

Gloria Maris	45 (3-4)	95 - 103	Antwerpen, juli 2006
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RED SEA MOLLUSCA

Part 23

Class: *Gastropoda*

Family: *Fasciolariidae*

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Genus *Fusinus* Rafinesque, 1815

1. *Fusinus leptorhynchus* (Tapparone & Canefri, 1875)

Fig. 2

Ann. Mus. Genova VII, p. 627, pl. I, Fig.5.

Originally described as *Fusus leptorhynchus*.

Rare at the searched areas. During all our expeditions in the Red Sea, only one specimen of *F. leptorhynchus* was collected in a sandy lagoon near Dahab 1986 (Gulf of Aqaba).

2. *Fusinus polygonoides* (Lamarck, 1822)

Fig. 3

Hist. Nat. Amin sans Vert., Vol. VII, p. 129.

Originally described as *Fusus polygonoides*.

Locally very common throughout the searched areas. The main parts of the populations inhabit surfaces with sea grass and algae mats in the sub-littoral zone. The specimens were also found in sandy patches in deeper water.

Note: In some areas like Milton Beach, Nabq (S. Sinai Gulf of Aqaba), Hurghada and Safaga *F. polygonoides* was extremely variable in both form and coloration. Lots of specimens reach a length of nearly 100mm. Several of these even had their lip not fully formed. Sharabati (1984) mentions specimens with a length of 150mm.

Nota: In sommige gebieden zoals Milton Beach, Nabq (Z. Sinai Golf van Aqaba), Hurghada en Safaga is *F. polygonoides* zeer variabel zowel in vorm als in kleur. Vele exemplaren met een lengte van bijna 100 mm werden verzameld, waarvan bij een aantal de mondrand zelfs nog niet was volgroeid. Sharabati (1984) vermeldt exemplaren van 150mm.

Remark: This great variability in forms of *F. polygonoides* caused the mis-identification of some small, i.c. juvenile specimens as *Fusinus acuticostatus* (Sowerby, 1838 ? 1880) (Delsaerd, 1989). Fig. 1

1: Boskant 31, 2350 Vosselaar, Belgium

2: Mussenhoevelaan 75a, 2530 Boechout, Belgium

Opmerking: De grote verscheidenheid in vormen van *F. polygonoides* moet als oorzaak worden aangemerkt voor de misidentificatie van enkele juveniele exemplaren als *Fusinus acuticostatus* (Sowerby, 1838 ? 1880) (Delsaerd, 1989). Fig. 1

3. *Fusinus verrucosus* (Gmelin, 1791)

Fig. 4

Syst. Nat. ed. 13, Vol. I, pt. 6, Pag. 3497.

Originally described as *Buccinum verrucosus*.

Moderately rare. Throughout our expeditions in all searched areas *F. verrucosus* was only collected in the vicinity north of Hurghada (Gemsha). The species occurs near reef platforms, hidden in the surroundings of sandy patches associated with sea grass.

Note: The true identity of the species was long in doubt. In former publications concerning Red Sea molluscs several authors (Issel 1869, Cook 1885, Tomlin 1924, Por (1969?) and Giannuzzi-Savelli et al, 2003) regard the specimens as *F. marmoratus* Philippi, 1846. Por also mentions the species as a dominant mollusc in the Bitter Lakes, and that it is a successful migrant into the Mediterranean. Sturany (1903) considers the species as *F. australis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1839) but also mentions *F. marmoratus* and *F. tuberculatus* (Chemnitz, 1777) in his note. The last name is from a non-binominal publication and therefore not valid.

Moazzo (1939) figured a conspecific specimen and also identified the shell as *F. tuberculatus*. As first synonym he considers *F. sulcatus* (Lamarck, 1816), in our opinion a totally different shell. *Fusinus verrucosus* (Gmelin, 1791) is the first available name. He reported the species as very common in the Gulf of Suez where they are consumed as seafood by the local inhabitants.

