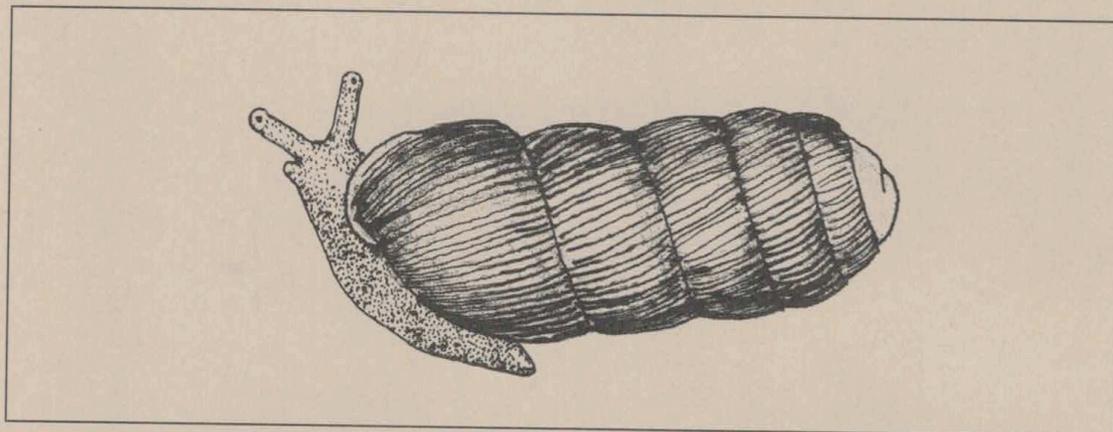


Schriften zur Malakozoologie

aus dem Haus der Natur - Cismar

Heft 13



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A new living species of Cypraeidae from Southern Madagascar

(Mollusca: Gastropoda: Cypraeidae).

by

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Duisburg and Gießen.

In recent years the coastline of Madagascar has been the source of many interesting new discoveries in the field of malacology, especially of the families Conidae and Volutidae several new species and interesting new variations have come to light. This paper describes a new cowry from the south of the island.

Palmadusta androyensis sp. nov.

Description: Shape and structure: Evenly oval-pyriform, depressed and callous. The base is callous and convex. The margins are rather angular, expanded and bent up towards the dorsum on both sides, framing the shell, forming depressions on either side of the anterior extremity. The spire is covered with callus (in a juvenile specimen it is small and deeply umbilicate). The extremities are blunt and short. The teeth are fine and restricted to the aperture. The first anterior columellar tooth is hardly thickened but separated from the terminal by a rather distinct gap. The anterior terminal is calloused, not forming a distinct ridge. The fossula area is steep, with four faint denticles (up to six in the paratypes). The aperture is narrow, gently curved posteriorly, not widening anteriorly.

Colouration: The dorsal ground colour is dark chestnut, eroded shells vary from yellowish to orange-brown. There are two very narrow whitish bands crossing the dorsum. These may be uninterrupted or with a zigzag-outline. The margins are brownish and separated from the dorsum by a paler zone of grey. Base and margins are densely spotted with darker. This spotting extends onto the extremities and towards the dorsum. The extremities are blotched with darker brown, but the tips and channels of the extremities are not stained (as in species of *Purpuradusta*). The dorsum of most specimens so far known is decorticate, but traces of dorsal pattern are not present even in relatively fresh shells retaining parts of the enamel. The animal characteristics are unknown.

Material: About twenty moderately eroded specimens, five of which are designated as types:
(length x width x height (mm) labral : columellar teeth, depository)

Holotype:	15,7 x 11,2 x 8,1	15 : 15 (Haus der Natur - Cismar, HNC 52872)
Paratype 1:	16,4 x 11,1 x 8,9	16 : 15 (coll. BLÖCHER, Duisburg)
Paratype 2:	15,7 x 11,0 x 8,5	15 : 16 (Haus der Natur - Cismar, HNC 52873)
Paratype 3:	15,3 x 10,7 x 8,2	15 : 15 (coll. BLÖCHER)
Paratype 4:	15,3 x 11,3 x 8,2	15 : 13 (coll. LORENZ)

Locus typicus and distribution: Most specimens known to us were collected on the beaches between the deltas of the Mandrare and Manambovo rivers (the latter mostly dry), southwest of Fort Dauphin, Southeastern Madagascar. Further findings were made on beaches in the Southwest of this country from about the 24th degree latitude southwards. It is probable that the range of the species covers the whole southern tip of Madagascar. The habitat is unknown but probably sublittoral, judging from the eroded state of the type specimens.

Ethymology: The name *androyensis* refers to Androy, a southern region of Madagascar named after the native tribe of the ANTANDROY.

Discussion: Despite being known only from dead collected specimens so far, *Palmadusta androyensis* sp. nov. represents a well distinguishable member of Cypraeidae whose assignment to the genus *Palmadusta* on account of the character of the dorsal banding must be considered provisional. It cannot be confused with any other living member of the family Cypraeidae even in an eroded state. In the genus *Palmadusta*, there are a few smaller species which in the following will be compared with *Palmadusta androyensis* sp. nov. *Palmadusta ziczac* (LINNÉ 1758) does show a dorsal banding somewhat resembling that of *androyensis*, but in latter species the banding is much narrower, there are only two instead of three bands, and the ground colour is much darker than in *ziczac*. Furthermore, the base of *androyensis* is plain white instead of orange, the columellar teeth are confined to the aperture. *Palmadusta diluculum* (REEVE 1845) has a white base, but

it shows a completely different type of banding, and is much less callous. The strong development of callus safely distinguishes *androyensis* from all members in the genus.



