The Trumpet of Hazor – correspondence

With reference to the note on 'The Trumpet of Hazor' (*The Conchologists' Newsletter* No. 155) the following contribution was gratefully received from member Henk K. Mienis, Curator, National Mollusc Collection, Hebrew University, Jerusalem:

> 'Concerning the identity of the trumpet: in my opinion we are dealing here with a specimen from the Mediterranean Sea and not from the Red Sea. All the specimens from the Red Sea in our collection are characterized by the presence of a flaring outer lip. This feature is even present in quite young individuals. The Red Sea species is *Charonia tritonis tritonis* (Linnaeus, 1758). Mediterranean specimens have a more constricted aperture and belong to *Charonia tritonis variegata* (Lamarck, 1816). Like the one from Hazor. For a revision of the genus *Charonia* I refer to the many works by Alan Beu.'

Fred Pinn

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Blister pearls in *Diplodonta rotundata*

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The well-known bivalve species *Diplodonta rotundata* (Montagu, 1803) (Fam. Ungulinidae) has to be considered an offshore species along the Mediterranean coast of Israel. Living specimens have been dredged from mud bottoms at a depth of 51–69 metres, while empty shells and loose valves were hauled from depths between 9 and 183 metres (Barash & Danin, 1992: 265). Only occasionally a valve is found in beach drift.

A check of the *Diplodonta* samples present in the National Mollusc Collection of the Tel Aviv University (TAU) revealed the presence of an interesting specimen dredged from a depth of 56 metres off Haifa on 29 April 1968 (TAU NS 3258). It is a complete specimen, most probably collected alive, with a length of 12mm. The interesting feature of this specimen is the fact that in both valves a small but conspicuous blister pearl is situated near the edge of the shell at about the spot where the ventral margin merges into the posterior margin.

The pearl in the left valve is slightly larger than the one in the right valve. At the spot where the pearl formation has developed both valves show some irregularities at the ventral margin: several former edges are separated from each other by numerous sand grains. Most probably a sand grain has also triggered the pearl formations.

As far as I know this record constitutes the first report of blister pearl formation in *Diplodonta rotundata*.

Reference

Barash, A. & Danin, Z., 1992. *Fauna Palaestina Mollusca I – Annotated list of Mediterranean molluscs of Israel and Sinai*. 405 pp, 372 figs. The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jerusalem.

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