

Pallidula



The Magazine of the British Shell Collectors' Club

Vol. 48 No.2 October 2018



The rediscovery of a part of the H. C. Weinkauff collection

By Felix Lorenz & Julian Joseph



In the summer of 2014 the first author was called to look at the collection of a German collector who had died some years before. The collector's widow showed him the shells, which were stored in various

German dealer Günter Reitz (died 2017), at a meeting of the German Club Conchylia in Wolfsburg in 1983. Reitz was well known in the aquarium trade as a breeder of Tanganyika Cichlids. How he initially got hold of the shells is unknown.

The ancient labels of the shells give names, localities and a price in "MK" (Mark, the currency of the historical German Empire), which was used between 1876 and 1924, until it was changed to the Reichsmark (RM). The handwriting on some of the plates in the book corresponds with that on the labels, so possibly these shells were sold by Weinkauff himself, or at least labelled by him for the purpose of selling them. The exact date when these shells (and probably the entire Weinkauff collection) were sold is unknown, but it was most probably between 1881 (with the completion of the Conchylien-Cabinet) and Weinkauff's death five years later.

There are approximately 100 specimens, mostly cowries, a few Triviidae, two cones, two mitres and one large muricid. Several of the original labels also refer to an illustration in Martini & Chemnitz, and on comparing them with the figures it is obvious that they are the original shells used by Weinkauff for illustration. Seven specimens appear to be the types of taxa introduced by Weinkauff, and one shell is the holotype of a taxon (*nebulosa*, a synonym of *Zonaria zonaria*) described by Louis Charles Kiener (1799-1881), who was a close colleague of Weinkauff and Loebbecke.

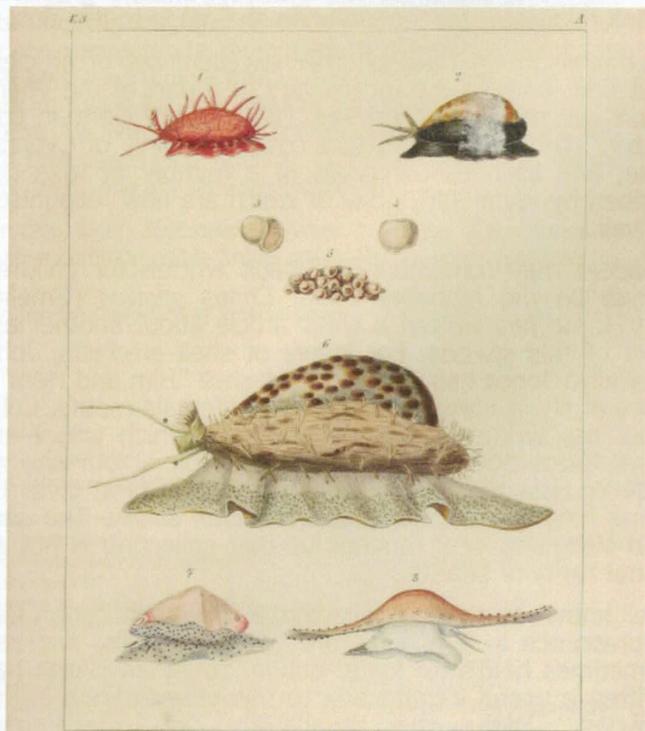


Fig. 1: CK plate A, animals. 1: *Nucleolaria nucleus*; 2: *Lyncina carneola*; 3-5: egg capsules & embryonic shells of *Erronea caurica*; 7: *Cypraea tigris*; 8: *Calpurnus verrucosus*; 8: *Volva volva*

boxes and plastic containers spread throughout their congested 60 square meter flat on the 4th floor of a lower class apartment building near Hanover, Germany.

