

## The smallest gastropod species from São Tomé Island

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*Cima diminuta* sp. nov.  
Figure 1B

**Introduction:** Malacologists know that the size of molluscs can be very variable. The largest mollusc is a cephalopod: the giant squid can reach 20 metres in length; in bivalves, *Tridacna gigas* can reach 1.25 m as the maximal length. In Gasteropoda, the extreme sizes may be between 0.3 mm (the smallest) and 1 metre (the largest).

When it comes to the smaller ones, we know that there are very small genera, for example *Omalogyra* and *Ammonicera*. From the latter, in a revision by Oliver & Rolán (2015), the smallest shell studied was *Ammonicera galaica* with only a holotype of 0.458 mm in diameter (Fig. 1A).

Examining the sediments collected by divers during old trips to São Tomé Island, we found a very small shell originating from Praia das Conchas in the north of the island, which is not conspecific with any other known species and which is studied and described in the present work, becoming the smallest species of elongate gastropod collected in West Africa.

### Abbreviations :

**MNHN:** Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris  
S: shell

### Systematic part:

Family: **Cimidæ** Warén, 1993

Genus: *Cima* Chaster, 1896

Type species: *Odostomia minima* Jeffreys, 1858

**Type material:** Holotype (Fig. 1B) in MNHN IM-2000-33888.

**Type locality:** São Tomé Island, Praia das Conchas, 10 m deep, collected in sediments.

**Description:** Shell very small (< 1 mm), elongate, very fragile, transparent, subcylindrical, shiny. Protoconch of about 125 µm in diameter, smooth and beginning in adapical direction; teleoconch with three evidently convex whorls, suture very oblique and deep; smooth, the last whorl (373 µm) is slightly larger than the rest of the shell (212 µm), representing 4/7 of the total length; orthocone, slightly curved growth lines. Aperture ovoid, drop-shaped, its upper extreme narrow and pointed. Columella curved. External lip sharp. No umbilicus, which is reduced to a narrow fissure.

**Dimensions:** The holotype is 585 µm in height x 216 µm in diameter.

**Remarks:** *Cima minima* (Jeffreys, 1858) is a larger and wider species in comparison with *Cima diminuta* sp. nov., with usual dimensions about 1.2 mm for a shell of 4 whorls. The aperture is ovoid, lacking any pointed upper part.

Also *Cima cylindrica* (Jeffreys, 1856) is larger and the suture is less oblique, the incrementation of the whorls is higher. Some illustrations of these species can be seen in Rolán (2011). On top of this, the aperture is ovoid.

**Etymology:** The species' name derives from the Latin adjective *diminutus*, *a, um* which means “insignificant, very small” alluding to its small size.

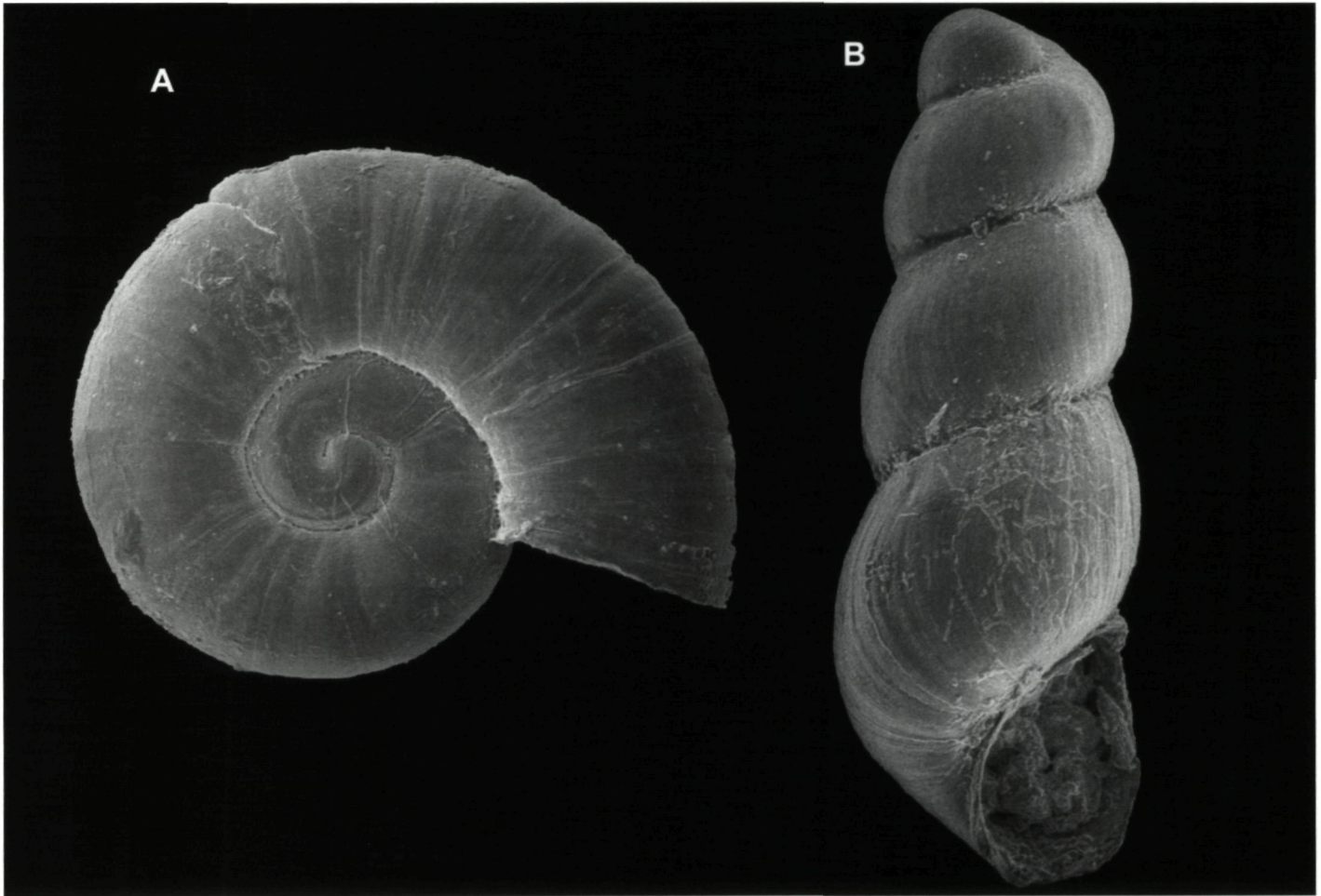
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**References:**

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**Figure 1**

**A:** *Ammonicera galaica* Oliver & Rolán, 2015, holotype, 458  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter (MNCN); it is the smaller species in Spain and it is shown for comparison.

**B:** *Cima diminuta* sp. nov., holotype, 585  $\mu\text{m}$  in height, Praia das Conchas, São Tomé Island, 10 m (MNHN).