

Gloria Maris	47 (1-2)	30-40	Antwerpen, May 2008
RED SEA MOLLUSCA			
Part 26			
Class : <i>Gastropoda</i>		Family : <i>Naticidae</i>	
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Genus: *Natica* Scopoli, 1777

1. *Natica buriasiensis* Récluz, 1844

Fig: 1

Proc. Zool. Soc. London. Vol. 11(130): 212.

Originally described as *Natica buriasiensis*.

Throughout the searched areas *N. buriasiensis* is not common. Occasionally a few specimens were collected at Ras Nusrani (Sharm el Sheikh, Gulf of Aqaba). For the proper Red Sea we only report finds at Lotus Bay (Safaga) and Gemsha (approximately 15km N. of Hurghada).

Remark: *N. buriasiensis* is the valid name for this species. As synonyms are recognized *N. tela-aranae* Melvill, 1901; *N. lavendula* Woolacott, 1956; *N. roscoei* Kilburn, 1976. Although *N. pseustes* Watson, 1881 is also treated as a synonym of *N. buriasiensis* we are not convinced that *N. buriasiensis* and *N. pseustes* are conspecific. This was confirmed by Mr. J. Verberk who studied the relevant type material (pers. comm.).

Opmerking: *N. buriasiensis* is de valide naam van deze soort. Synoniemen zijn *N. tela-aranae* Melvill, 1901; *N. lavendula* Woolacott, 1956; *N. roscoei* Kilburn, 1976. Hoewel *N. pseustes* Watson, 1881 ook wel als een synoniem van *N. buriasiensis* wordt beschouwd, betwijfelen wij dat *N. buriasiensis* en *N. pseustes* één en dezelfde soort zijn. Dit werd ons bevestigd door de heer J. Verberk die het typemateriaal heeft bestudeerd (pers. comm.).

2. *Natica forskalii* Sowerby, 1825

Fig: 3

Earl of Tankerville 'A catalogue of the shells' p. 47, N°. 1168.

Originally described as *Natica forskalii*.

N. forskalii is an extremely rare species and endemic to the Red Sea.

We obtained one specimen from local fishermen at Hurghada (the late Captain Awad), which was collected south of the Sudanese border. No further references were dated, except that the specimen was live taken at a depth of nearly 30 metres.

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Remark: Some authors consider *N. forskalii* as a synonym of *N. vitellus* (Linné, 1758), which is completely incorrect. The two species have nothing in common other than both having a calcareous operculum. See Plate 1 for the differences in the umbilicus of both species.

Note: *N. vitellus* is characterized by the black to brownish protoconch, which distinguishes the species from *N. forskalii* Sowerby, 1825.

Opmerking: Sommige auteurs beschouwen foutief de soort *N. forskalii* als een synoniem van *N. vitellus* (Linné, 1758). Beide soorten hebben niets gemeen, behalve dat ze beide een kalkachtig operculum hebben. Zie plaat 1 voor de verschillen in de umbilicus van beide soorten.

Nota: *N. vitellus* is gekenmerkt door zwart tot bruinachtige eerste windingen. Hierdoor onderscheidt de soort zich van *N. forskalii* Sowerby, 1825.

3. *Natica vitellus* (Linné, 1758)

Fig: 4

Syst. Nat. 10 ed, p. 776, N° 625.

Originally described as *Nerita vitellus*.

The geographic range of this variable species is widespread. In the Red Sea *N. vitellus* is not common and therefore hard to find. We collected two specimens at Fanadir Island (off Hurgada 1991). Another one was collected alive, sublittoral in a sandy habitat at Port Sudan in 1975.

Genus: *Naticarius* Duméril, 1806

4. *Naticarius onca* (Röding, 1798)

Fig: 5

Museum Boltenianum, p. 147, N°. 1844.

Originally described as *Cochlis onca*.

Moderately common throughout the searched areas. The main part of the collected specimens lived from very shallow water to the sublittoral zone, in habitats varying from sandy to muddy areas, even at the hard substrates of fringing reefs and reef platforms.

5. *Naticarius pulicaria* (Philippi, 1852)

Fig: 2

Syst. Conch. Cab. 2nd ed. 2 (1): 90-91, pl. 13, fig. 9.

Originally described as *Natica pulicaris*.