The shells were mostly in poor condition and there were few items of commercial interest. However, he noticed several shells with ancient labels and one box contained the remark "Martini & Chemnitz: Das Systematische Conchylien Kabinett" (CK), henceforth referred to by its actual title "Conchylien-Cabinet". Volume 5 part 3 was edited by Heinrich Conrad Weinkauff (1817-1886) and published in 1881. It features cowries and their allies, with 53 hand-coloured copper-printed plates, of which 37 feature Cypraeidae. The book is written in German, with Latin quotations, and discusses all cowries known at that time on more than 200 pages. Weinkauff often refers to the collection of Theodor Loebbecke (1821-1901), who was a close friend and avid collector. Loebbecke's collection (referred to as *museum loebbeckeanum* in the Conchylien-Cabinet) comprises more than 75000 specimens, now stored in the Loebbecke Museum in Düsseldorf.

The German collector had acquired the shells, many of which have ancient labels, in a bulk deal from the

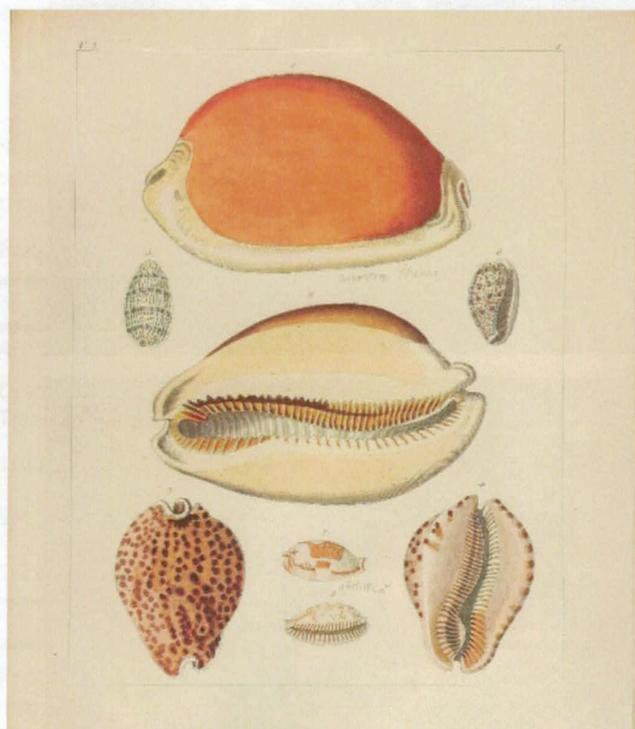


Fig. 2: CK plate 1. 1, 2: *Callistocypraea aurantium*; 3, 4: *Trona stercoraria*; 5, 6: indeterminate; 7, 8: *Bistolida stolidia*

Unfortunately, only 30 of the old labels are preserved. Many were copied and thrown away over the years, most recently by the last owner of the collection, mainly because they got wet and the ink dissolved. Some of the shells show water damage. Others are in astonishingly good condition.

Weinkauff's collection disappeared long before WW I, and many types supposedly taken from Loebbecke's collection cannot be located in the Loebbecke Museum in Düsseldorf where they should be. The same is true for the Museum für Meereskunde und Fischerei, Stralsund (Prof. G.B. Reinicke, pers. comm. 2014), which would have owned the holotype of *gemmula* Weinkauff (= *massauensis* Schilder 1922), originally from the Jickeli collection. Both names are now considered synonyms of *Pseudozonaria arabicula*. Carl Friedrich Jickeli (1850-1925) was a malacologist and collector who collected e.g. in Massawa. He supplied several specimens, including *Palmadusta lentiginosa dancalica* and numerous *Cypraea pantherina* in the collection of Weinkauff.

When trying to trace the history of the shells, a small label with one of the cone shells gave a clue. It states "Linnaea, Luisenplatz 6, Berlin". There is also a label with the price in MK, identical to the others. "Linnaea" was name of the "Naturhistorische Museum", the shell collection of Freiherr Hermann von Maltzan (1843-1891), a well known conchologist at the time, and author of numerous poems, which were published under pseudonyms.

Von Maltzan assembled his shell collection from his travels and from purchases. Weinkauff's shells were most probably obtained directly from Weinkauff, perhaps at the time von Maltzan lived in Darmstadt (until 1882), close to Weinkauff's home in Kreuznach (today Bad Kreuznach). The Conchylien-Cabinet repeatedly refers to the collection of von Maltzan. There is no other information at this point as to what might have happened to von Maltzan's collection after he died, but apparently it was sold before WW I.

