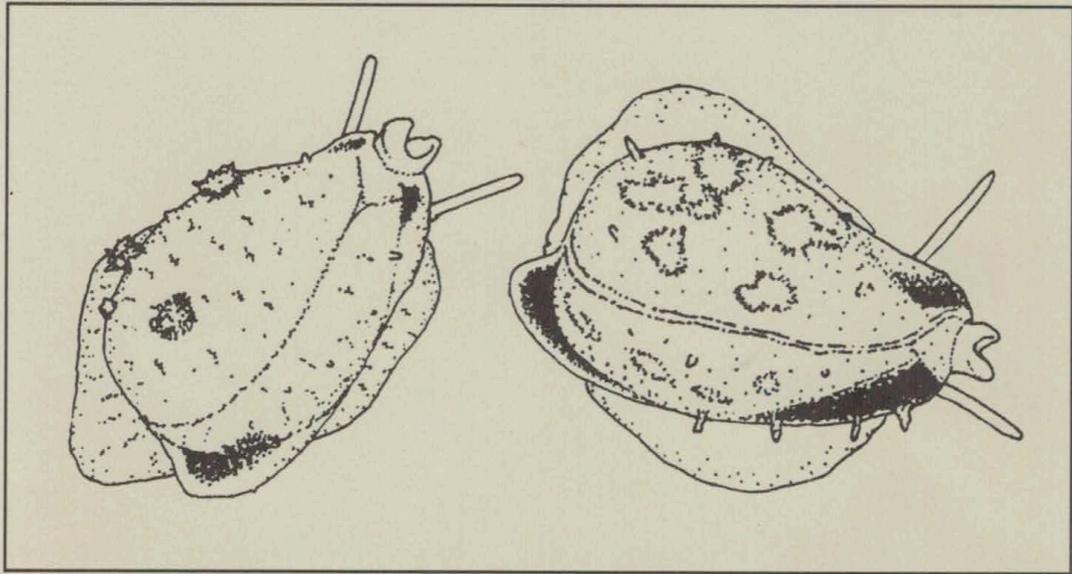


Schriften zur Malakozoologie

aus dem Haus der Natur – Cismar

Heft 3



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News on *Cypraeaovula edentula nagoonensis*.

By
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Until now finding a living *Cypraeaovula edentula nagoonensis* LORENZ jun. 1989 was a mere case of chance - occasionally living shells were washed ashore after storms but the actual habitat was so far unknown. When in 1988 my friend BRUNO DE BRUIN carried out extensive diving around East London in various depths he did not find a single specimen.

Only recently PHILLIP JOOSTE of Cape Town found a whole batch of living *C. e. nagoonensis* in the East London vicinity. The depth was said to be 24 to 27 m. These shells are conchologically typical, mostly with the characteristic denticulation along the aperture on the anterior portion of the shell. The marginal spotting is dense and confluent, the margins and base are showing a rich purplish tint. The dorsal colour was purple when the shells were fresh, later it faded to a greyish-brown. The dorsal mottling in three shells examined was less dense than in the type material from Fullers Bay (LORENZ jun. 1989, 37). Altogether the appearance of these live-collected specimens was a completely different one compared to live-collected *edentula*-material from the Algoa Bay area. *C. edentula nagoonensis* has a brighter, more saturated colouration and a far more solid shell. Photographs of the living animal of *nagoonensis* show clearly a thick, orange-brown mantle with paler yellow patches. There are few, barely developed fingerlike papillae along the margins. DOUG COCHRANE described the *nagoonensis*-animal from Fullers Bay as being brownish, with longer, branched papillae. This description would also fit well to typical *edentula* from Algoa Bay. The major impression of people who saw living *C. e. nagoonensis* was that these were "much different" from living *C. edentula*. The animals of *Cypraeaovula* species may vary greatly in colouration and sculpturing and so far little is known about the significance of external animal features, especially when the infraspecific variability is that high. The radula of *C. e. nagoonensis* is very similar to that of *C. edentula* from Algoa Bay, although the inner marginal tooth is not slit as in typical *C. edentula* (compare LORENZ jun. 1989, 21). The finding of living *C. e. nagoonensis* confirms the characteristics attributed to this eastern race of *C. edentula* and the status as a subspecies.

In the area *C. e. nagoonensis* was found, specimens of *Cypraeaovula capensis* also appeared. Their shells are more inflated and darker brown rather than yellow tan as are typical *capensis* from the Algoa Bay area. The anterior extremity in the East London shells is less callous and expanded than in Algoa Bay shells. The dorsal blotch is restricted and distinctly outlined, the ribbing of the columellar peristome is far coarser than in typical *C. capensis*. Some specimens had a rich purple colour while others were greyish brown. The animals were brownish, with darker patches.

For their kind cooperation I wish to thank ARIE and PHILLIP JOOSTE, BRUNO DE BRUIN, WERNER MASSIER and N. E. M. NEWMANN.

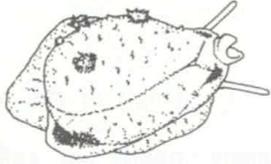
Literature:

LORENZ jun., F. (1989): Annotated descriptions of some new and old members of Cypraeidae. -- Schr. Malakozool., 2: 1-38.

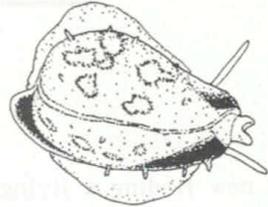
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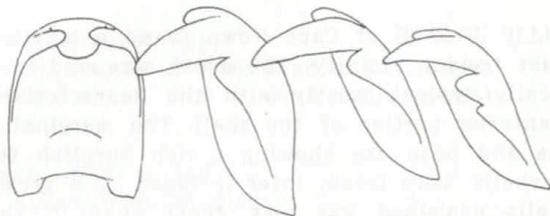
Drawings of living animals showing that the differences are unimportant.



Cypraeovula edentula edentula



Cypraeovula edentula nagoonensis



Radula of *Cypraeovula edentula nagoonensis*



Live-collected *C. e. nagoonensis* (East London, South Africa, 24-27 m)
(approx. 3/2 life size).