

TWO FORMS OF *CHICOREUS CORRUGATUS* (SOWERBY, 1841)

Heiman E.L.\*) &amp; Mienis H.K.\*\*)

**Abstract:** Adult shells of *Chicoreus corrugatus* from the Gulf of Aqaba are characterized by the existence of at least two forms: a relatively smooth form with short spines and a form with long (sometimes very long) frondose spines. A proportion of these two forms in populations of this species is not known and it is difficult to say, which of the two forms is typical; this issue is under study.

**Key words:** Mollusca, Gastropoda, Muricidae, *Chicoreus corrugatus*, Red Sea, intraspecific variation.

*Chicoreus corrugatus* (Sowerby, 1841) is found in the Gulf of Aqaba mainly by divers in deeper water and seems to be never found beached. Two main forms of the species are known: a form with relatively short spines, which we call here the 'smooth' form, and shells with long frondose but sharp spines.

As with many other forms there are shells with intermediate characters i. e. shells with spines more produced than in the smooth form but not so long as in the other form.

The exact proportion of these forms is not yet known so it is hardly possible to say, which of these forms is typical for the species; this issue is under study now. We are also still looking for a clue what is causing the differences in shell form.

1-2. *C. corrugatus*, East Sinai, smooth form; 34.5mm.

3-4. Intermediate form; East Sinai; 46 mm (left), 51.9 mm



5-7. Long spined form; 63 mm (left), 64.1 mm (middle), 65.8mm. East Sinai.

\*) heimel@netvision.net.il

\*\*) National Natural History Collections, Berman Building, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IL-91904 Jerusalem, Israel, and National Collections of Natural History, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, IL-69978 Tel Aviv, Israel.  
E-mail address: mienis@netzer.org.il