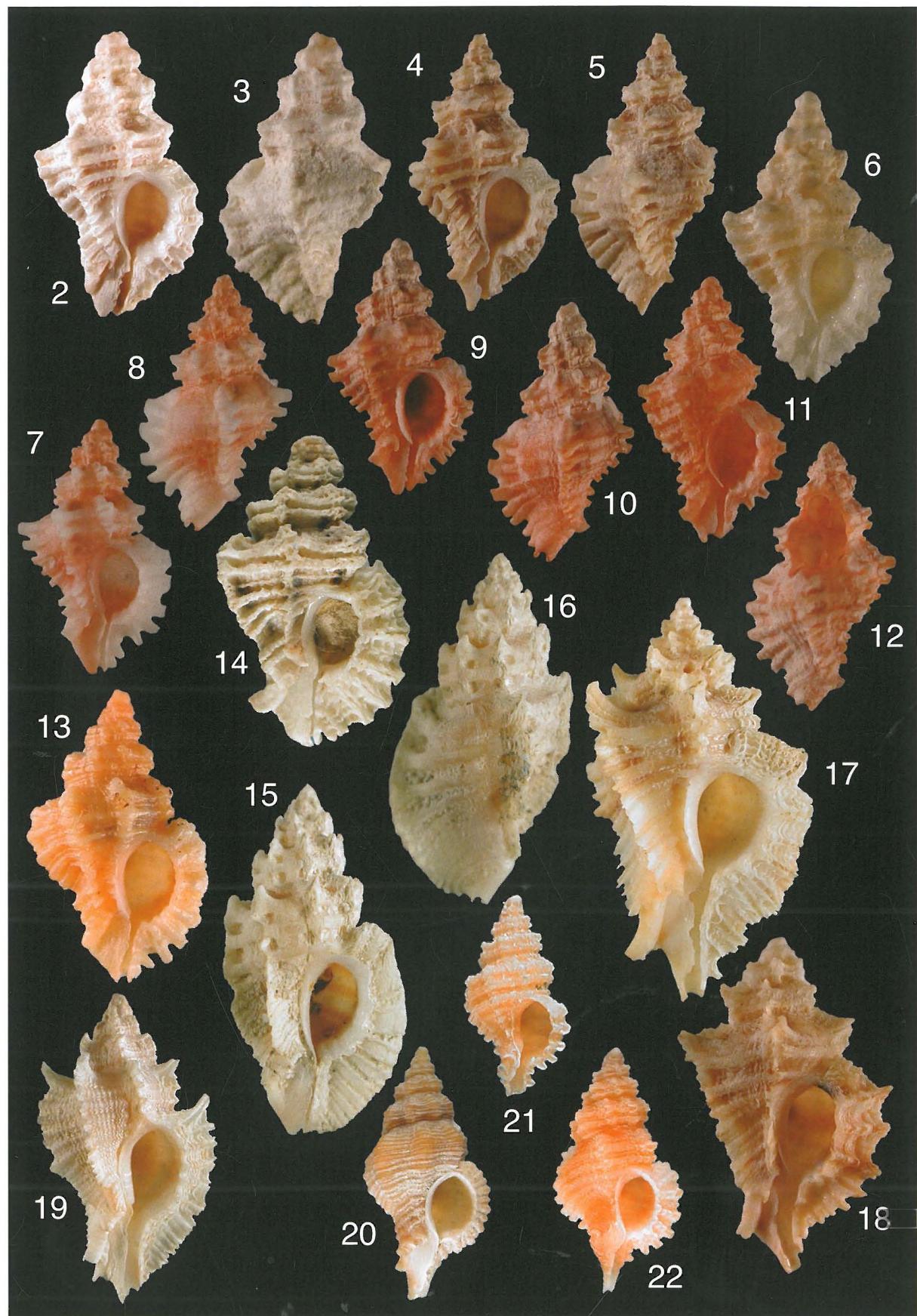
7-12. *Favartia (Favartia) roseotincta* n. sp., Oman, Masirah, Ras Al Ya, 20°39'504" N, 58°52'138" E, 21 m.

7-8. Holotype MNHN 23205, 8.3 mm; 9-10. Paratype SG, 8.2 mm; 11-12. Paratype RH, 8.1 mm.

13. *Favartia (F.) cecalupoi* Bozzetti, 1993, Ras Hafun, Somalia, SG, 12.4 mm; 14. *Favartia (F.) rosamiae* D'Attilio & Myers, 1985, Seychelles, RH, 15.6 mm; 15-16. *Favartia (F.) paulboschi* Smythe & Houart, 1984, Dhuwah, Masirah, Oman, paratype RH, 17 mm; 17-18. *Favartia (Pygmaepterys) yemenensis* (Houart & Wranik, 1989); 17. Gulf of Aden, RH, 23 mm; 18. Oman, Masirah Island, Ras Al Ya, SG, 16.7 mm; 19.

*Favartia (P.) adenensis* (Houart & Wranik, 1989), Gulf Of. Aden, PDR Yemen, paratype RH, 15.4 mm; 20.

*Favartia (F.) flexirostris* (Melvill, 1898), Oman, N Of. Muscat, RH, 11.3 mm; 21. *Favartia (F.) iredalei* Ponder, 1972, Australia, NSW, Lord Howe Island, RH, 6.1 mm; 22. *Favartia (F.) jeanae* Bertsch & D'Attilio, 1980, Philippines, Cebu, RH, 8.5mm.