In addition to the shells referable to Weinkauff, there



Fig. 2: *B. erythraensis*. Left: Weinkauff's specimen, right: CK plate 11 figs. 5, 8.

***Cypraea pantherina*:** original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 27: 5, 6; Weinkauff describes this shell on p. 87 and compares it with *Zoila venusta thatcheri*.

***Cypraea pantherina*:** original label missing; Illustrated in CK plate 27: 3; melanistic shell; the dorsal line is also shown in the figure. See fig. 3.

***Cypraea pantherina*:** original label missing; not illustrated; Freak shell described in detail on p. 87 in CK. See front cover.

***Cypraeovula algoensis*:** with original label; not illustrated; eroded, drilled shell, remarkable price of 8 MK, equivalent to nearly £90.

is a subfossil specimen of *Naria lamarckii* with a description of "*Cypraea domicella*" with a hand coloured drawing signed "Knoche". It seems to have remained unpublished, or represents a *nomen oblitum*. Perhaps it may be found in some obscure natural history magazine - these were fashionable in Germany before WW I, usually printed in small editions. Very few of them still exist in complete volumes. The only possible author is Hermann Knoche, a palaeontologist who published a few works, including some with malacological content, in the 1920s. He may have been the owner of the Weinkauff shells in the 1920s. A lot of research is still to be done on this collection of shells (mainly to fill the gap between the 1920s and 1983). It would be a fascinating scavenger hunt to figure out exactly how these shells survived two world wars.

The following specimens are noteworthy:

***Austrocypraea reevei*:** original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 13: 10, 11; the illustration shows great similarity in colour, which is altered due to the slightly eroded state of the shell.

***Bistolida hirundo*:** original label missing; possibly illustrated in CK plate 8: 7 (as *neglecta*); the blotch of this exceptionally slender shell corresponds with that in the figure. See back cover, bottom row.

***Bistolida kieneri*:** original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 11: 9, 12 (as *hirundo*); well recognizable in the figure by the reproduction of the pattern.

***Bistolida owenii*:** original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 19: 8, 9. The subfossil state of the two shells is visible in the combined figure.

***Bistolida pia*:** original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 19: 7, 9 (as *owenii*); it is no surprise to see this species, a rarity today, in a collection assembled in the 1880's as St Brandon was a place where the sailing boats that passed South Africa made a stopover. The sheltered anchorage of South Island is directly opposite the strip of beach where we find the species today. The shell closely resembles the figure (the caption states *owenii* Mauritius).

***Bistolida erythraensis*:** with original label, reference to plate; illustrated in CK plate 11: 5, 8; On comparing this shell with its figure in the plates it is apparent that the shell must be turned sideways to see certain aspects shown in the figure, which is always an interpretation of the respective specimen(s) available to the artist. MK 15=£150. See fig. 2.



Fig. 3: *C. pantherina*. Left: shell, right, CK plate 27 fig. 6.



Ficadusta pulchella: original label missing; Illustrated in CK plate 19: 11, 12; the shell has a deformed anterior canal, which is also indicated in the figure. The nearly patternless dorsum is also indicative that this is the original specimen.

Lyncina vitellus: with original label; not illustrated; subadult freak labelled as "arenosa?"

Lovellona atramentosa: the shell is labelled as *Conus atramentosus*; contained both Weinkauff label and Linnaea (von Maltzan) label.

Lyncina carneola: with original label; illustrated in CK plate 24: 2, 3 (as *loebbeckiana*); Holotype of *Cypraea loebbeckiana* Weinkauff 1881. These are subfossil shells. The description leaves no doubt that these are the original types.

Lyncina carneola: with original label; not illustrated; 3 paratypes of *Cypraea loebbeckiana* Weinkauff 1881. These are subfossil shells.

