

NEW FINDS.SCALA PUMICEA (BROCCHI, 1814) FOUND AT SHIKMONA.

by I. Yaron, Haifa.

A shell of Scala pumicea (Brocchi, 1814) was recently collected by the author on the beach at Shikmona, Haifa. The author is grateful to Drs. A. Barash and Z. Danin for identification of the species, and verification of the fact that this species was hitherto unknown in the Mediterranean fauna of Israel.

Principal synonyms: Scala varicosa Lamarck, Scala (Cirsostrema) cochlea Sowerby, Scalardia serrata Calcare, Scalardia pumicea Weinkauff, Cirsostrema (Cirsostremopsis) cochlea dalli (Rehder).

We quote the following extract from a description of the shell in Kobelt, Iconographie der Schalentragenden Europäische Meeresconchylen, Vol. 3., p. 33, Cassels, Weisbaden, 1887-1908:

"The shell is conical-turret like, thick, white or pale brown, opaque. The whorls are arranged stepwise, the apex frequently broken off. The whole shell probably has 11-13 whorls, but only 7 are usually found. The whorls are separated by a deep suture. Just below the suture the axial ribs (costae) are hollow, become flattish-convex, and again become hollow near the base. The spiral ribs are barely visible, except on the varices. The strong varices, descending from suture to suture, are irregularly spaced. Between the costae thin platelets divide the spaces into deep cell-like recessions. The body whorl carries a strong spiral cord which connects the varices. Below the cord there is a deep basal recession, also divided by platelets into small cells. The aperture is circular, almost

vertical. The outer lip is uninterrupted, white, thick, its external part rounded. At its junction with the inner lip there is a broad ear-like thickening."

Scala pumicea is found in the warm parts of the Atlantic ocean on both sides and rarely in the Mediterranean Sea. Sowerby collected his sample in Loanda, Guinea, and Boettger his - in Madeira. The "Lightning" and "Porcupine" Expedition dredged S. pumicea from Gibraltar. Pallary found them in Oran, Weinkauff at Cape Rose, Bona, and Monterosato in Sicily. Moersch reports that S. pumicea is encountered in the West Indies, and Dall - at Cape Hatteras.

Our specimen has 5 whorls and is 12 mm long. It is now deposited with the collection of the Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University.

Fig. 1. shows a drawing of our specimen of S. pumicea.

Fig. 2. reproduces illustrations of variations of S. pumicea (after Kobelt, loc. cit.).

מציאות חדשות: Scala pumicea (Brocchi, 1814) נמצאה בשקמונה  
מאת י. ירון, חיפה.

לאחרונה נמצאה בשקמונה קונכיה של Scala pumicea (Brocchi) המין הוגדר ע"י ד"ר א. ברש וד"ר צ. דנין, אשר אף בדקו ומצאו, כי מין זה שרם נודע בפאונה הים-תיכונית של חופי ישראל.

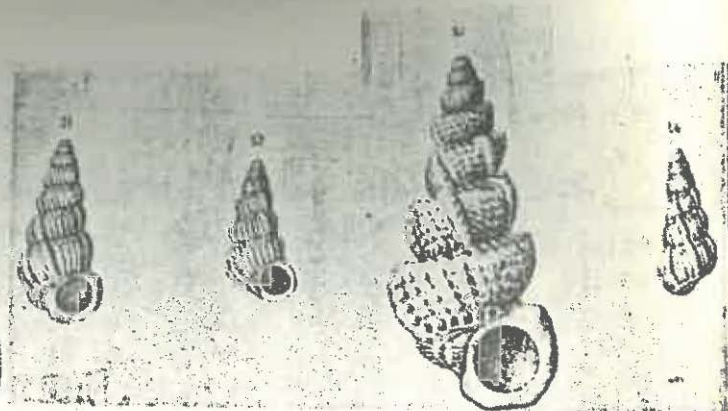
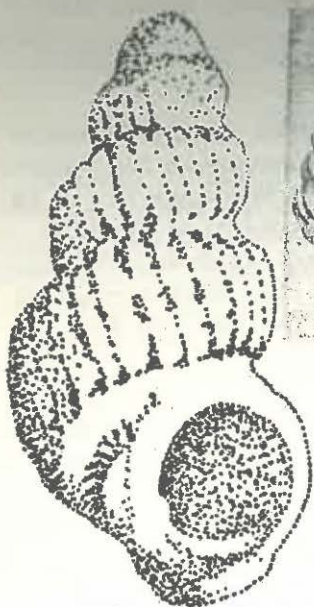


Fig. 2.

Fig. 1. (x 2.5)

I received your letter, telling me about the foundation of the Israel Malacological Society.

I congratulate the Israel zoologists on the courage to begin such a peaceful, non-political task as the study of mollusca is, in such perilous times of war, and I sincerely wish the Society success in its intention to promote the science of these animals which are of no practical value.

Prof. Dr. F.A. Schilder  
Halle, DDR.

I wish you good luck with your new Society and the new Journal.

Prof. Dr. L. Forcart,  
Unitas Malacologica Europaea  
Basel, Switzerland.