N. pulicaria is very rare throughout the searched areas. During all our explorations in the Red Sea only a few specimens were found. For the region Gulf of Aqaba four juvenile specimens were collected, at Ras Nusrani (Sharm el Sheikh 1986). All crabbed

but in very good condition. From the proper Red Sea (Lotus Bay, Safaga 1992) we also report a juvenile specimen that was live taken.

Note: In earlier publications concerning Red Sea malacology, *N. pulicaria* was never mentioned. Therefore we report *N. pulicaria* as the first record for the Gulf of Aqaba and the northern part of the Red Sea as far as Port Sudan.

Nota: In voorafgaande publicaties betreffende de Rode Zee malacologie, wordt *N. pulicaria* niet genoemd. Daarom melden we *N. pulicaria* als eerste vermelding voor de Golf van Akaba en de noordelijke Rode Zee tot aan Port Soedan.

Genus: *Neverita* Risso, 1826

6. *Neverita josephinia* Risso, 1826

Fig: 7

Hist. Nat. Europe Méres: part Nice & Alpes Marit., Vol. 1, p. 149

Original description as *Neverita josephinia*.

Before 1996 at Hurghada the Mediterranean species *N. josephinia* Risso, 1826 was usually offered as a species from the Red Sea. But in fact local fishermen, of which the late captain Awad (pers. com. 1992) being one of the collectors, obtained those specimens from Suez. Despite intensive search in the Gulf of Suez and the most northern part of the Red Sea we were not able to locate this species.

Voor 1996 werd in Hurghada deze mediterrane soort *N. josephinia* Risso, 1826 aangeboden zijnde afkomstig van de Rode Zee. Lokale vissers, onder wie wijlen kapitein Awad (pers. com. 1992) verkregen deze soort in Suez. Ondanks intensieve zoektochten in de Golf van Suez en het meest noordelijke deel van de Rode Zee hebben wij *N. josephina* niet gevonden.

Genus: *Notocochlis* Powell, 1933

7. *Notocochlis cernica* (Jousseaume, 1874)

Fig: 6

Rev. Mag. Zool. [3] 2: 19, pl.2, figs. 13-14

Originally described as *Natica cernica*.

The geographic range of this variable species is widespread. In the Red Sea *N. cernica* is rare. In the beautiful bay of Sal' Hashish (Abu Makadik) a few specimens were collected in 2005. The specimens occurred from very shallow water to the intertidal zone, in habitats varying from sandy to muddy areas.

8. *Notocochlis gualtieriana* (Récluz, 1844)

Fig: 8

Proc. Zool. Soc. London. Vol. 11 (130): 208.

Originally described as *Natica gualtieriana*.

Natica gualtieriana emend Récluz, 1844. Melvill & Standen, 1899: 72.

Locally very common. *N. gualtieriana* is probably one of the most common naticid species of the Red Sea. They burrow in sandy habitats, commonly close to coral reefs.

Note: Throughout the geographical distribution *N. gualtieriana* is an extremely polymorph species, which results in a very long list of synonyms (*Natica marochiensis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833; *Natica tessellata* Philippi, 1849; *Natica antonii* Philippi, 1851; *Natica burnupi* Smith, 1903; *Natica gualtieriana* Couturier, 1907; *Cochlis vafer* Finlay, 1930).

In Fig. 8a we represent *N. balteata* Sowerby, 1914 which can be found in the same habitat as *N. gualtieriana*. In some literature it is considered a synonym of the latter. Whether *N. gualtieriana* and *N. balteata* are conspecific needs further study.

Nota: Over zijn ganse verbreidingsgebied is *N. gualtieriana* een uitgesproken polymorfe soort, wat heeft geresulteerd in een zeer lange lijst van synoniemen, zie hierboven. In Fig. 8a beelden wij *N. balteata* Sowerby, 1914 af, die in dezelfde habitat wordt gevonden als die van *N. gualtieriana*. In sommige literatuur wordt deze beschouwd als een synoniem van de laatstgenoemde. Of *N. gualtieriana* en *N. balteata* tot één soort behoren verdient nadere studie.

Genus: *Polinices* Montfort, 1810

9. *Polinices flemingianus* (Récluz, 1844)

Proc. Zool. Soc. London. Vol. 11, p. 209.

