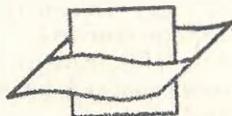


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SOME MARINE SHELLS FROM THE PERSIAN GULF

By Dr. F. HAAS (Chicago)

Chicago Natural History Museum has received recently a small collection of marine shells which were collected by Mr. Ronald Codrai, from January to July 1953, at Dubai, on the Trucial coast of Oman. Dubai, also written Dibai or Dabai on various maps, is situated south of Sharja, at about 25° 10' North Latitude and 53° 20' East Longitude. Dr. Henry Field of Coconut Grove, Fla., presented us with the collection mentioned above which is his second contribution to our knowledge of the molluskan fauna of the Persian Gulf (see Haas, 1952). The species contained in this second collection are listed here:

Diodora funiculata (Reeve)
Haliotis (*Sanhaliotis*) *planata* Sowerby
Trochus (*Infundibulops*) *cariniferus* Beck
Trochus (*Infundibulops*) *erythraeus* Beck
Thalotia (*Thalotia*) *kotschyi* (Philippi)
Umbonium (*Umbonium*) *vestiarium* (Linnaeus)
Turbo (*Marmorostoma*) *radiatus* Gmelin
Nerita (*Theliostyla*) *plexa* Chemnitz

- Turritella (Haustator) maculata* Reeve
Cerithidea (Cerithideopsis) fluviatilis (Potiez & Michaud)
Clava fasciata (Bruguère)
Clypeomorus clypeomorus Jousseaume
Calyptraea (Crucibulum) violacea (Carpenter)
Canarium (Conomurex) luhuanum mauritianum (Lamarck)
Polinices (Neverita) ampla (Gmelin)
Polinices (Polinices) mamilla (Linnaeus)
Erosaria (Erosaria) turdus turdus (Linnaeus)
Niotha albescens splendidula (Dunker)
Niotha clathratula (A. Adams)
Fusus (Fusus) colus colus (Linnaeus)
Oliva (Carmione) inflata Lamarck
Oliva (Oliva) ispidula (Linnaeus)
Ancilla (Ancilla) cinnamomea Lamarck
Cylinder pennaceus (Born)
Bulla (Bulla) ampulla (Linnaeus)
Arca (Arca) uropygmelana Bory de St. Vincent
Arca (Barbatia) fusca Bruguère
Arca (Acar) plicata Chemnitz
Glycymeris (Glycymeris) taylori (Anags)
Glycymeris (Pectunculus) nodosus (Reeve)
Glycymeris (Pectunculus) pectiniformis (Lamarck)
Pteria (Pinctada) inflata (Schumacher)
Pecten (Chlamys) senatorius Gmelin
Spondylus foliaceus Chemnitz
Ostrea (Lopha) crista-galli Linnaeus
Cardita (Cardita) bicolor Lamarck
Codakia (Jagonia) fibula (Reeve)
Laevicardium (Trachycardium) flavum (Linnaeus)
Erronea (Erronea) caurica caurica (Linnaeus)
Mauritia (Arabica) arabica arabica (Linnaeus)
Notocypraea pulicaria (Reeve)
Semicassis (Semicassis) pila (Reeve)
Cymatium ranzanii (Bianconi)
Pyrula papyratia reticulata Lamarck
Murex (Murex) ternispina Lamarck
Chicoreus (Chicoreus) anguliferus Lamarck
Drupa (Morula) concatenata (Lamarck)
Mancinella (Mancinella) intermedia (Kiener)
Mitrella (Mitrella) blanda (Sowerby)
Lampusia pilearis (Linnaeus)
Rapana bulbosa (Solander)
Bullia (Bullia) mauritiana Gray
Nassa (Nassa) pullus (Linnaeus)
Lioconcha callipyga (Born)
Gafrarium (Circe) lenticulare (Deshayes)

Gafrarium (Circe) scriptum (Linnaeus)
Sunetta (Sunetta) scripta (Linnaeus)
Dosinia (Dosinidia) contracta Philippi
Dosinia (Dosinidia) laminata (Reeve)
Venus (Chione) lilacina Lamarck
Mactra (Mactra) grandis Gmelin
Mactra (Mactra) lilacea jickelii Weinkauff
Asaphis (Asaphis) deflorata (Linnaeus)
Angulus (Homala) triradiatus (H. Adams)

Thalotia (Thalotia) kotschyi (Philippi) is the only species endemic in the Persian Gulf that is represented in the collection.

Haliotis (Sanhaliotis) planata Sowerby. The only specimen of what I think is this species differs in various respects from the original description as well as from the specimen of *planata* at hand, which comes from the Philippine Islands (Chicago Natural History Museum no. 32896). It is much larger, 110 mm. against about 45 mm. for typical *planata*; furthermore, it is by no means flat, its height being 27.5 mm. However, the pattern of the surface sculpture and the coloration of the upper side are in conformity with the indications given by Sowerby in his original diagnosis of *planata*. What induces me to believe that the shell from Dubai is identical with Sowerby's species is that its umbonal region, in fact the entire shell with the exception of the last half whorl, is very much flattened and that it therefore looks very much like a specimen of *planata*, measuring 45 mm. in length. It is, thus, conceivable that our Dubai specimen is really an adult *Haliotis planata*, such as, apparently, had never come to be known before. This is the second record from the Persian Gulf, the first having been published by Melvill (1928, p. 96).

Cymatium ranzanii (Bianconi). The specimen from Dubai resembles *C. tigrinum* (Broderip) from the Pacific coast of Central America in its triangular aperture. No similar species has ever been reported from the Indopacific Ocean; however, *C. ranzanii*, originally described from Mozambique, East Africa, looks very much like our specimen from the Persian Gulf, so that I, tentatively, identify the Dubai specimen as such. Bianconi's species seems to have been figured only once, by Tryon (1881, pl. 10, fig. 71) and to the best of my knowledge it has not been reported again.

Despite the many contributions toward our knowledge of the molluskan fauna of the Persian Gulf, mostly by Melvill alone or with associates, our knowledge of the littoral shells of that region is still very imperfect. The rather extensive literature on the mollusks of the region under consideration is to be found in Melvill's publication of 1928. It is strange that we should know comparatively more about the deepwater shells, obtainable only through dredging operations, than about the shore fauna, which can be collected without the use of instruments; nevertheless, this is the case.

Under these circumstances, even smaller collections, such as the one dealt with here, are of considerable importance, since they always help to increase our defective knowledge. This knowledge about the malacofauna of the Persian Gulf, as of today, does not yet allow the drawing of definite zoogeographical conclusions about the origin of the shell fauna of the region; all that can be said now is that the bulk of the Persian Gulf mollusks is of Indopacific origin, that a certain, not yet appreciable portion of this fauna is Erythrean, or from East Africa, and that but very, very few species are endemisms. The role which the many smaller deep-water shells described by Melvill and his associates play in this distribution, is not yet clear, since almost all of them are known only from the original finding and the original locality. This does not exclude, however, the possibility that in the future they may be found outside of the region we are concerned with.

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