Nota: De ware identiteit van de soort was lang twijfelachtig. In eerdere publicaties aangaande de Rode Zee mollusken beschouwen verschillende auteurs (Issel 1869, Cook 1885, Tomlin 1924, Por (1969 ?) en Giannuzzi-Savelli et al 2003) de soort als *F. marmoratus* (Philippi, 1846). Por vermeldt de soort als dominant in de Bittermeren en succesvolle migrant in de Middellandse Zee. Sturany (1903) beschouwt de soort als *F. australis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1839) maar vermeldt in zijn nota ook *F. marmoratus* en *F. tuberculatus* (Chemnitz, 1777). Deze laatste naam staat vermeld in een non-binominale publicatie en is daarom niet geldig. Moazzo (1939) beeldt een soortgelijk exemplaar af en identificeert die ook als *F. tuberculatus*. Als eerste synoniem noemt hij *F. sulcatus* (Lamarck, 1816), wat in onze opinie een totaal andere soort is. *Fusinus verrucosus* (Gmelin, 1791) is de eerst gangbare naam Hij vermeldt dat de soort zeer algemeen voorkomt in de Golf van Suez waar ze door de plaatselijke bevolking als voedsel wordt verbruikt.

4. *Fusinus spec***Fig. 8**

In preparation by Dr. M. Snyder.

Moderately rare throughout the searched areas. Near Hurghada (1990), Lotus Bay at Safaga (1992) several specimens, all live-taken, were collected in similar habitats as *F. polygonoides*.

Note: It is possible that the species here mentioned is regarded as a slender form of *F. polygonoides* in Red Sea collections. However, form and sculpture of this species suggest that it cannot belong to the latter, as it is generally small and slenderer. The average adult size is up to 65-70mm. The shoulder nodules vary from moderately through very pronounced.

Nota: Het is niet onmogelijk dat in Rode Zee-verzamelingen de vernoemde soort is ondergebracht als een slanke vorm van *F. polygonoides*. Echter, vorm en sculptuur suggereren dat deze niet de laatgenoemde kan zijn, de exemplaren zijn doorgaans kleiner en slanker. De gemiddelde lengte van volwassen exemplaren is 65-70mm. De schouderknobbels variëren van zwak tot uitgesproken sterk.

Genus *Latirolagena* Harris, 1897.

5. *Latirolagena smaragdula* (Linné, 1758)**Fig. 7**

Syst. Nat. ed, 10, p. 739.

Originally described as *Buccinum smaragdula*.

Locally very common in the southern part of the Red Sea. During all our expeditions this species was only collected in the areas of Port Sudan. This sub-littoral species is usually hidden under rocks and coral formations. The specimens are strongly covered with calcareous growth.

Average size: 35mm.

Genus *Latirus* Montfort, 1810.

6. *Latirus craticulatus* (Linné, 1758)**Fig. 5**

Syst. Nat. ed, 10, p. 755.

Originally described as *Murex craticulatus*.

Rare. We have never collected *L. craticulatus* in the Gulf of Aqaba, the Gulf of Suez, nor in the northern part of the Red Sea. In the vicinity of Port Sudan two specimens were collected near a reef edge.

Note: *L. craticulatus* is in some aspects similar to *L. turritus* (Gmelin, 1791), but it can

be distinguished from the latter by the characteristic, peculiar bloodstained colouration of the axial ribs.

Nota: *L. craticulatus* gelijkt sterk op *L. turritus* (Gmelin, 1791), maar onderscheidt zich daarvan door de karakteristieke, opvallend bloedrode kleur van de axiale ribben.

7. *Latirus maculatus* (Reeve, 1847)

Fig. 6

Conch, Iconica. Vol. IV, pl. XIII, spec. 70.

Originally described as *Turbinella maculata*.

Rare at the searched areas. *L. maculatus* was collected south of Safaga.

Generally they are considered as a deeper water species. However, we collected the species besides a shallow reef platform in a very strong current.

8. *Latirus polygonus* (Gmelin, 1791)

Fig.14

Syst. Nat. ed. 13, vol. I, pt.6, p. 3555.

Originally described as *Murex polygonus*.

L. polygonus is a cosmopolitan species in tropical seas. Locally common in the intertidal zone. Occurring on vegetated patches near fringing reefs, feeding upon a variety of algae. Usually the specimens are strongly covered by a calcareous growth.

Average size: 90mm.

9. *Latirus turritus* (Gmelin, 1791)

Fig. 16

Syst. Nat. ed. 13, vol. I, pt.6, p.3456.