Fig. 1 (photo LORENZ):
Palmadusta androyensis sp. nov. (enlarged 2 x),
a well preserved specimen, retaining the original
layers of enamel (coll. LORENZ)

Literature:

LORENZ, F. & HUBERT, A. (1993): A Guide to Worldwide Cowries. – Wiesbaden, 571 pp. (Christa Hemmen).

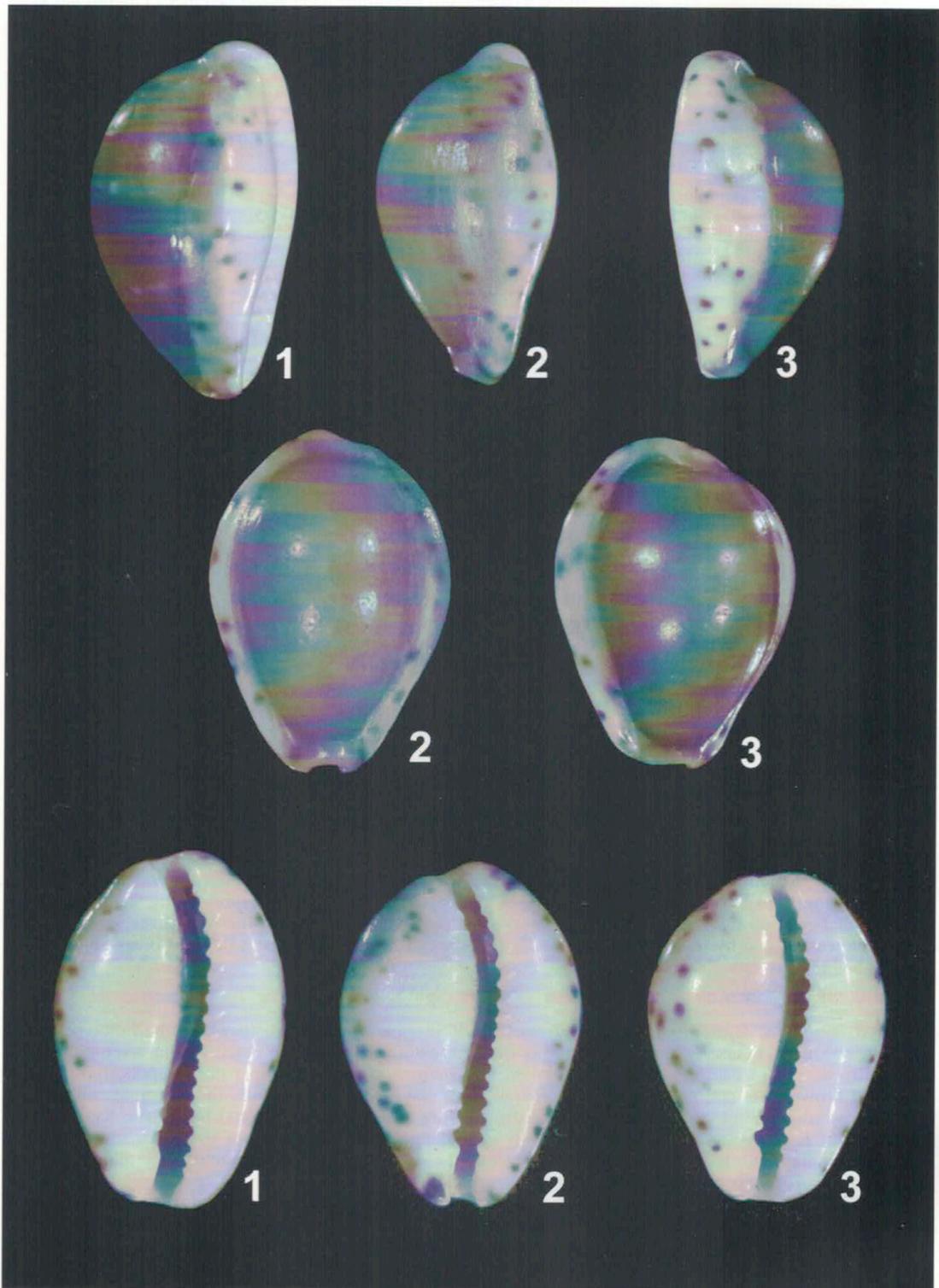
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Explanations of plate 3:
(enlarged 3 x, photos: V. WIESE)

Palmadusta androyensis sp. nov.,
Between the deltas of the Manambovo and Mandrare rivers, southwest of Fort Dauphin, Southern
Madagascar, on beach.

- Fig. 1: Paratype 2 (HNC 52873)
- Fig. 2: Holotype (HNC 52872)
- Fig. 3: Paratype 4 (coll. F. LORENZ)



M. BLÖCHER & F. LORENZ: A new living species of Cypraeidae from Southern Madagascar.