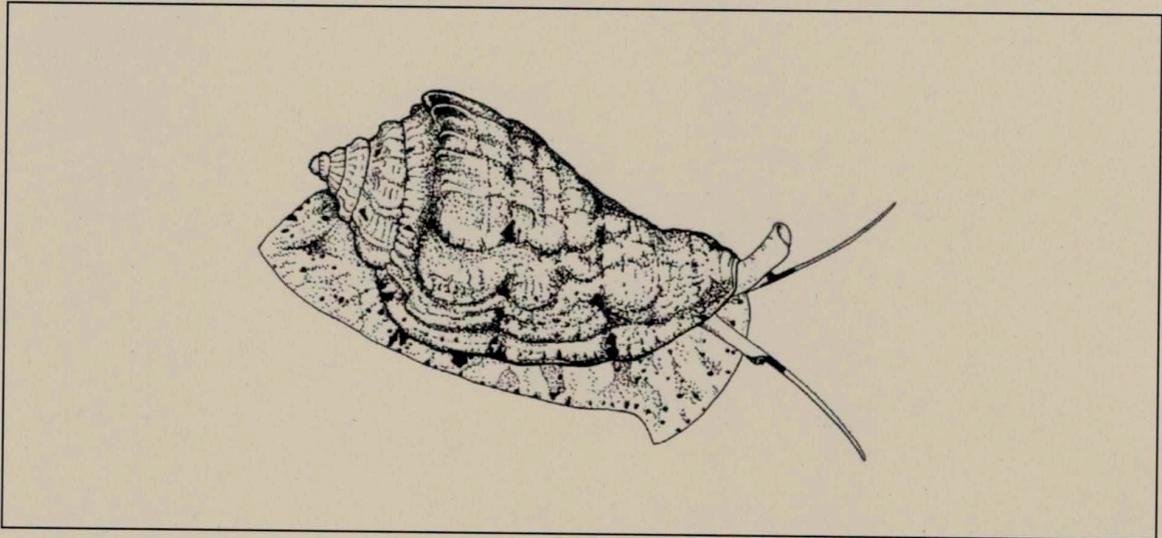


Schriften zur Malakozoologie

aus dem Haus der Natur - Cismar

Heft 26



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**A new species of *Morum* (Gastropoda: Harpidae)
from the Tuamotu Archipelago.**

by

DAVID MONSECOUR, Aarschot and FELIX LORENZ, Buseck-Beuern.

Abstract: A new species of *Morum* (Gastropoda: Harpidae) from Takapoto, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia is described as *Morum janae* sp. nov. It is compared with *M. macdonaldi*, the only congener it can be confused with.

Introduction: The genus *Morum* RÖDING, 1798 consists of 30 recent species, half of which occur in the Pacific Ocean. Among those, many species have a very limited distribution, such as *Morum bruuni* (POWELL 1979) (New Caledonia), *Morum macdonaldi* EMERSON 1981 (Marshall Islands) and *Morum clatratum* BOUCHET 2002 and *Morum roseum* BOUCHET 2002 (both Marquesas Islands).

Takapoto (coordinates: 14° 42' S 145° 15' W) is a small atoll belonging to the King George Islands, which are situated in the NW of the Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia. Material from this region hardly ever becomes available for study and it is of no surprise that shells obtained from this locality often yield yet undescribed species. The present article adds one more species to the peculiar fauna of this area: *Morum janae* sp. nov.

Abbreviations: MNHN: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.

Family **HARPIDAE** BRONN 1849

Subfamily *Moruminae* HUGHES & EMERSON 1987

Genus *Morum* RÖDING 1798

Type species: *Morum (Morum) oniscus* (LINNAEUS 1767). Recent. Caribbean.

Subgenus: *Oniscidia* Mørch 1852

Type species: *Morum (Oniscidia) cancellatum* SOWERBY 1824. Recent. Indo-Pacific.

***Morum (Oniscidia) janae* nov. sp.**

Type material: Holotype MNHN 24773, 13.6 x 9.3 mm.

Type locality: Tuamotu Archipelago, Takapoto Island.

Distribution and habitat: Only known from the type locality, to which it is probably endemic. The unique holotype was collected on the beach by local islanders. Its excellent state of preservation suggests that the habitat is in shallow water.

Description: Shell small for the genus: only specimen known (Holotype) 13.6 x 9.3 mm, fusiform. Protoconch solid, paucispiral, of slightly less than one adpressed whorl, adorned with microscopic pits. Transition to teleoconch clearly marked by a distinct, thickened rim which is more elevated than the nucleus of the protoconch. Teleoconch of 4 strongly shouldered whorls, shoulder of all whorls almost sloping down in a straight line towards suture of lower whorl. Suture hardly recognizable as such because of an spiral cord running along it. Axial sculpture consisting of clear axial cords: 19 on final whorl, 15 on penultimate and second uppermost whorl and 12 on uppermost teleoconch whorl. Axial cords ranging from suture to suture, but strongest from shoulder down to suture of lower whorl. Spiral sculpture of five

hardly raised broad cords on uppermost teleoconch whorl, 4 close-set, well-defined cords on second teleoconch whorl, 5 cords on penultimate whorl and 12 cords on the final whorl, where they are at the same time the strongest. Interspaces somewhat broader than cords. The lowest axial cord on each whorl runs exactly along the suture. A nodulose sculpture arises where the spiral sculpture crosses the axial sculpture. Outer lip thickened, bearing the continuation of the axial sculpture, resulting in 12 beadlike knobs along the outer lip. Onset of outer lip just below the shoulder of the final whorl. Inner lip with 12 denticles, of which the strongest ones can be found in the middle and which are positioned in between the ends of each spiral cord. Columellar shield almost straight, seriously thickened and with the abapical half semi-detached. Sculpture on columellar shield consisting of 17 prolonged denticles along the entire length of the columellar shield and 9 rows of 2-3 pustules each along the edge of the shield. These rows of pustules range from mid-columellar height up to the onset of the outer lip. Siphonal canal short, slightly recurved, half-open.