Originally described as *Voluta turrita*.

Locally very common. *L. turritus* occurs on the littoral fringing reefs and on reef (flats) platforms, characterized by various hard substrates. Mostly the early whorls are eroded and encrusted by a calcareous growth.

Average size: 35mm.

Genus *Peristernia* Mörch, 1852.

10. *Peristernia nassatula forskalii* (Tapparone & Canefri, 1875)

Fig. 11

Ann. Mus. Genova Vii, p.616, pl.i, fig. 6.

Originally described as *Latirus forskalii*

Locally common, but difficult to find. *P. n. forskalii* lives on the reefs' edges and reef platforms, hidden between various corals. During diving trips the species was collected at several depths varying from 1 to 20 metres.

Note: In literature several authors consider *P. forskalii* as a valid species. Others regard this species as a synonym of *P. nassatula* (Lamarck, 1822). In our opinion the differences are sufficient to regard the former at least as a regional subspecies. In general form, they are slenderer and different in structure than *P. nassatula*.

Nota: In de literatuur beschouwen verschillende auteurs *P. forskalii* als een valide soort. Andere zien de soort als een synoniem van *P. nassatula* (Lamarck, 1822). Naar onze mening zijn de verschillen tussen beide duidelijk. De eerstgenoemde is op zijn minst een regionale ondersoort, deze zijn slanker dan *P. nassatula* en verschillend in structuur.

11. *Peristernia chlorostoma* (Sowerby, 1825)

Fig. 15

Cat. Shells Tankerville App. P. XV.

Originally described as *Turbinella chlorostoma*.

Rare at the searched areas. During all our expeditions this species was only collected at Coral Beach (Eilat 1971 Gulf of Aqaba). One specimen, also from deeper water, was live-taken by divers of Centrum Verspreiding Duiksport (Centre for the propagation of diving, C.V.D.), but information concerning the habitat was not registered.

12. *Peristernia philberti* (Récluz, 1844)

Fig. 12

Rev. Zool. (Soc. Cuv.) VII, fevr, P. 48.

Originally described as *Turbinella philberti*.

Rare in the searched areas.

Note: In 1971, when assisted by divers of C.V.D., a single and very remarkable specimen was live-taken in deeper water (Gulf of Aqaba). Information concerning the habitat was not registered. During all our expeditions a second one was never found. The species has not been reported in the consulted literature concerning the Red Sea. Therefore we report the species as a first record for the Red Sea. The specimen is stored in the collection Ed Wils.

Nota: In 1971 werd door duikers van C.V.D. één levend exemplaar boven gebracht uit dieper water (Golf van Aqaba). Informatie over het leefgebied werd niet meegedeeld. Gedurende al onze expedities werd geen tweede exemplaar gevonden. De soort wordt ook nergens vermeld in de door ons geconsulteerde literatuur aangaande de Rode Zee. Wij rapporteren deze soort als eerste vermelding voor de Rode Zee. Het exemplaar is ondergebracht in de verzameling Ed Wils.

13. *Peristernia ustulata* (Reeve, 1847)**Fig. 13**

Conch, Iconica. Vol. IV, pl. XII, spec. 62.

Originally described as *Turbinella ustulata*.

Moderately common throughout the searched areas. *P. ustulata* is cosmopolitan and inhabits the littoral fringing reefs, which are characterised by various hard substrates. Occasionally, a few specimens were live taken at Dahab and Ras el Burka. The species was frequently collected in the vicinity of Hurghada, Safaga and Algisos.

Average size: 20mm.

Genus ***Pleuroploca*** Fischer, 1884**14. *Pleuroploca filamentosa*** (Röding, 1798)**Fig. 10**

Mus. Bolt. P. 118, N°. 1524.

Originally described as *Fusus filamentosa*.

Moderately common. *P. filamentosa* is a widespread species in tropical seas, but difficult to find in the Red Sea. The species usually occurs on vegetated fringing reefs in the intertidal zone. During daytime they are hidden in sandy patches.

Note: Throughout the geographical distribution *P. filamentosa* is a polymorph species, both in form and colouration. The shoulder nodules may be moderately to very pronounced.

Average size : 80 mm.

