

***Mimachlamys sanguinea* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Bivalvia: Pectinidae)  
in the Mediterranean Sea**

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**Abstract:** The Indo-Pacific species *Mimachlamys sanguinea* (Linnaeus, 1758) is confirmed as migrating (Lessepsian migration) from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean (southern Israel) and has established a local population. Its variability in the Mediterranean population is discussed and illustrated.

**Discussion:** For the past ten years several specimens of *Mimachlamys sanguinea* have been found near the oil terminal near Ashkelon City in the south of Israel. This species was at first erroneously identified by local collectors as the Mediterranean species *Mimachlamys varia* (Linnaeus, 1758), but Shefer, Feldsein, Mienis, Rittner & Gur (2012) confirmed we were truly dealing with *M. sanguinea*.

Even though Shefer et al. (2012) only mention and illustrate “brick-red” specimens, the Mediterranean population of this species comes in a wider colour range, as illustrated below. It also grows larger than the previously reported specimen: the largest specimen we can report measures 80 x 77 mm, whereas the reported specimen by Shefer et al (2012) has a size of approximately 55 x 50 mm.

Newly migrated species commonly develop morphological differences in their newly established populations: different sea conditions, the absence of their usual natural predators and abundance of food often allow the new species to prosper in the new habitat. We hereby illustrate the intraspecific variability of *M. sanguinea* from the southern coasts of Israel in the area of the biblical cities Ashkelon and Ashdod.

Still, this population has not been thoroughly studied in its new habitat yet: it is still unknown what effect it will have as an invasive species or whether other sympatric species will follow as seen in other invasive species such as *Conomurex persicus* (Swainson, 1821) (**Strombidae**),

which took over the whole of the shallows of the Israeli coast in extremely large numbers and its predator, *Murex forskoehlIIi mediterranea* Kovalis & Korkos, 2009, did not stay behind.

*M. sanguinea* and *M. varia* both occur at the above-mentioned localities, but these species can easily be distinguished: the ribs of *M. sanguinea* are adorned with numerous, close-set scales; in *M. varia* their number is significantly lower and they are wider apart.

**Acknowledgment:** Several specimens were sent to Dr. Henk Dijkstra to study the newly found specimens. Indeed, Dr. Dijkstra confirmed that it is the Red Sea species.

**References:**

Shefer, S., Feldsein, T., Mienis, H., Rittner, O. & Gur, A., 2012. First records of *Mimachlamys sanguinea* (Linnaeus, 1758) from the Mediterranean coast of Israel. *Triton* 25: 1-2.

**Plate: *Mimachlamys sanguinea***

Near Ashkelon City, southern Israel – Mediterranean Sea

Row 1: 78 x 74 mm

Row 2: 80 x 77 mm – 74 x 70 mm

Row 3: 62 x 57 mm – 78 x 74 mm

Row 4: 73 x 71 mm – 67 x 61 mm

Row 5: detail of the scales on the ribs.

