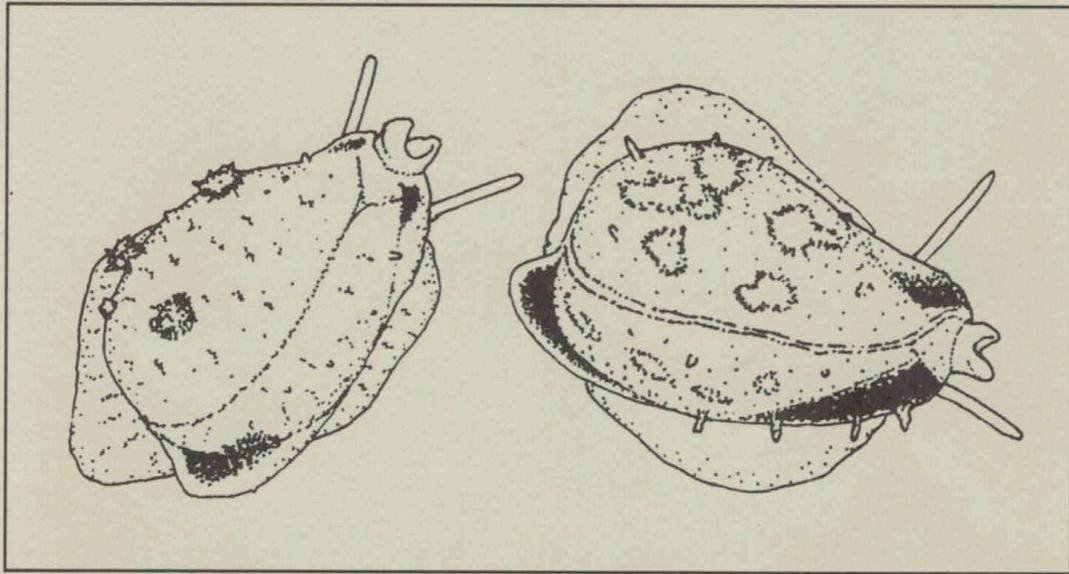


Schriften zur Malakozoologie

aus dem Haus der Natur – Cismar

Heft 3



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Description of a new species of *Strombus (Tricornis)* from Somalia.

By

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Lauenburg and Cismar.

Abstract: A new species of *Strombus (Tricornis)* is described from deep water off Somalia.

Great discoveries of rare or unknown molluscan species were made in the deep waters off the Somali coast in the early 80's. For the first time more extensive trawling with modern means was carried out in a vast area till then poorly investigated. Because of the spectacular finds of *Cypraea broderipii*, *Conus milneedwardsi* and the wake of new descriptions, there was the belief that from now on a steady supply of rare shells would follow. For the new species of Strombidae described herein this was not going to be the case. The few specimens known came from one single haul in December 1981. Almost ten years have passed without further specimens coming to light. So we decided to introduce the new species despite the small number of shells available:

Strombus (Tricornis) indecoratus n. sp. (plate 12-13, fig. 1-2, 5-6, 8-9)

Diagnosis: A species related to *Strombus (Tricornis) tricornis* HUMPHREY 1786 differing in lighter texture and the absence of the labral spine, the characteristic knobby coronations and coloration of the body whorl.

Material and distribution: Two specimens obviously live-collected, partly retaining the periostracum are available for study, about half a dozen further specimens are distributed in various European collections. All specimens were trawled by the Greek fishing fleet that operated around Cape Ras Hafun in depths between 200 and 350 m in December 1981.

Holotype: HNC 24004, Height of shell (without wing) = 79,7 mm, Width = 57,5 mm, dimension from wing to anterior channel = 86,65 mm.

Paratype 1: H = 87,05 mm, W = 59,0 mm,

dim. fr. wing to ant. channel = 90,6 mm, (collection F. LORENZ jun.)