Nota: Doorheen de geografische verspreiding is *P. filamentosa* zeer polymorf, zowel in vorm als kleur. De schouderknobbels variëren van zwak tot uitgesproken sterk.

15. *Pleuroploca trapezium* (Linné, 1758)**Fig. 9**

Syst. Nat. ed, 10, p. 755.

Originally described as *Murex trapezium*.

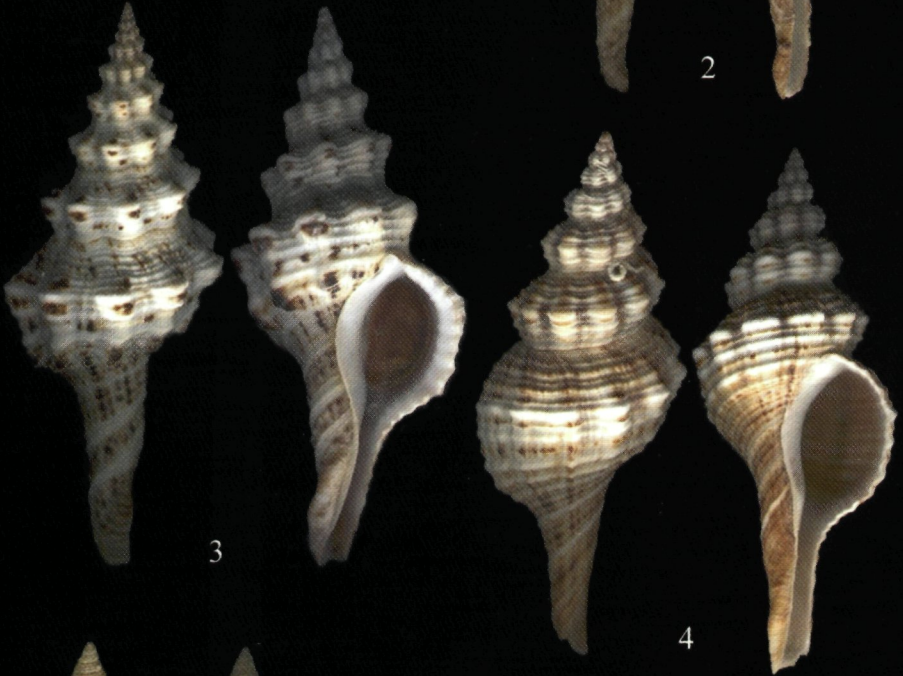
Locally very common throughout the searched areas. *P. trapezium* is widespread across the Indo-Pacific. At the Island Abu Mingar (off Hurghada) the species is abundant and inhabits sandy areas associated with sea grass. It occurs in the littoral zone and deeper.

Note: Within the same habitat the species can be very polymorph, brown axial lines encircle some of the specimens, others lack those lines. The early whorls of *P. trapezium*