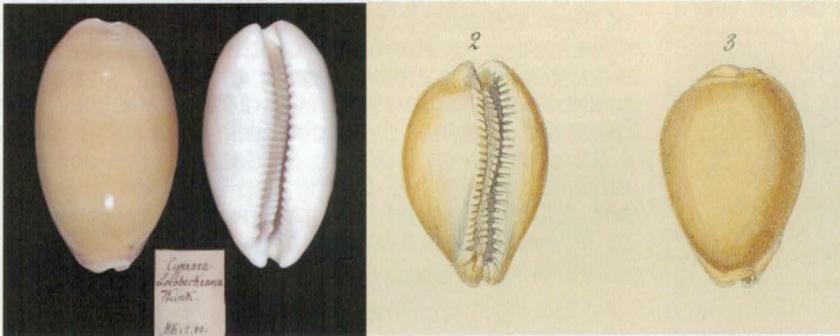


Fig. 4: *Cyp.loebbeckiana*, holotype . 37.7mm. Left: shell, right: CK plate 4 figs. 2, 3.



Fig. 5: *C. loebbeckiana*, paratype

Lyncina schilderorum: original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 12: 5, 8 (as *arenosa*); Weinkauff obtained this shell from Pease. It corresponds closely with the illustration as it has a similar dent in the dorsal frame to that in the figure.

Melicerona felina fabula: with original label, reference to plate; illustrated in CK plate 12: 9, 12; The label refers to the plate. Similar to pl. 53 fig. 3a in Kiener.

Mitra sacerdotalis: with original label; not illustrated; labelled as *Mitra chinensis* - large, well preserved shell from "China" priced at MK 10 (approx. 120 Euro). Small label with the same handwriting as the Linnaea label, possibly issued by von Maltzan.

Naria eburnea: with original label; illustrated in CK plate 33: 10, 11; the fine dorsal groove of this shell is also reproduced in the figure.

Naria erosa: with original label; not illustrated; the label mentions var. *grisea*, but the name was never published for *erosa*. The shell is subfossil, with a grey dorsum. See back cover, top row.

Naria helvola hawaiiensis: original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 33: 5, 8 (as *citrina*); this shell is recognizably illustrated as *citrina* from Madagascar. The transcript of the original label (which was not found) states *citrina*, Madagascar. The reference to Madagascar as locality of *citrina* was already purported by Gray. The discovery of the species in Madagascar, however, was not made until the 1980s.

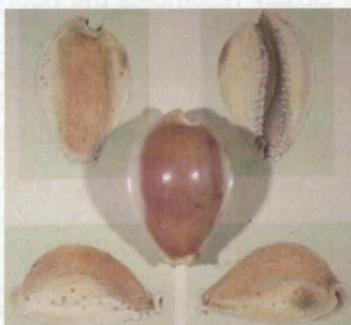


Fig. 6. *Cypraea domicella*.

Naria lamarckii (subfossil): with a comprehensive description and hand coloured line drawing signed "Knoche". The shell is described as *Cypraea domicella*, a name that has not been listed in the synonymy of the Cypraeidae. The date and details about the author are not known, and the drawing is signed "E. v. N". A small label in barely decipherable old German writing states: "*Cypraea lamarckii* Gray, aus Ägypten. Halten sie für gute eigene Art. (we think it is a good species)".

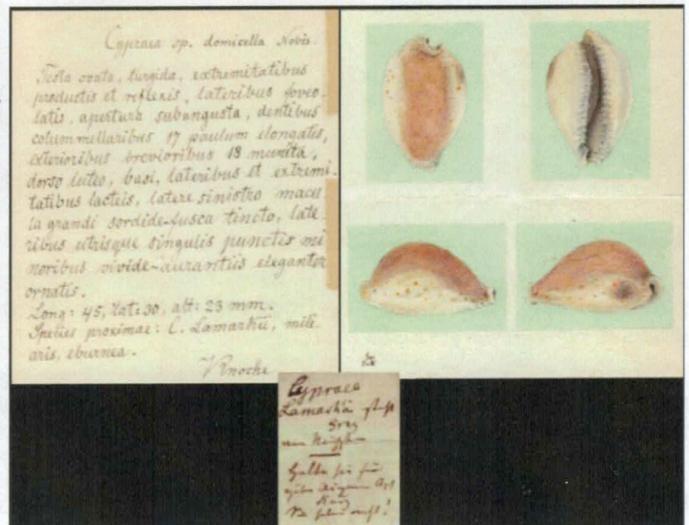


Fig. 7: Original description in Latin and hand-coloured line drawing of *C. domicella*, and the *C. lamarckii* label.

