

### **A malformed Bullmouth or Red Helmet shell *Cypraecassis rufa***

**Henk K. Mienis**

The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History and Israel National Center for  
Biodiversity Studies, Tel Aviv University, IL-6997801 Tel Aviv, Israel

[mienis@netzer.org.il](mailto:mienis@netzer.org.il)

#### **Een misvormde Stierenmond- of Rode Helmslak *Cypraecassis rufa***

Een afbeelding is gegeven van een vreemdgevormde schelp van een volwassen Stierenmond- of Rode Helmslak *Cypraecassis rufa* (Linnaeus, 1758), Fam. Cassidae.

From time to time we receive at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History a shipment of exotic shells which have been confiscated by the Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority. Most shells are large tropical species collected in the Philippines but exported by Chinese companies to tourist-outlets all over the world. Since the whole phylum Mollusca is protected by law in Israel only shipments accompanied with proper export and import licenses are allowed to enter Israel, all other shipments are confiscated by the INNPPA.

Among a large shipment of Bullmouth or Red Helmet shell *Cypraecassis rufa* (Linnaeus, 1758), Fam. Cassidae, which we received in this way, was a curious malformed specimen missing the two upper rows of the large knobs on the bodywhorl (Fig. 1). This malformation had probably been caused by an early damage to the shell.



Fig. 1: *Cypraecassis rufa* (Linnaeus, 1758). Upper row a normally developed adult shell, lower row a malformed adult shell missing the two upper rows of large knobs (Photograph: Oz Rittner)