

Florence V. Murray

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The Animal of *Austroginella Johnstoni* (Petterd)

By FLORENCE V. MURRAY, M.Sc.

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THE ANIMAL OF *AUSTROGINELLA JOHNSTONI* (Petterd).

By FLORENCE V. MURRAY, M.Sc.*

(Text fig. 1-2.)

Marginella johnstoni Petterd, 1884, *J. Conch.*, 4, p. 143.

Adult shell: 7 mm. to 10 mm. in length.

Living specimens of this species were located by Mr. C. E. Collinson near McCrae, Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, during a field day organized by the Malacological Society of Australia on 29/3/1959. Just beyond low water, they were inhabiting an area which extended east-west for at least a mile, and were thickly populated in some places but sparse in others. Some were on the surface, but mostly they could be found by feeling for them at the end of their six-to-eight-inch long tracks, or by screening the sand with a small handsieve. They were extremely lively, quickly climbing out of the collection jars; some kept for observations lived for six weeks in a small petri dish of sea-water and sand changed only several times.

The animal is pale cream in colour when contracted, but translucent in extension, with dark brown, orange, yellow and white pigmentation.

The foot, when fully expanded, measures 17 mm. x 12 mm. (shell 10 mm. x 6 mm.), and generally resembles a lace mat (text fig. 1). It is furrowed anteriorly, semi-transparent, and dappled with large groups of white spots interspersed with smaller groups of orange or yellow spots.

The mantle is thin, transparent, smooth, and splashed with dark brown, orange and white, the latter predominating. It completely envelops the shell, encroaching in three distinct lobes as indicated in text fig. 1. The left and largest lobe passes over the top of the body whorl and meets the smaller anterior right lobe well over on the right side; the posterior right lobe wraps round the apex, covers the spire and extends up and over the back of the body whorl to meet the other two lobes, the margins of the three lobes always meeting in the same positions.

The siphon is held erect, and when fully outstretched reaches 5 mm. in length. Tubular in shape, it gapes widely down the ventral line; it is bright orange or yellow at the anterior end, otherwise mainly white speckled with dark brown.

The head and tentacles are transparent, the latter having a central core harbouring pigment specks. Conspicuous black eyes are situated in swellings at the outer bases of the tentacles.

A retractile, tubular proboscis (text fig. 2) emerges from the under part of the head, just above the sole of the foot, and swings round to protrude from behind the right tentacle. It gropes about, changes shape, and is capable of extending nearly half-way down the body. On the slightest disturbance it quickly contracts back into the mouth opening.

Male animals have a large penis (text fig. 2) coming from the right side of the head.

*Gaynor Court, Malvern, Victoria, Australia.

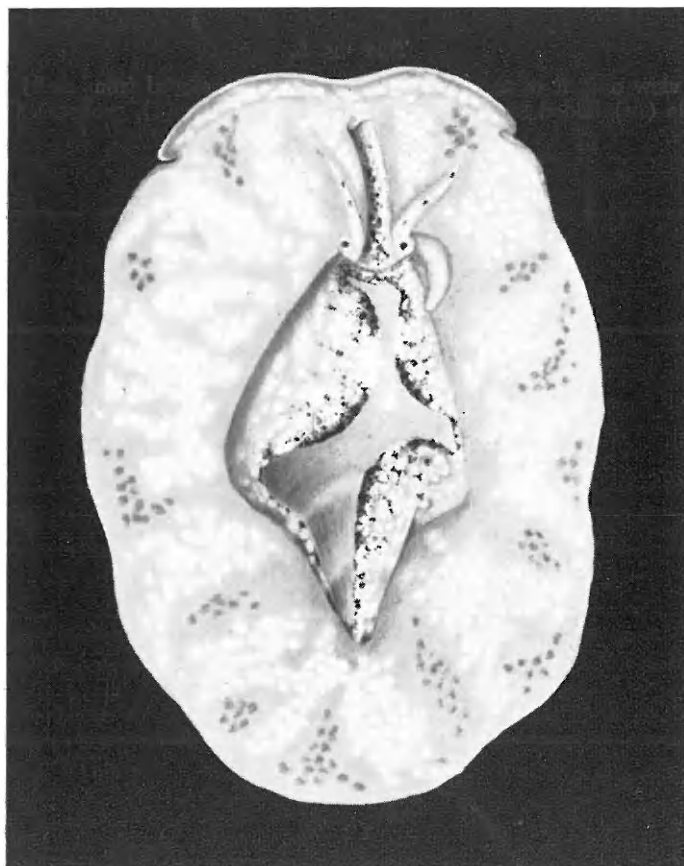
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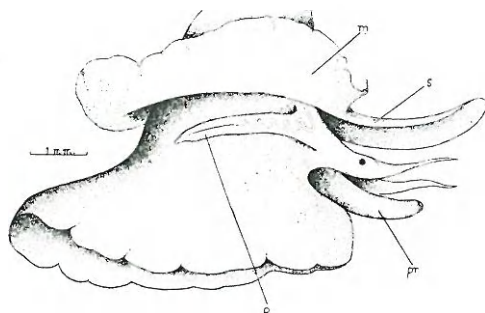
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Austroginella johnstoni (Petterd).



Text fig. 1.

Dorsal view of living animal with foot expanded, mantle encroaching over the shell, and proboscis protruding. Actual size of shell: 10 mm. x 6 mm.



Text fig. 2.

Side view of part of the body of male animal (removed from shell) with mantle (m) folded back to expose penis (p), siphon (s), proboscis (pr.).