The "Knoche" description of *domicella* translates as:

"Shell ovate, swollen, extremities produced and bent back, sides pitted, aperture narrow, 17 slightly elongated columellar teeth, 18 slightly shorter labral teeth. Dorsum mud-coloured, base, sides and extremities milky white. Left side [with] a large, dirty, dark spot, both sides elegantly ornamented with discrete, smaller spots.

Length: 45, width: 30, height: 23 mm.

Related species: *C. lamarckii*, *miliaris*, *eburnea*."

See figs. 6 and 7.

Naria turdus. with original label, reference to plate; illustrated in CK plate 32: 9, 10; shell is in perfect condition.

Notocypraea angustata: with original label; illustrated in CK plate 29: 4, 5; the label states New Holland as the locality, and the dark dorsum reveals that the shell is indeed from Tasmania. It closely

resembles the figure in CK.

Nucleolaria granulata: original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 37: 10, 11 (as *madagascariensis*); the original label is missing but the data was transferred as "*madagascariensis*", and may be the shell illustrated in CK.



Palmadusta diluculum: with original label; illustrated in CK plate 28: 2-5 (?) (as *undata*); not sure if these are the shells in the illustration. If yes, then the figure shows aspects combined from the 3 specimens. See fig. 7.

Fig. 8: *P. diluculum*. Left: CK plate 28 figs. 2-5, right: shells.

Palmadusta lentiginosa dancalica: original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 12: 2, 3; Closely resembling the illustration. This shell was probably supplied by Jickeli.

Pseudozonaria annettae: with original label; Illustrated in CK plate 24: 10, 11; as *Cypraea sowerbyi*. The pattern closely resembles that in the figure.

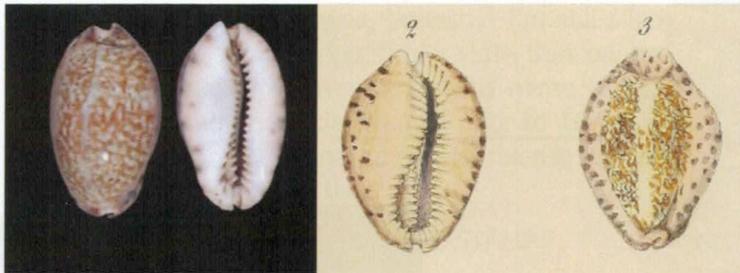


Fig. 9: *P. arabicula*, possible paratype of *Cypraea gemmula*. Left: shell, right: CK plate 17 figs. 2-3.

Pseudozonaria nigropunctata: with original label; illustrated in CK plate 23: 9, 12; labelled as *atava* "Indian Ocean".

