

Gloria Maris	52 (1-2)	12 - 13	Antwerp; 13 January 2013
--------------	----------	---------	--------------------------

250369

## *Clathrotellina tessellata* in the Gulf of Aqaba

Moti KOVALIS

Miriam Street 21, Gan Yavne, Israel  
koko61@gmail.com

**Keywords:** MOLLUSCA, BIVALVIA, TELLINIDAE, Gulf of Aqaba, *Clathrotellina tessellata*

**Abstract:** Two specimens of *Clathrotellina tessellata* (Deshayes, 1855) have lately been found in Elat, which brings the number of Tellinid species occurring in the Gulf of Aqaba to 24.

**Introduction:** An illustrated list of 23 species belonging to the family **Tellinidae** and found in the Gulf of Aqaba was published by Heiman et al. (2006). Another species is added to the list in the present article.

**New information:** Two specimens of *Clathrotellina tessellata* (Deshayes, 1855) were found by the author at as many different locations in Elat, Gulf of Aqaba, the north-eastern tip of the Red Sea, in 2011.

This relatively tiny species is not only characterised by a very fine sculpture consisting of axial ridges crossed by concentric growth lines, but also by its beautiful orange colour with some irregular white flecks in the upper region.

A junior synonym of *Clathrotellina tessellata* is *Tellina tenuistriata* Sowerby, 1867.

This species was already known from Jeddah in the Red Sea proper and had been illustrated as *Angulus corbis* Sowerby, 1867 by Sharabati (1984), while on Jacob Dafni's website of the molluscs from the Gulf of Aqaba it was listed as *Semele cordiformis* (Holten, 1802).

In the National Mollusc Collection of the Hebrew University another fine specimen (HUJ 36817) was found, which had been collected by Mike Fainzilber in shallow water at 1-5 m deep, near Dahab, East-Sinai, Egypt in April 1984.

The find of two additional specimens at two different locations in Elat, confirms the presence of this species in the Gulf of Aqaba.



*Clathrotellina tessellata* 19 x 14 mm

**Acknowledgments:** I would like to thank Henk Dekker (the Netherlands) and especially Marcus Huber (Switzerland) for puzzling out the correct identity of the discussed species and Henk Mienis (Israel) for providing additional information concerning the presence of it in the Gulf of Aqaba. I would also like to thank Itzik Geva (Israel) and Roland De Prins (Belgium).

**References:**

- Dafni, J.**, Gulf of Aqaba Mollusca dbase. <http://www.dafni.com/gulfsave/jdafni.html>  
**Heiman, E.L., Holtzer, E. & Mienis, H.K.**, 2006. Shells of East Sinai, an illustrated list: Tellinidae. *Triton* 14: 8-10.  
**Shaharabati, D.**, 1984. *Red Sea Shells*. KPI, London, Boston, Melbourne, Henley.