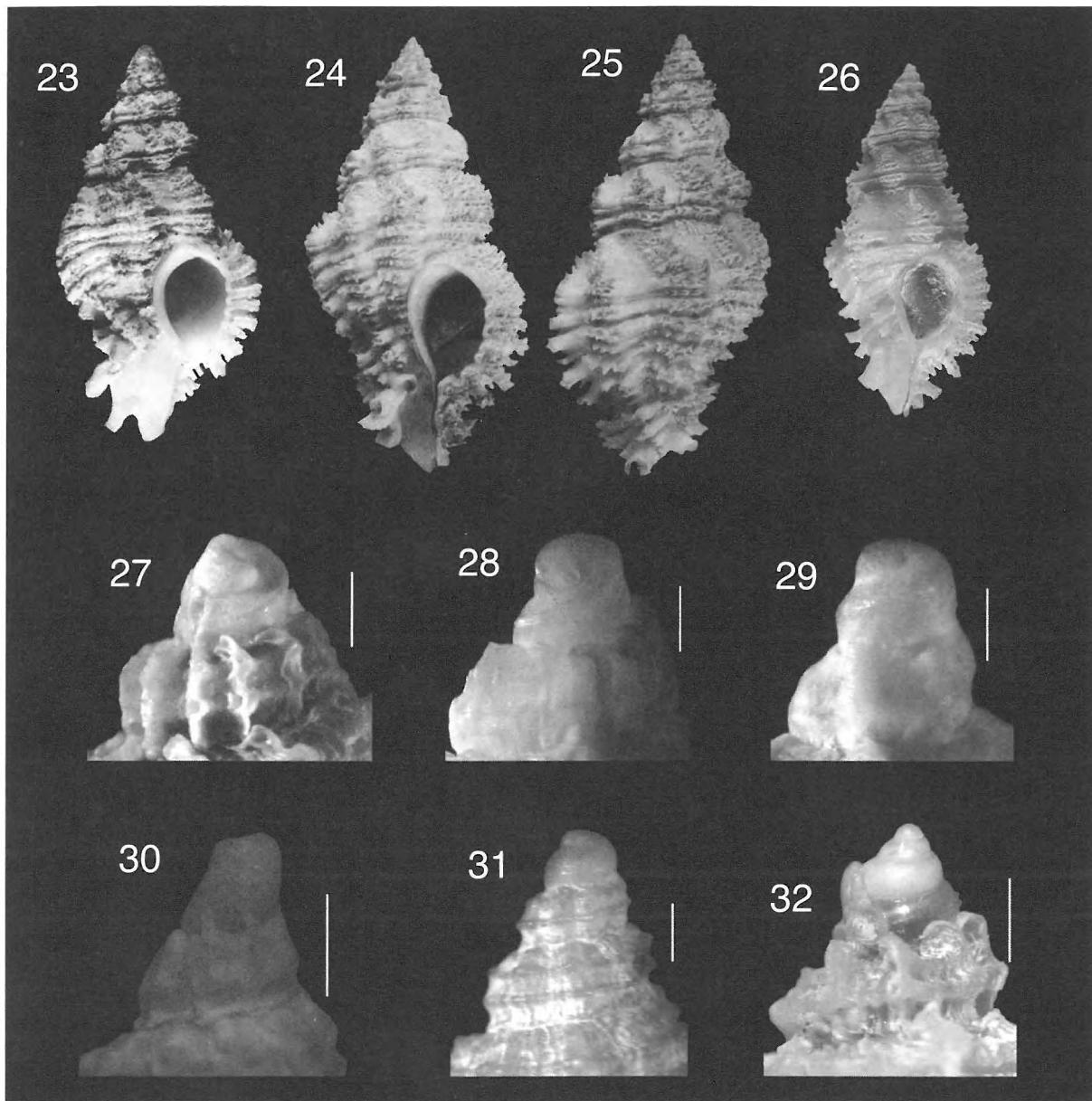


*Favartia colombi* n.sp. described above as occurring in the same area differs in being larger with a similar number of teleoconch whorls, in having a different protoconch morphology (Figs 27 vs 30) and in having more numerous secondary spiral cords.

The variable spacing between penultimate and last (apertural) varix is an unusual feature observed in *F. roseotincta*. Such unusual cases of a distinct larger

gap between these two varices are seen in two other muricopsine species: *Favartia rosamiae* (Fig. 14) and *F. varimutabilis* Houart, 1991 from the Lesser Antilles and southeastern Brazil.

**Etymology.** *roseotincta* (L): Named for its color which is reminiscent of a beautiful pink and white rose.



**Figures 23-32**

**23-25.** *Favartia (Favartia) marjoriae* (Melvill & Standen, 1903)

**23.** Persian Gulf, Sheikh Shuaib Island, 15 fms (27 m), syntype BMNH 1903.11.5.18.19, 27.5 mm.; **24-25.** Persian Gulf, IRSNB IG 10591, 29 mm.

**26.** *Favartia maculata* (Reeve, 1845), Thailand, Phuket Island, RH, 18.7 mm.

**27-32.** Protoconchs (scale bars 0.5 mm)

**27.** *Favartia (Favartia) colombi* n.sp (RH); **28.** *Favartia (Pygmaepterys) paulboschi* (RH); **29.** *Favartia (P.) yemenensis* (SG); **30.** *Favartia (F.) roseotincta* n. sp. (SG); **31.** *Favartia (F.) flexirostris* (RH); **32.** *Favartia (F.) rosamiae* (RH).

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