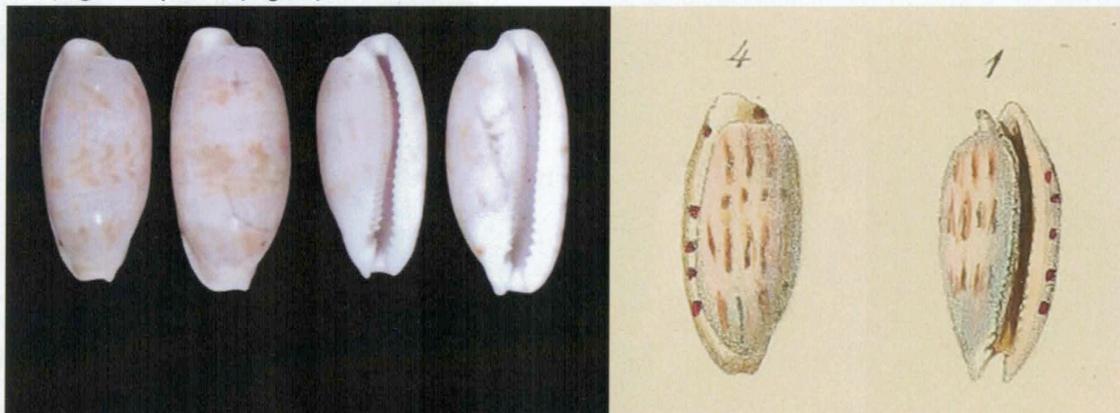
Pseudozonaria arabicula: original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 17: 2, 3; this specimen was originally labelled "*gemmula*" but the label was not found. It is described in the text of CK as "*gemmula*" by Weinkauff, supposedly from the Red Sea. The shell would then be a paratype. Schilder (1922) replaced the preoccupied *gemmula* with *massauensis*, trusting the collecting data Massawa, purportedly given by Jickeli, and later abrogated it. Apparently the shells got mixed up with dwarf *grayana*. This specimen seems to be the dwarf *arabicula* illustrated as *gemmula* on pl. 17 (upper right). See fig. 9.

Talostolida subteres. original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 8: 1, 4; holotype. The dorsal banding of this eroded and faded specimen corresponds closely with the figure, as does the shape of the anterior extremity. The dimensions and other details mentioned in the text also agree. See fig. 10. In addition, there are two paratypes illustrated in CK plate 13: 1, 4; The dorsal banding in the figure differs from both shells, whose features have been combined into a single figure. It is obvious that the marginal spotting of one specimen is shown, and the pattern looks like an idealized version derived from comparing the patterns of the two shells, which are better preserved than the holotype. See fig. 11.



Fig. 10: *T. subteres*, holotype, 17.4 mm. Left: shell, right: CKJ plate 8, fig. 4.

Fig. 11 (below): *T. subteres*, paratypes, 19.9-21.5 mm. Left: shells, right: CK plate 13, figs. 1, 4.





Zonaria picta: original label missing; illustrated in CK plate 19: 2, 3; the figure combines features from

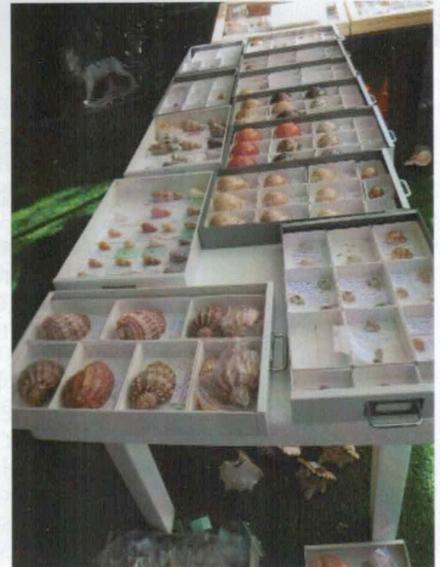
all four shells, of which only one is in good condition.



Fig. 12: *Z. zonaria*. Left: CK plate 19 figs 10, 13, possible holotype of *Cypraea nebulosa*, centre: the shell illustrated, 26.8 mm, right: shell resembling Kiener's illustration of *C. nebulosa*, 21.6 mm.

Zonaria zonaria: with original label; illustrated in CK plate 19: 10, 13 (as *nebulosa*); Holotype of *nebulosa* Kiener 1943. Perfectly well recognizable due to the water stains, which were already present when it was drawn. Size corresponds to that given by Kiener as 26 mm. See fig. 12.

Another shell has a water stain similar to that on the holotype. It looks more like the figure in Kiener than the holotype of *nebulosa* itself, but is smaller (21.6 mm as opposed to the 26.8 mm of the holotype).



Photos from the Yateley Summer Gathering, held at the home of John and Goga Batt on Saturday, 4 August 2018.



