

Description of a new species of *Chicoreus (Triplex)* (Gastropoda: Muricidae) from Madagascar

Roland Houart

Research associate

Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique

rue Vautier, 29

1000 Bruxelles - Belgium

Philippe Quiquandon

1351 Av. Notre Dame de Vie

06250 Mougins - France

Bruno Briano

via Nizza, 34/R

17100 Savona - Italy

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ABSTRACT. A new species, *Chicoreus (Triplex) allaryi* n.sp. is described from Madagascar and compared with the endemic *C. crosnieri* Houart, 1985, with *C. bourguignati* (Poirier, 1883), widely scattered in the Indian Ocean, and with *C. axicornis* (Lamarck, 1822) from the Indo-West Pacific. The three species differ in size and shell morphology.

RÉSUMÉ. Une nouvelle espèce, *Chicoreus (Triplex) allaryi* n.sp. est décrite de Madagascar et comparée avec une espèce endémique, *C. crosnieri* Houart, 1985, avec *C. bourguignati* (Poirier, 1883) qui occupe une large distribution géographique dans l'Océan Indien, et avec *C. axicornis* (Lamarck, 1822) de l'Indo-Ouest Pacifique. Les trois espèces diffèrent par la taille et par des différences notoires dans la morphologie de la coquille.

INTRODUCTION

Eight species of *Chicoreus (Triplex)* are currently known from Madagascar: *C. (T.) bourguignati* (Poirier, 1883), *C. (T.) brunneus* (Link, 1807), *C. (T.) crosnieri* Houart, 1985, *C. (T.) groschi* Vokes, 1978, *C. (T.) microphyllus* (Lamarck, 1822), *C. (T.) monicae* Bozzetti, 2001, *C. (T.) saulii* (Sowerby,

1841), and *C. (T.) torrefactus* (Sowerby, 1841) while a few other species occurs in neighbouring localities (Vokes, 1978, Houart, 1992, Bozzetti, 2001). *C. (T.) allaryi* n.sp. differs from all these species in its larger size, and in the spiral cords, axial sculpture and aperture morphology.

IP	Infrasutural primary cord (primary cord on shoulder)
adis	Adapical infrasutural secondary cord (shoulder)
abis	Abapical infrasutural secondary cord (shoulder)
P1	Primary shoulder cord
P2-P6	Primary cords of the teleoconch whorl
s1-s6	Secondary cords of the teleoconch whorl
ADP	Adapertural primary cord on the siphonal canal
MP	Median primary cord on the siphonal canal
ABP	Abapertural primary cord on the siphonal canal
APERTURE	
ID	Infrasutural denticle
D1 to D5	Abapical denticles

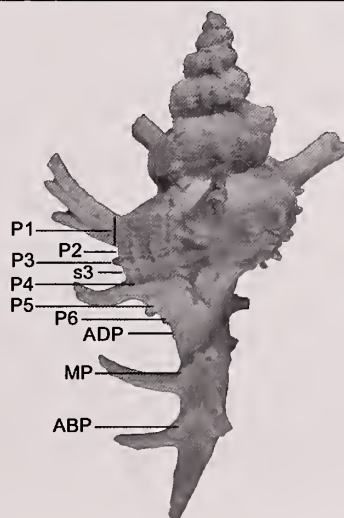


Fig. 1

Terminology (see Fig. 1)

Family **MURICIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815

Subfamily **MURICINAE** Rafinesque, 1815

Genus *Chicoreus* Montfort, 1810

Subgenus *Triplex* Perry, 1810

Type species by monotypy: *Chicoreus (Triplex) foliatus* (Perry, 1810) [= *Chicoreus (Triplex) palmarosae* (Lamarck, 1822)], Indo-West Pacific.

Chicoreus (Triplex) allaryi n.sp.

Figs 1, 2-3

Type material. Holotype (98.5 x 60.7 mm) Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN).

Type locality. Madagascar, Fort Dauphin, off Cape Sainte Marie, depth unknown.