Shell colour off-white with a few beige patches on the 5th adapical spiral cord of the final whorl and some faint orange blotches on the spiral cord running along the shoulder of the final whorl. Aperture and columellar shield white.

Animal, periostracum and operculum unknown.

Etymology: This species is named in honour of Jana Kratzsch of Buseck, Germany, companion of the second author. Jana has contributed considerably to malacology, e.g. with outstanding underwater photographs of minute and hard to find gastropods and in situ pictures of *Empressostrea kostini* Huber & Lorenz 2007.

Discussion: *Morum janae* sp. nov. can only be confused with *Morum (Oniscidia) macdonaldi* EMERSON 1981, from the Marshall Islands because of its small size (ca 15-20 mm) and the reticulate pattern resulting from the intersections of the spiral and axial sculpture. Yet, the latter has a conical, multispiral protoconch whereas *M. janae* has a clearly paucispiral and sunken protoconch. Other differences are the pointed scales on the intersections of spiral and axial sculpture in *M. macdonaldi* and the colour pattern on the outer lip: fine brown lines in *M. macdonaldi*, but no pattern at all in *M. janae* sp. nov.

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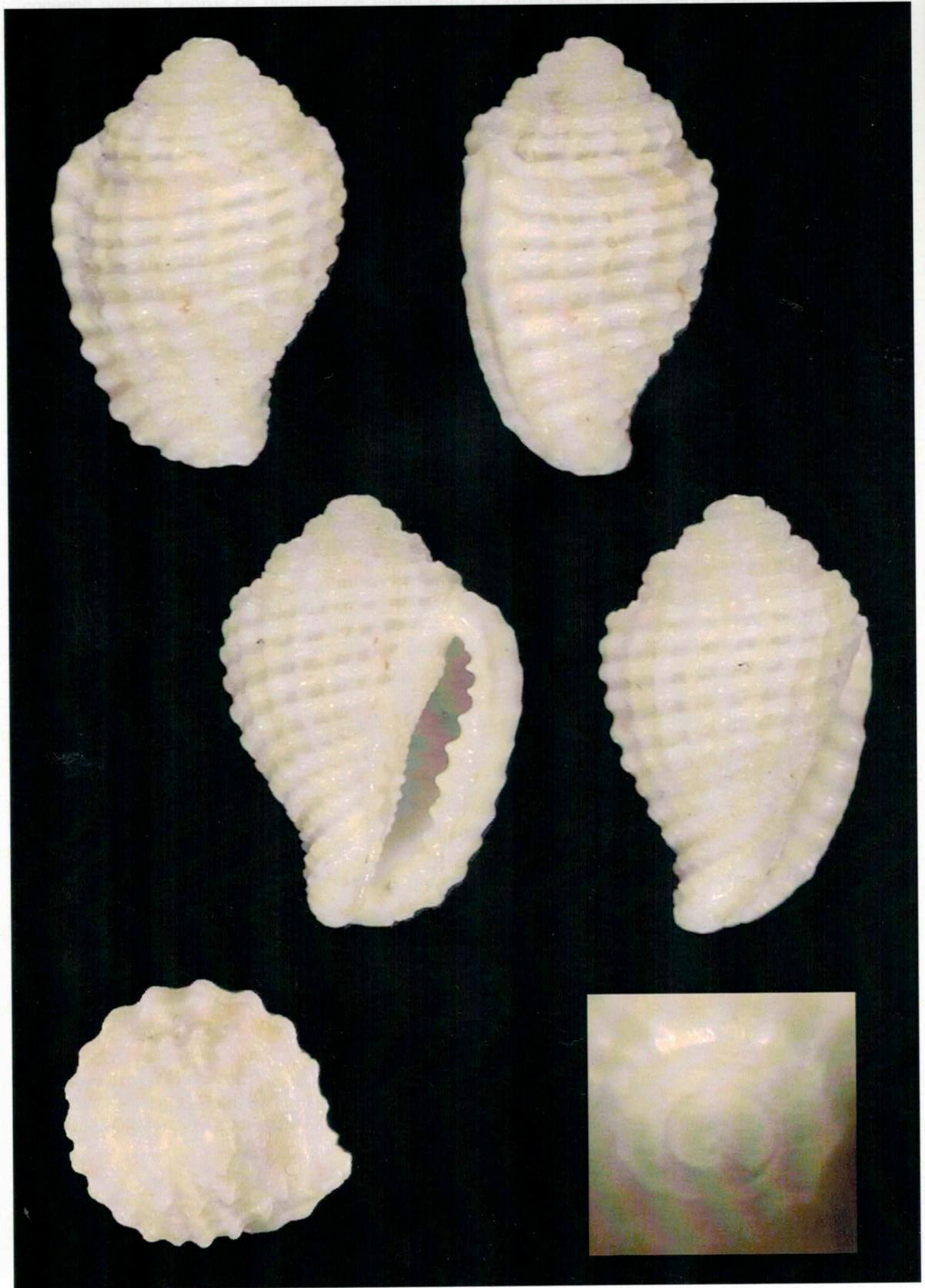
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Explanations of Plate 1:

Morum (Oniscidia) janae sp. nov.

Holotype (MNHN) 13,6 mm.

Dorsal, ventral and lateral aspects, and detail of the protoconch



LORENZ, F. : A new species of *Morum* from the Tuamotu Archipelago.