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A New Species of *Morum* from Mozambique (Gastropoda: Harpidae)

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With 4 Figures on Plate 1

Keywords

Harpidae, *Morum*, new species, Mozambique.

Abstract

Morum (Oniscidia) concilium n. sp. from Inhambane, Mozambique, differs from its congeners by the sculpture of the dorsum, the reduction of interstitial riblets, unpaired labral teeth and other subtle conchological features. It links members of the genus from the Indian Ocean with those from the Pacific.

Zusammenfassung

Morum (Oniscidia) concilium n. sp. von Inhambane, Mosambik, unterscheidet sich von anderen Arten der Gattung durch die dorsale Skulptur, die Reduktion von axialen Rippchen, unpaare Labralzähne und weitere subtile Merkmale. Er verbindet Arten des Indischen Ozeans mit denen des Pazifiks.

Introduction

In the western part of the Indian Ocean, the genus *Morum* (and associated subgenera) had been known from only one species (*M. praeclarum* MELVILL 1919) until the discovery of the large-shelled *M. vicdani* EMERSON 1990 on Saya de Malha Bank, and later, the description of the unique *M. fatimae* POPPE & BRULET in DANCE & POPPE 1999 from Mozambique. The intracapsular developing *M. lorenzi* MONSECOUR 2011 from St. Brandon revealed that the genus is far more diverse than formerly thought, which was a malacological surprise. It represents a species that is best compared with the species of the Caribbean rather than the Indo-Pacific. Recently, the conchologically extreme *M. inerme* LORENZ 2014 from the Nazareth Bank was added to the genus, and compared with *M. vicdani* and its Pacific congeners. The new species described in the following is another addition, and is of particular interest because it also mediates between the Pacific members of *Morum* and some Indian Ocean ones. It is, therefore, described as

Morum (Oniscidia) concilium n. sp.

(Plate 1, Fig. 1)

Type Material

Holotype: 52.7 mm

coll. Molluscan Science Foundation, Inc., Owings Mills, Maryland, No. MSF-mk900-MBC.

The holotype is a live-collected, well-preserved shell. So far, the new species is known from the holotype. A second, equally well-preserved specimen supposedly exists, but we were unable to locate its current whereabouts.

Description

The shell is of medium size for the genus and appears solid and rather heavy. The general shape is oval, with a tall spire (apical angle 88°). The last whorl is somewhat inflated. The first whorl of the protoconch is partly chipped, but the remaining part of it is smooth. The following two whorls are finely striated longitudinally, 0.7 mm tall and 2.0 mm wide, with 3.5 whorls and a discernible discontinuity line after which the cancellated teleoconch whorls are visible, indicating planktonic development.

There are 5.5 moderately inflated postnuclear whorls. The body whorl shows 13 prominent axial and 15 spiral ridges. The latter are considerably more defined and angular than the longitudinal ridges, which have a wavy outline. Dorsally, these ridges form a regular, reticulated sculpture whose rectangular compartments are about twice as wide as high. In the earlier postnuclear whorls this sculpture is similar, but the axial and spiral ridges are of equal strength. There are weakly developed, finer axial riblets in the cavities between the ridges.

The shoulder of the fourth whorl is evenly rounded, and the frilling of its axial cords is barely noticeable. There is no indication of spines on the shoulder of the body whorl.

The aperture is narrow throughout, with a peculiar curve in the midsection, caused by a protrusion of the labrum and its denticles. The anal canal is narrow and shallow. The siphonal canal is long and wide, constricted by a terminal labral ridge. The parietal shield is strongly developed and wide, reaching far across the middle of the basal part of the last whorl, forming a prominent parietal shield along the anterior third of the shell's margin. The parietal shield shows numerous rounded tubercles whose strength increases towards the aperture. At the border of the posterior half of the aperture there are prominent ridges of variable length that extend into the shell. The fossular area is calloused and slightly projecting, with seven denticles along its inner margin, a slightly concave area above, and more developed denticles along the outer edge.

The labrum is broad and calloused, declivous towards the canals and broadest in the centre, where there are three conspicuously swollen teeth. There are 9 discernible labral teeth in total, of which the anterior ones are weaker and shorter. The outer edge of the labrum is angular and 4.8 mm thick.

The ground colour is saturate cream, the callosities are plain white, the protoconch is pale orange. There are four pale brown, interrupted transverse bands. The first of them consists of darker dashes visible only on the body whorl. Two mid-dorsal bands are more distinct and less interrupted. The fourth band above the canal is faint. The paler zones have the width of three spiral cords, the mid-dorsal bands are two cords wide. The outer part of the labrum shows numerous fine brown spots which condense in the areas where the banding meets the outer margin.

Distribution

The holotype of *Morum concilium* n. sp. was collected by a commercial fishing boat offshore Inhambane, Mozambique, at 280 m.

Etymology

The name *concilium* (Latin: connection) refers to the morphologically mediating characteristics of the shell that combines features of its Pacific and Indian Ocean congeners.

Discussion

Morum concilium n. sp. has a prominent sculpture that superficially resembles *Morum vicdani* EMERSON 1995 from the Saya de Malha Bank, which differs by its angular shoulder, a lower number of axial ridges, the presence of finer interstitial axial riblets, and a thinner, densely pustulose basal shield. The labral teeth of *M. vicdani* are more numerous and always in pairs.

Morum uchiyamai KURODA & HABE 1961 from the China Sea has a very similar colouration and a shape that resembles *M. concilium*. Both species also have a prominent, calloused basal shield. *M. uchiyamai* is more elongated, with more prominent frills along the shoulder, and with stronger interstitial axial riblets between the ridges. The labral teeth show a similar structure to those of *M. vicdani* by being paired.

Morum inerme LORENZ 2014 from the Nazareth Bank in the Indian Ocean has a similar, rounded spire, but whereas it almost lacks axial ridges, the finer interstitial riblets are comparatively stronger. *M. inerme* also has a much weaker spiral sculpture. Its basal shield is thin and narrow, but the structure of the teeth and fossula are perhaps the most similar to the new species. There are more numerous, but mostly single, labral teeth in *M. inerme*, and the labrum is considerably thinner and narrower than in *M. concilium*.

Morum amabilis SHIKAMA 1973 from the Philippines and other localities in the western Pacific has a similar rounded spire without notable frills along the shoulder, but the sculpture is considerably denser and forms characteristic nodules at the intersections of the dorsal ribs.

M. concilium differs from all its congeners by the combination of the following features: a dorsal sculpture lacking shoulder spines or frills; the reduction of axial riblets; a produced and calloused basal shield; and the labral teeth being single, which is otherwise found only in *M. inerme*, which we consider the closest relative.

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Plate 1 (on p. 14)

Fig. 1: *Morum (Oniscidia) concilium* n. sp. 52.7 mm, Inhambane, Mozambique, off 280 m. Holotype coll. MSF-mk900-MBC.

Fig. 2: *Morum (Oniscidia) inerme*. 46.5 mm, Nazareth Bank, "deep water". Paratype.

Fig. 3: *Morum (Oniscidia) uchiyamai*. 65.2 mm, China, off 250 m.

Fig. 4: *Morum (Oniscidia) vicdani*. 48.4 mm, Nazareth Bank, "deep water".

Plate 1



Explanation on p. 13