Description: The shell consists of 8-9 whorls (plus 1-2 protoconch-whorls which might have been broken off). The spire is slightly eroded, consisting of 3 apical whorls still displaying a fine reticulated sculpture. The next three whorls have developed a finely granulated, rather angular shoulder. The very third of the whorl shows a more or less distinctly developed shoulder knob which becomes less distinct in the later whorls. These knobs are more distinct in Paratype 1 which is suspected to be of a different sex than the Holotype. There are 6-8 fine transversal striae to every whorl, these become stronger and more distant on the body whorl where they form slightly paler, elevated lines. The dorsum shows a single, barely produced horn, slightly pointed over the outline of the rounded shoulder. In Paratype 1 there is another, much smaller elevation between this horn (which is slightly more produced here) and the labral flange. The base forms a slightly flattened area between a rounded margin and the columellar peristome. The aperture is moderately narrow, with a faint tint of purple fading inwards. The nacre is thin but glossy, it easily chips and there is only a poor development of callus. The labrum is thickened but very fragile, forming a

winglike extension posteriorly, reaching about the height of the spiral tip. The shell is coloured uniformly yellow-tan without any darker markings. The periostracum is greenish-brown, moderately thick and slightly mamillate.

Derivatio nominis: The "Not-decorated-Strombus" is so inconspicuous in every aspect that this name seems to be appropriate.

Distribution: *Strombus (Tricornis) indecoratus* n. sp. is known only from the type locality, Cape Ras Hafun, northeastern Somalia, from deep water of 200-350m.

Discussion: There are two other larger Strombid species in the Western Indian Ocean the new species could be compared with: *Strombus (Tricornis) oldi* Emerson 1965 and *Strombus (Tricornis) tricornis* Humphrey 1786. The separation of the new species from *S. oldi* is evident - sculpturing and texture as well as the dark colouration of the inner aperture are so characteristic in *S. oldi* that it resembles no other species in the genus. The new species differs from *S. tricornis* in the absence of any colour pattern, the smoother surface of the shell, the lacking of the labral spine and finally the strongly reduced horns which are so striking in *S. tricornis*. The suture of the later whorls in *S. indecoratus* n. sp. is smooth, in *S. tricornis* it is always wavy due to the much stronger coronation of the shoulders. The microsculpture of the nuclear whorls in *S. indecoratus* n. sp. is much coarser than that of *S. tricornis*. Finally in the latter there are no traces of the dorsal bumps in earlier whorls (here the coronations are equally coarse) as seen in the new species, finally in *S. tricornis* the labral margin is more elaborate and wavy in the anterior region whereas *S. indecoratus* n. sp. altogether is far less differentiated in its macrosculpture.

Acknowledgments: We want to express our grateful thanks to Captain FELIX LORENZ of Lauenburg for obtaining the type material in Somalia and DAVID HINGSTON of Hamburg for correcting the spelling in the manuscript.

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Explanations of plate 12.
(page 54, 3/2 life size)

Strombus (Tricornis) indecoratus n. sp.