Description of the holotype. Shell large for the subgenus, slender, shouldered. Spire high, with 7 narrow, strongly shouldered, spinose, teleoconch whorls. Suture impressed. Protoconch unknown (broken).

Axial sculpture of teleoconch whorls consisting of 3 low, narrow, frondose varices, each with long or short, frondose primary spines. Shoulder spine longest and broadest. Other axial sculpture of 3 low, weak, intervarical ribs.

Spiral sculpture of convex part of the whorls consisting of coarse, low, nodose, primary, secondary and tertiary cords, and numerous threads. First whorl partially eroded; visible part of second to penultimate whorl with 4 primary cords (P1-P4). P4 occasionally obscured by following whorl; second with IP, P1-P4 and s3; third with adis, IP, abis, P1-P4 and s3, fourth whorl with adis, IP, abis, P1-P4, starting other secondary and tertiary cords almost of same strength, indistinguishable from each others. Last whorl with abis, IP, adis, P1-P6 giving rise to short or long varical spines: P1 (shoulder spine) longest, foliaceous at extremity, P2 narrow, with very short spine, P3 with short spine, P4 long, P5 and P6 short. Longest spines (P1 and P4) weakly adapically curved at

extremity; P2 shortest. Other spiral sculpture of last whorl consisting of secondary and tertiary cords, and numerous threads. Secondary and tertiary cords almost of same strength on early whorls, except broader s3 ending as short spine on varix, between P3 and P4. Siphonal canal long, straight, ventrally open, weakly dorsally bent at tip, with ADP, MP and ABP. ADP narrow, MP and ABP broad, giving rise to long, narrow, open, acute spines.

Aperture broad, roundly-ovate. Columellar lip narrow, smooth with strong callus adapically; rim adherent, weakly erect on small portion abapically. Anal notch broad, deep. Outer lip weakly erect, crenulate, with weak, broad, denticles within: ID, D1 and D2 fused, D3-D5.

Light orange with some darker blotches between axial ribs. Aperture white.

Radula and operculum unknown.

Remarks. *Chicoreus (Triplex) crosnieri* Houart, 1985, which up to now seems to be endemic to Madagascar, is a much smaller shell with a maximum length of 46 mm, with less shouldered teleoconch whorls, adpressed suture, erect rim of the columellar lip, and different sculpture morphology (Figs 4-5). *C. bourguignati* is a broader shell with shorter siphonal canal, with an erect rim of the columellar lip, and with different spiral sculpture morphology giving rise to more numerous, shorter, more frondose varical spines (Fig. 8). *C. axicornis* (Figs 6-7) occasionally presents an identical varical spine morphology but the shell is almost half the size of *C. allaryi* n.sp. with 8 teleoconch whorls. It also has a more convex outline, less shouldered whorls with less coarse, more regular spiral cords and threads, higher varices, more conspicuous, fewer (2 or 3) intervarical axial ribs, and a comparitively smaller aperture with an erect rim of the columellar lip.

Etymology. Named after Alain Allary, Morlaas, France, who selected numerous shells, including the new species.

Figures 2-8

2-3. *Chicoreus (Triplex) allaryi* n.sp. Madagascar, Fort Dauphin, off Cape Sainte Marie, 98.5 mm, holotype MNHN.

4-5. *Chicoreus (Triplex) crosnieri* Houart, 1985.

4. South of Madagascar, 26°05' S, 44°50' E, 100 m, 37 mm, holotype MNHN; 5. Madagascar, between Tulear and Murumbe, 300 m, 33.7 mm, coll. R. Houart.

6-7. *Chicoreus (Triplex) axicornis* (Lamarck, 1822).

6. Indian Ocean, Chagos, Great Chagos Bank, 70 m, 77.5 mm, coll. R. Houart.

7. Philippine Islands, Aliguai Id, 160 m, 60.6 mm, coll. R. Houart.

8. *Chicoreus (Triplex) bourguignati* (Poirier, 1883), Mozambique, Conducia Bay, off Choca, 84.7 mm, coll. R. Houart.



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