

*Graphis barashi* spec. nov. (Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Aclididae),  
a new species from the Eastern Mediterranean

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*Graphis barashi* spec. nov. is described from Turkey and compared with the well-known *Graphis albida* and other, also Indopacific, congeneric species. *Graphis farolita* (Nordsieck, 1969) is synonymized with *G. albida*.

Key words: Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Ptenoglossa, Aclididae, taxonomy, *Graphis*, Mediterranean.

Only very few species of the genus *Graphis* Jeffreys, 1867, are known. This may be due to the very small dimensions of these shells. But, on the other hand, the best known European species, *Graphis albida* (Kanmacher, 1798), type of the genus, was already known over two centuries ago. Good figures of *G. albida* are given by Fretter & Graham (1982: 404, 405, figs 289, 290), Giribet & Peñas (1997: 69, figs 32-34) and Ardovini & Cossignani (1999: 76). It is figured here again for comparison (figs 3, 4).

In the east Atlantic and Mediterranean there are two other species which are usually considered to belong to the genus *Graphis*, viz. *G. gracilis* (Monterosato, 1874 [ex Jeffreys MS]) and *G. striata* (Jeffreys, 1884). These are species from deeper water and are so unlike *G. albida* that I doubt their generic placement. Figures of *G. gracilis* are given by Cecalupo & Giusti (1989: 101, fig. 8) as well as by Ardovini & Cossignani (1999: 76). *G. striata* is practically unknown but Warén (1980: 28) suggests that it is much like *G. gracilis*.

*Aclis* (*Graphis*) *farolita* Nordsieck, 1969, is nothing more than a form of *Graphis albida* as evidenced by a study of the holotype in the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Several years ago I collected a species of *Graphis* along the Turkish coast which is much like *G. albida* but with essential differences. This species seems to be unknown and I therefore describe it below.

*Graphis barashi* spec. nov. (figs 1, 2)

Shell very slender, consisting of five to six somewhat convex whorls and about two whorls that form the pointed apex of the shell. These embryonic whorls are smooth, whereas the teleoconch whorls show axial as well as somewhat weaker spiral ribs. There are twenty to twenty-five axial ribs. The spirals number eight to ten and are very faint to absent on the adapical part of the whorls. This sculpture is only vaguely present on the base of the shell. The aperture is entire and oval, measuring one fifth of the total height of the shell.

Measurements: height 1.50-2.00 mm, breadth 0.46-0.54 mm. Holotype: 2.00 x 0.52 mm.

Material (holotype and paratypes).— Type locality, Viransehir (Casino Soli), 10 km W. Mersin, Turkey: National Museum of Natural History, No. 92245/holotype, 92246/1; Van Aartsen Colln, No. 28513a-g/11. Akkum, 75 km W. Mersin, Turkey: Van Aartsen Colln, No. 22044a/1. Herzliyya, Israel: W. Engel colln, Düsseldorf/1.

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**Etymology.**— The species is named after my late friend prof. dr. Alexander Barash from Tel Aviv, Israel, in appreciation for many years of cooperation.

**Discussion.**— *Graphis barashi* spec. nov. differs from *G. albida* by a higher number of ribs and a more cylindrical shell which seems to be slightly smaller. Above all, however, *G. barashi* has a much more pointed protoconch as can be seen by comparing fig. 2 (*G. barashi*) and fig. 4 (*G. albida*). In the same way *Graphis barashi* differs from the South African *G. africana* (Bartsch, 1915), which is more like *G. albida*.

From the years in which these specimens are found (1986-2001) it is seen that we are not dealing with a recent immigrant species. It is therefore likely that *G. barashi* belongs to the indigenous fauna of the Mediterranean. On the other hand it cannot be excluded that *G. barashi* is an Indopacific migrant species as many such species were found at the type locality, even during the first collecting year 1986. However, no *Graphis* species are known from the Red Sea according to Dekker & Orlin (2000: 33). Moolenbeek, in Dance (1995: 111, fig. 444) mentions an unidentified species of *Graphis* which shows the same type of blunt protoconch as *G. albida*, thus differing from *G. barashi*.

