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**A new species of *Tonna* Brünnich, 1772
(GASTROPODA: TONNIDAE) from South-African waters**

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Tonna, *berthae*, South-Africa.

Abstract: A new species of **Tonnidae**, *Tonna berthae*, is described from South-African waters, and compared to relevant species of **Tonnidae**.

Introduction: Among the many **Tonnidae** that were acquired from the collection of the late D. & M. Meyer (South-Africa), some specimens were found which could not be identified as *Tonna variegata* (Lamarck, 1822), nor as *Tonna dunkeri* (Hanley, 1859). They did however match with a small, juvenile specimen, which had been in the author's collection for several years, and for which no description has been found in historical literature. With the addition of the Meyer material to the collection, it became clear that this rather rare specimen hasn't been described as yet.

Tonna berthae, sp. nov.

Type material:

Holotype: 72.55 x 59.45 mm, deposited at KBIN*;
Brussels, I.G. nr. 30 385, Type nr. 527

Paratype 1: 78.70 mm x 67.05 mm (Coll. Chris Vos, Belgium)

Paratype 2: 89.75 mm x 78.65 mm (Coll. Chris Vos, Belgium)

Paratype 3: 56.00 mm x 45.50 mm (Coll. Maria Vos, Belgium)

*KBIN.= Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences

Paratype 4: 40.10 mm x 34.10 mm

(Coll. David & Kevin Monsecour, Belgium)

Paratype 5: 64.55 mm x 54.95 mm (Coll. Chris Vos, Belgium)

Type locality: Natal, South-Africa

Range: East coast of South-Africa, at least from East-London to Durban.

Size: The largest examined specimen (paratype 2, coll. author) measures 89.75 mm.

Habitat: As all *Tonnidae*, it is presumed that this specimen also dwells on the sandy flats. The depth is not known at this point in time.

Description: Rather bulbous, thick shell with a low spire and raised shoulder. There is a shallow canal along the suture. The smooth protoconch covers about 2.5 whorls, and is completely white. The body whorl is covered with as little as 17, and up to as many as 20 rather strong spiral ribs with relatively wide interspaces in between. The top 4 or 5 ribs are slightly rounder in shape, whilst the lower ribs are somewhat flatter. Secondary threads are likely to occur within the interspaces of the first two or three ribs. The periostracum is translucent and of a greenish-brown colour. The aperture is wide with a simple lip edge. Like *Tonna luteostoma* (Küster, 1857), the outer rib pattern is visible on the inside giving the lip a somewhat undulating structure. The parietal area is covered with a thin, white callus, which thickens over the fasciole, partially covering the deep umbilicus. The fasciole is gently twisted and of average length (about 2/5 of the total length of the shell). The apertural side of the fasciole is slightly bent, due to the callus over the fasciole. The basic colour is a creamy white with irregularly placed blotches of medium brown. The inner colour is a pinkish brown, which fades to white towards the lip.

Comparison: In a way, *Tonna berthae* is comparable to *Tonna luteostoma*, as far as the inner rib structure is concerned, but smaller, and with more ribs than the latter. As for colour and general shape, it is reminiscent of *Tonna rosemaryae* Vos, 1999, which has the typical yellow / orange aperture and a thickened lip - two features absent in the species at hand. It clearly is a member of the *variegata*-complex as the rib structure and number of ribs resemble those of *Tonna variegata*.

Remarks: It is presumed - based on the occurrence of the species over the many years of collecting and studying by the author - that this is in fact a very rare species.

Etymology: Named after the late Bertha Goossens, mother of the author and grandmother to David and Kevin Monsecour. Up to her last moments, with her everlasting encouragement and support to her son and grandsons in their passion for shells, she unwillingly stimulated three promising conchologists, helping them to achieve their conchological goals in life.

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Summarizing translation into Dutch/ Samenvattende Nederlandse vertaling

Een nieuwe soort van het genus *Tonna* (**Tonnidae**) wordt beschreven van Zuid-Afrikaanse wateren. *Tonna berthae* is een duidelijk lid van het complex rond *Tonna variegata* (Lamarck, 1822), doch doet tevens denken aan *Tonna luteostoma* (Küster, 1857), en *Tonna rosemaryae* Vos, 1999. Echter, de ronde vorm vormt het grote verschil met *variegata*, terwijl de ribstructuur het voornaamste verschil vormt met *luteostoma*. Het grootst onderzochte exemplaar meet 89.75 mm x 78.65, hetgeen duidt op een relatief kleine *Tonna*-soort. De enige bekende exemplaren welke tot nog toe gekend zijn, zijn deze welke door de auteur werden verkregen uit een oude Zuid-Afrikaanse collectie (1970's).

Plate 1

Tonna berthae sp. nov.

1-3: Holotype. Natal, South-Africa.

4-6: Paratype 1. Tugela Bank, Natal, South-Africa. Trawled on sand.



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Plate 2***Tonna berthae*** sp. nov.

7: Paratype 2: Natal, South-Africa.

8: Paratype 3: Natal, South-Africa.

9: Paratype 4: Natal, South-Africa.

10: Paratype 4: Gonubie, East London, South Africa. This was the first, and for a longtime the only specimen in the author's collection.

11: Paratype 5. Natal, South-Africa. With periostracum.



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