

Gloria Maris	48 (1)	22-26	Antwerpen, April 2009
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RED SEA MOLLUSCA

Part 27

Class: *Gastropoda*

Family: *Xenophoridae*

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Genus: *Xenophora* Fischer, 1807

1 *Xenophora cerea* (Reeve, 1845)

Fig. 1-2-3

Mono. Conch. Icon, Vol.1, pl.3, fig.9.

Originally described as *Phorus cereus*.

Throughout our expeditions in all searched areas *X. cerea* appeared to be rare.

We can only report findings from Dahab (Gulf of Aqaba). In that area we collected a few specimens near the reef platforms hidden in the surroundings of sandy bottom associated with shell and coral debris at a depth of 8 to 10 metres.

Note: *X. cerea* is very polymorph, not only in structure but also in the attached objects. These consist of stones, fragments of shells and / or coral that are often cemented at the perimeter of the dorsal surface.

In some aspects the species is similar to *X. conchyliophora* (Born, 1780) and *X. corrugata* (Reeve, 1845). The Western Atlantic *X. conchyliophora* differs by the stronger radial sculpture at the base and by having brown blotches and streaks at the base and aperture edge. Generally they agglutinate more – but smaller – objects than its congener *X. cerea*. The distributional range of *X. corrugata* is known from India, Sri Lanka, the Persian Gulf and East Africa. It generally differs by the weaker basal radial sculpture and in cementing smaller objects.

Nota: *X. cerea* is zeer variabel, niet alleen in structuur maar ook in het aangehechte materiaal. Dit kan bestaan uit stenen, fragmenten van schelpen en / of koraal, vastgemetseld op de periferie van de windingen.

De soort lijkt deels op *X. conchyliophora* (Born, 1780) en *X. corrugata* (Reeve, 1845). De West Atlantische *X. conchyliophora* verschilt door een sterk uitgesproken radiale sculptuur op de basis, en door de bruine vlekken en lijnen op de basis en de mondrand. In het algemeen zijn er meer – maar kleinere – objecten aangehecht dan

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bij zijn soortgenoot *X. cerea*. Het verspreidingsgebied van *X. corrugata* strekt zich voor zover bekend uit van India, Sri Lanka, de Perzische Golf en Oost-Afrika. In het algemeen verschilt deze laatste soort door de zwakkere axiale plooiën aan de basis, de aangehechte objecten zijn in het algemeen ook kleiner.

2 *Xenophora solarioides solarioides* (Reeve, 1845)

Fig. 4

Mono. Conch. Icon., Vol.1, pl.3, fig. 8.

Originally described as *Phorus solarioides*.

Xenophora solarioides is a widespread species in tropical seas, but difficult to find in the Red Sea. When assisted by divers of C.V.D. (Belgian Centre for the Propagation of Diving) two specimens were brought up at Coral Beach (Gulf of Aqaba, Eilat, 1971). These were collected on a sandy habitat between various coral formations, at a depth of about 25 metres. After that year *X. solarioides* was only collected once again at Nabq (Gulf of Aqaba). Even intense searching in the vicinities of Hurghada, Safaga and Marsa Alam was in vain.

Average size 28mm.

Note: Throughout the geographical distribution *X. solarioides* is also a polymorph species, both in form and colouration. Because of that, identification of the species can prove to be somewhat problematic. However, it is possible to distinguish this species from its congeners by the wide and deep umbilicus, its size and basal sculpture.

Nota: In heel het geografische verspreidingsgebied blijkt *X. solarioides* zeer polymorf, zowel in vorm als in kleur. Het determineren van deze soort kan hierdoor problematisch zijn. Echter, op basis van de wijde umbilicus, de grootte en de basissculptuur kan men deze soort onderscheiden van zijn soortgenoten.

Genus: *Stellaria* (Schmidt MS) Möller, 1832

3 *Stellaria solaris* (Linné, 1764)

Fig. 5

Museum Lud. Ulr., p.645. L. Salvii, pp.717.

Originally described as *Trochus solaris*.

S. solaris is cosmopolitan and generally inhabits deeper water. Normally it does not cement objects to its shell.

During our 13th expedition to the Red Sea the first author obtained a single specimen from Mr. Mohammed Fayad (Hurghada). A local fisherman had collected this shell in his nets in the area of Marsa Sha'b (Sudan), but more references had not been recorded. In the collections of Mr. Ed. Wils (Ekeren, Belgium) and those of the second author a few specimens are also stored; those were obtained from (the late) Captain Awad (Hurghada). With a certain amount of certainty those specimens originate from the

southern Red Sea. All specimens mentioned were damaged by the fishing method.

Note: Kosuge & Nomota, 1972 introduced *paucispinosa* as a subspecies with the Gulf of Aden as a type locality. The subspecies is distinguished from the nominal species by three major differences: its whorls are more numerous; it has objects attached and it has fewer spines. Some authors suggest the subspecies *S. s. paucispinosa* also has its habitat in the Red Sea, which undermines its status and puts it into synonymy.

It is worth noticing that one of the pictured specimens has objects attached and has fewer spines than the nominal species (Fig. 6.) But we regard it only as a form of *Stellaria solaris*, because the criteria for designating it as a subspecies are lacking.

Nota: Kosuge & Nomota, 1972 introduceerden *paucispinosa* als een ondersoort met als type localiteit Golf van Aden. Deze verschilt van de nominale soort door het groter aantal windingen, door meer aangehechte fragmenten en door een geringer aantal stekels op de laatste omgang. Sommige auteurs suggereren dat de ondersoort *S. s. paucispinosa* ook zou voorkomen in de Rode Zee, wat zijn status ondermijnt en de naam kan worden beschouwd als synoniem.

Het is noemenswaardig te vermelden dat één van de verzamelde exemplaren ook aangehechte fragmenten bezit, ook zijn er minder kleine stekels aanwezig. Maar wij beschouwen dit als een vorm van *Stellaria solaris*, omdat de criteria voor de status van ondersoort ontbreken.



1



2

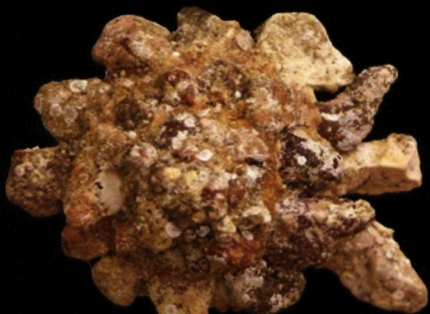
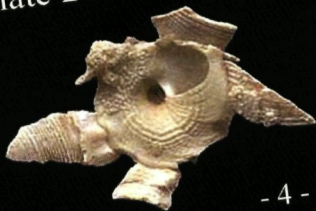


Plate 2



-4-



5



-6-