Plate 1



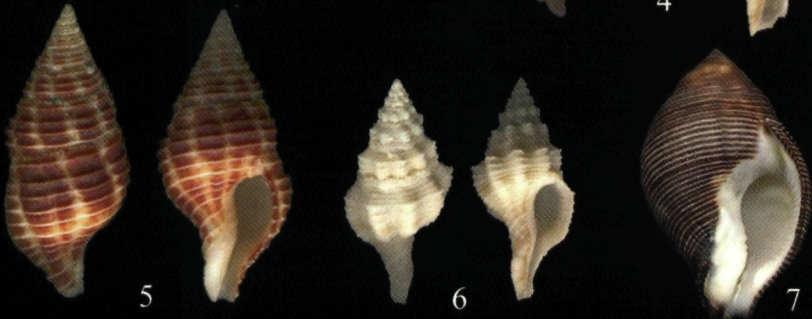
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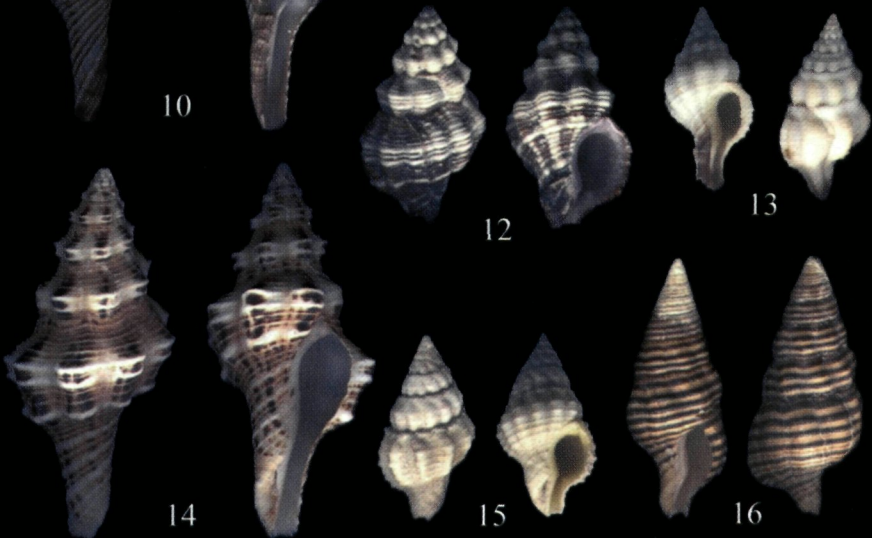
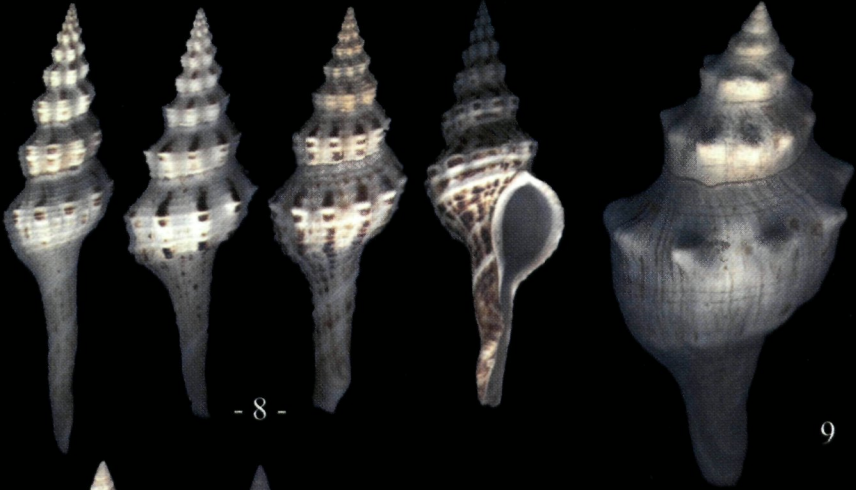


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Plate 2



are mostly eroded and heavily encrusted by a calcareous growth. Some specimens reach a length of more than 200 mm.

Average size : 130mm.

Nota: Binnen hetzelfde biotoop kan de soort zeer variabel zijn. Sommige exemplaren zijn getekend met bruine axiale lijnen; andere missen deze lijnen. Gewoonlijk zijn de eerste windingen sterk geërodeerd en zwaar overladen met kalkafzetting. Sommige individuen bereiken een lengte van meer dan 200mm.

Plate 1 (p. 101)

- 1 *Fusinus polygonoides* (Lamarck, 1822) (Juvenile specimens)
- 2 *Fusinus leptorhynchus* (Tapparone & Canefri, 1875)
- 3 *Fusinus polygonoides* (Lamarck, 1822)
- 4 *Fusinus verrucosus* (Gmelin, 1791)
- 5 *Latirus craticulatus* (Linné, 1758)
- 6 *Latirus maculatus* (Reeve, 1847)
- 7 *Latirolagena smaragdula* (Linné, 1758)

Plate 2 (left)

- 8 *Fusinus spec*
- 9 *Pleuroploca trapezium* (Linné, 1758)
- 10 *Pleuroploca filamentosa* (Röding, 1798)
- 11 *Peristernia nassatula forskalii* (Tapparone & Canefri, 1875)
- 12 *Peristernia philberti* (Récluz, 1844)
- 13 *Peristernia ustulata* (Reeve, 1847)
- 14 *Latirus polygonus* Gmelin, 1791)
- 15 *Peristernia chlorostoma* (Sowerby, 1825)
- 16 *Latirus turritus* (Gmelin, 1791)