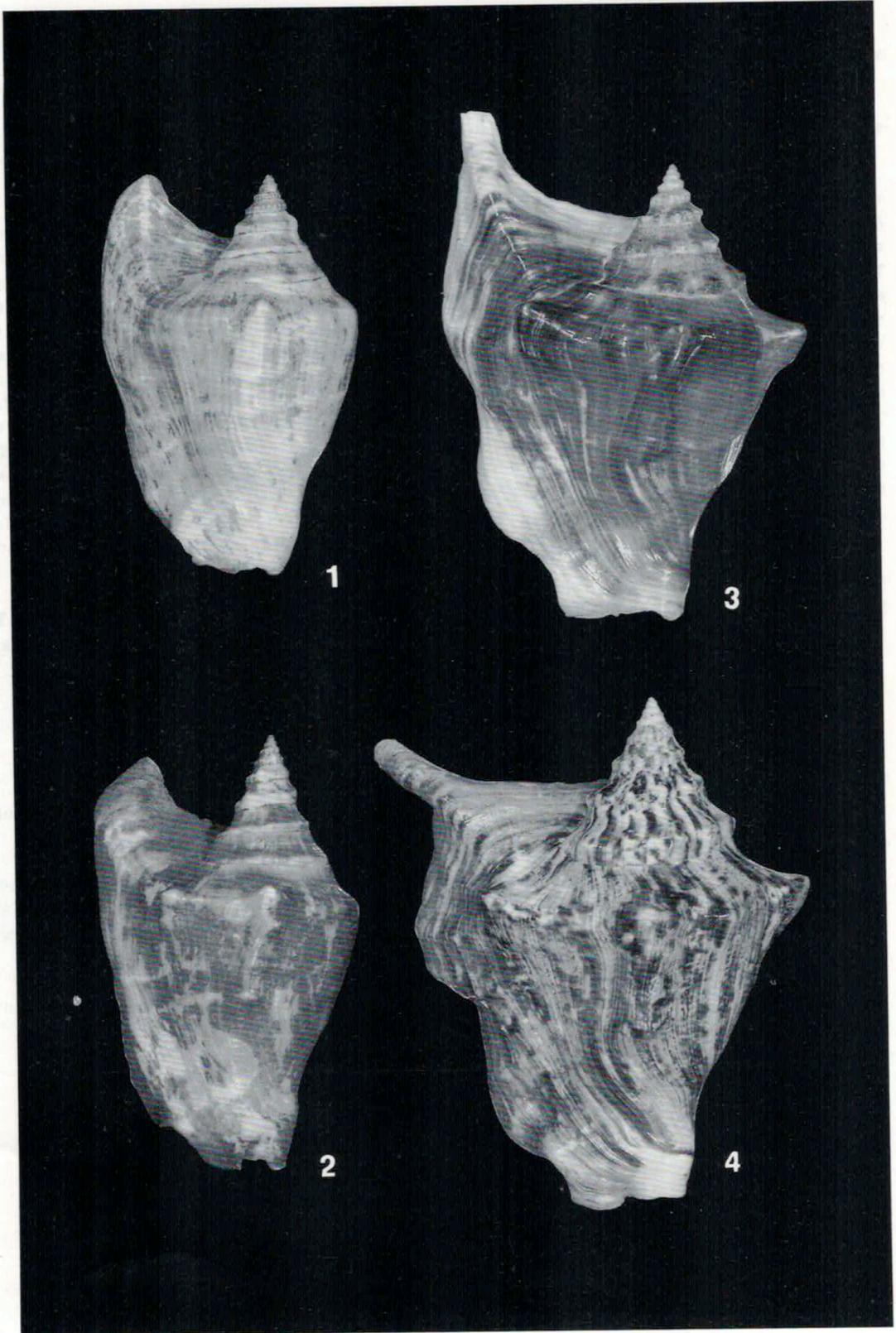
Fig. 1.
Holotype, deep water near Cape Ras Hafun, Somalia, HNC 24004.

Fig. 2.
Paratype 1, deep water near Cape Ras Hafun, Somalia.

Strombus (Tricornis) tricornis HUMPHREY 1786

Fig. 3.
Nokra, Dahlak Archip., Ethiopia, HNC 24020/a.

Fig. 4.
Nokra, Dahlak Archip., Ethiopia, HNC 24020/b.



F. LORENZ jun. & V. WIESE: A new species of *Strombus (Tricornis)* from Somalia.



F. LORENZ jun. & V. WIESE: A new species of *Strombus* (*Tricornis*) from Somalia.

Explanations of plate 13.
(page 55, 3/2 life size)

Strombus (Tricornis) indecoratus n. sp.

Fig. 5, 8.

Holotype, deep water near Cape Ras Hafun, Somalia, HNC 24004.

Fig. 6, 9.

Paratype 1, deep water near Cape Ras Hafun, Somalia.

Strombus (Tricornis) tricornis HUMPHREY 1786

Fig. 7, 10.

Nokra, Dahlak Archip., Ethiopia, HNC 24020/a.

Fig. 11.

Nokra, Dahlak Archip., Ethiopia, HNC 24020/b.