

A BLISTER PEARL FORMATION IN *PAPHIA COR* (SOWERBY, 1853)  
FROM THE ARABIAN SEA OFF PAKISTAN



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by

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The bivalve species *Paphia (Protapes) cor* (Sowerby, 1853), Fam. Veneridae, is confined in its distribution to the north-eastern part of the Arabian Sea (Oliver & Glover, 1996). The National Mollusc Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ) is in the possession of only a single sample, which is supplied with the following data: Pakistan, Baba Island off Karachi, leg. R. Winckworth, 1928.10.06 (HUJ 8533/2).

The largest specimen has a length of 60.5 mm and contains in its left valve the initial stage of a blister pearl formation, which is situated exactly in the corner formed by the pallial sinus and the pallial line. This blister pearl formation consists of a tiny, sharp fishbone embedded in the interior of the shell. The top of the fishbone remained uncovered by a layer of calciumcarbonate.

A check of the literature has revealed that this is most probably the first record of blister pearl formation in *Paphia (Protapes) cor*.

Samenvatting: De begin fase van de vorming van een wratparel werd aangetroffen in een linkerklep van *Paphia (Protapes) cor*. Een stukje been of graat van een vis vormde de kern van de parel vorming. Het exemplaar was afkomstig van Baba Eiland ter hoogte van Karachi, Pakistan.

#### Reference

Oliver, P.G. & Glover, E., 1996. *Paphia (Protapes)* (Bivalvia: Veneroidea) in the Arabian Sea, with the description of a new species. *Journal of Conchology*, 35 (5): 389-405.