Two more *Graphis* species are mentioned from Japan by Hasegawa, in Okutani (2000: 687, pl. 342) viz. *G. infans* (Laseron, 1951), which again has a blunt protoconch, and *G. tenuissima* (Hedley, 1909), which shares the pointed embryonic whorls with *G. barashi*. However, *G. tenuissima* does not show any spiral sculpture and thus differs from *G. barashi*.

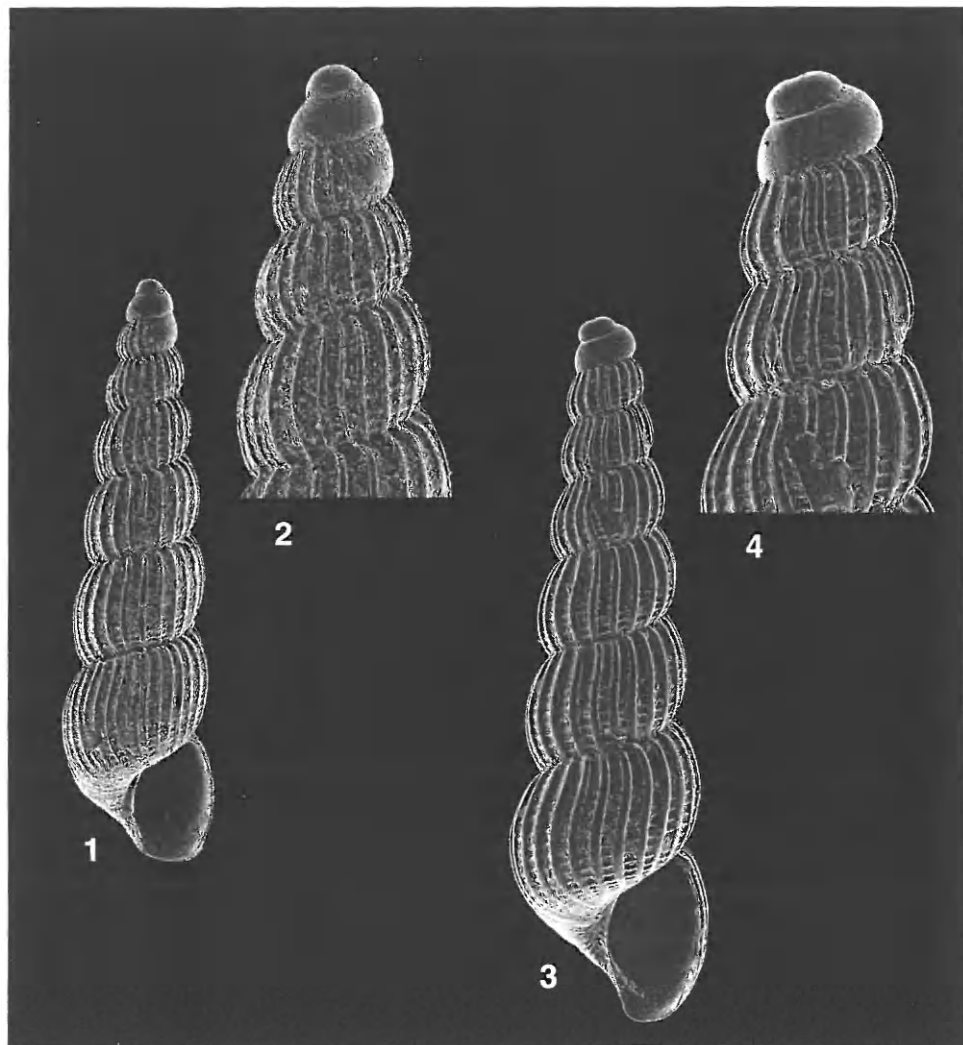
It remains to be mentioned that both at the type locality as well as at Akkum and Herzliyya *G. barashi* and *G. albida* have been found together.

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Figs 1-4. *Graphis* spec. from Viransehir, Turkey. 1, 2, *Graphis barashi* spec. nov., holotype; front view,  $2.00 \times 0.52$  mm [1] and protoconch magnified [2]. 3, 4, *Graphis albida* (Kanmacher, 1798); front view,  $2.50 \times 0.68$  mm [3] and protoconch magnified [4].