Originally described as *Natica flemingiana*.

P. flemingianus is a widespread species, usually common in the intertidal zone. In the Red Sea they are sporadically collected. We only report a few findings from the Gulf of Aqaba and northern part of the Red Sea. All of the collected specimens occur in habitats of muddy substrates in shallow water commonly close to reefs.

Note: *P. flemingianus* is very similar to *P. mammilla* (Linné, 1758). The former is distinguished by a broad columella and by the umbilicus, which is wide and rather deep and by a white protoconch. *P. mammilla* is characterized by a straight columella, by a filled umbilicus and by the protoconch (nucleus) which is black (see detail in Plate 3)

Nota: *P. flemingianus* lijkt sterk op *P. mammilla* (Linné, 1758). De eerstgenoemde onderscheidt zich door de brede columella en de wijde en diepe umbilicus en door de witte protoconch. *P. mammilla* is gekenmerkt door een rechte columella en een

Fig: 9

gevolde umbilicus; de protoconch (nucleus) is zwart, zie de detailfoto in plaat 3.

10. *Polinices mammilla* (Linné, 1758)

Fig: 12

Syst. Nat. 10 ed, p. 776, N°. 627.

Originally described as *Nerita mammilla*.

Throughout the searched areas locally common. The main part of the collected species occurs from very shallow water to the intertidal zone, in habitats varying from sandy to muddy areas. *P. mammilla* is probably one of, if not the most common *Natica* species of the Red Sea.

Note: In some Red sea collections the species may be stored as *P. tumidus* Swainson, 1840. This name must be considered a synonym of *P. mammilla*.

Nota: In sommige Rode Zee collecties kan de soort zijn opgenomen als *P. tumidus* Swainson, 1840. Deze naam moet beschouwd worden als een synoniem van *P. mammilla*.

11. *Polinices melanostoma* (Gmelin, 1791)

Fig: 10

Syst. Nat. 13 ed, p. 3674, N°. 19.

Originally described as *Nerita melanostomus*.

Throughout the searched areas moderately common.

P. melanostoma is a widespread species in tropical seas, but difficult to find in the Red Sea. Usually the species occurs on vegetated fringing reefs in the intertidal zone. During daytime they hide in sandy patches.

12. *Polinices melanostomoides* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1832)

Fig: 1

Voy. Astrolabe 2 : 229-230, pl.66, figs. 4-8.

Originally described as *Natica melanostomoide* Q & G, 1832

Natica melanostomoides . emend Q & G, 1832. Deshayes, 1838

The geographic range of this variable species is widespread. In the most northern part of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba *P. melanostomoides* is very common; the collected specimens occur from shallow water to the intertidal zone usually at sandy habitats.

Remark: In some Red Sea collections this species might be stored under the name *P. sebae* (Récluz, 1844). However, during all our explorations to the Red Sea *Polinices sebae* was never collected. In our opinion it does not occur in the Gulf of Aqaba, neither in the most northern part of the Red Sea not even as far as Port Sudan.

Opmerking: In sommige Rode Zee collecties kan de soort opgenomen zijn onder de naam *sebae* (Récluz, 1844). Gedurende al onze exploraties werd *Polinices sebae* nooit

verzameld in de Rode Zee. Volgens ons komt die soort niet voor in the Golf van Akaba, noch in de noordelijke Rode Zee tot aan Port Soedan.

13 *Polinices simiae* (Deshayes, 1838)

Fig: 13

Hist. Nat. Anim. Sans Vert. ed. 2, Vol. 8, p. 652.

Originally described as *Natica simiae*.

Moderately common throughout the searched areas. Occasionally a few specimens were collected at Marsa Murach (Gulf of Aqaba). For the proper Red Sea we only report findings from Lotus Bay (Safaga) and Gemsha (Approx, 15km N. of Hurghada). The specimens collected occurred from very shallow water to the intertidal zone, in habitats varying from sandy to muddy areas.

Distinguishing the four previous species mentioned.

* *P. melanostoma* and *P. simiae* both have a banded appearance. The former has three light brown to grey spiral bands on a somewhat beige underground, the shell has a slightly glossy exterior. The columella is uninterrupted dark brown. *M. simiae* has bands consisting of wavy brown axial lines, is less glossy and the dark columella is in the middle interrupted by a whitish to creamy blotch.

* *P. melanostomoides* and *P. sebae* are dull white and provided with three rows of irregular dark brown spots. *P. melanostomoides* has a thinner shell than *P. sebae*, a higher spire, a more concave columella and a lighter coloured operculum. The columella is thin and partly coloured dark brown. This colouration does not extend over the total length of the columella. The brown blotches are small and of various size. *P. sebae* has a rather straight columella which is characterized by a dark brown callus and a white inner margin. This colouration usually extends over the total length of columella, reaching the aperture edge. The body whorl has two or three rows of dark brown spots and/ or streaks. The external colouration of some individuals may also be totally white.

Om de vier vernoemde soorten te onderscheiden.

* *P. melanostoma* en *P. simiae* hebben beide een geband uiterlijk. De eerstgenoemde is licht glanzend en heeft drie lichtbruine tot grijze spiraalbanden op een beigeachtige ondergrond. De columella is ononderbroken donkerbruin.

P. simiae heeft banden die bestaan uit golvende bruine axiale lijnen, is minder glanzend en de bruine columella is in het midden onderbroken door een witte tot crèmeachtige vlek.

* *P. melanostomoides* en *P. sebae* zijn dof wit met drie rijen onregelmatige donkerbruine vlekken. *P. melanostomoides* heft een dunnere schelp dan *P. sebae*, een hogere spira, een meer concave columella en een lichter gekleurd operculum.

P. sebae heeft een rechte columella, gekarakteriseerd door een donkerbruine callus en een witte binnenrand. Deze verkleuring loopt over de ganse columella en reikt tot aan de mondrand. De laatste omgang heeft drie rijen donkerbruine vlekken en/ of strepen. De uitwendige kleur van sommige exemplaren kan ook totaal wit zijn.

Genus: *Tanea* Marwick, 1931

14. *Tanea areolata* (Récluz, 1844)

Fig: 14

Proc. Zool. Soc. London; 11 (130): 206.

Originally described as *Natica areolata*.

The geographic range of this variable species is widespread. In the Red Sea *T. areolata* is very rare. Only two crabbed specimens were collected at Na'Ama Bay (Gulf of Akaba). During all our expeditions to the proper Red Sea *T. areolata* was never found.

Genus: *Eunaticina* Fischer, 1885

15. *Eunaticina linnaeana* (Récluz, 1843)

Fig: 15

In Chénu, Illustrations Conchyliologiques. 3: 8, pl. 1, figs. 4a, b.

Originally described as *Sigaretus linnaeanus*.

E. linnaeana is a widespread species, usually common in the intertidal zone. In the Red Sea they are hard to find, only a few and crabbed specimens were collected in Sharm el Naga. All of those specimens occurred in a habitat of muddy substrates in shallow water commonly close to reefs.

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to R. Pickery and J. Verberckt for their support in obtaining additional information and we thank J.A. Buijse for his critical comments on the paper and for providing the photographs. To G. Poppe (images.com) for his consent to use the digital photo of the living species.

Plate 1

- 1 *Natica buriasiensis* Récluz, 1844
- 2 *Naticarius pulicarius* Philippi, 1852
- 3 *Natica forskalii* Sowerby, 1825
- 4 *Natica vitellus* (Linné, 1758)
- 5 *Naticarius onca* (Röding, 1798)
- 6 *Notocochlis cernica* (Jousseaume, 1874)
- 7 *Neverita josephinia* Risso, 1826

Plate 2

- 8 *Notocochlis gualtieriana* (Récluz, 1844)
- 8a *Notocochlis gualtieriana* fma *balteata* Sowerby, 1914
- 9 *Polinices flemingianus* (Récluz, 1844)
- 10 *Polinices melanostoma* (Gmelin, 1791)
- 11 *Polinices melanostomoides* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1832)
- 12 *Polinices mammilla* (Linné, 1758)

Plate 3

- 13 *Polinices simiae* (Deshayes, 1838)
- 14 *Tanea areolata* (Récluz, 1844)
- 15 *Eunaticina linnaeana* (Récluz, 1843)
- 16 *Tanea areolata* (live)

Plate 1

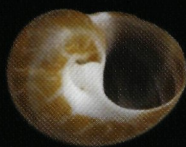




Plate 3



13



14



15



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