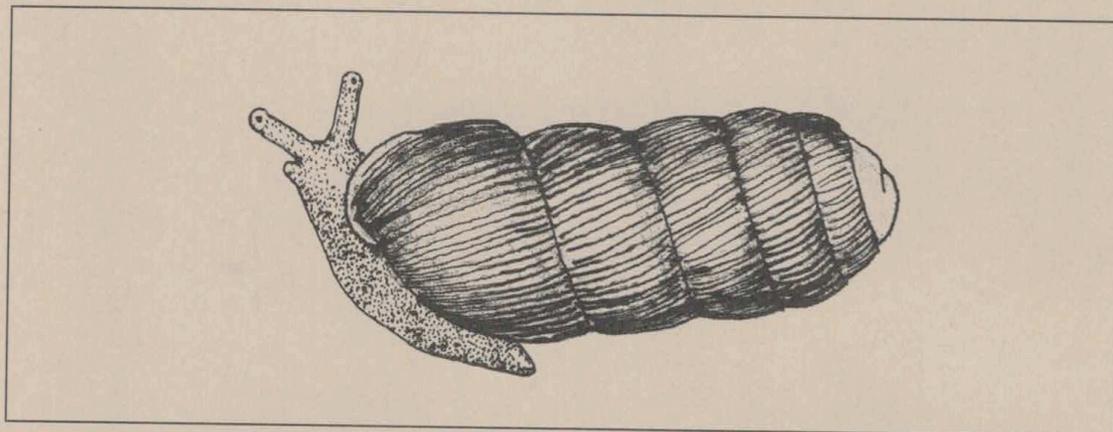


# Schriften zur Malakozoologie

aus dem Haus der Natur - Cismar

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**A western subspecies of *Lyncina leucodon* (BRODERIP 1832)**  
(Mollusca: Gastropoda: Cypraeidae).

by FELIX LORENZ, Gießen.

**Abstract:** A new subspecies of *Lyncina leucodon* Broderip (Gastropoda: Cypraeidae) from the Andaman Sea is described as *leucodon tenuidon*. It differs from typical Pacific *leucodon leucodon* mainly by the longer and wider spaced teeth, a flattened dorsum and smaller, diffuse spotting on a greenish instead of brownish ground colour.

The famous "Thai-*leucodon*" has been a legend only some years ago, when less than five specimens were known from the areas around the Bengal Gulf and the Andaman Sea. Recently, a considerable number of specimens have come to light. These reveal distinct differences to the well known Philippine population and should be separated on subspecific level.

**Material:** Sixteen livecollected specimens were studied, two of which was selected as paratypes, one fresh dead specimen is designated as holotype. Due to the high commercial value of these shells, it was not possible for me to obtain a livecollected specimen to donate as holotype.

*Lyncina leucodon tenuidon* ssp. nov.

**Description:** Moderately inflated, with a flattened dorsum against broad sides, which on both sides are strengthened by a bent-up callosity. Extremities short, rather blunt. Base somewhat convex. The spire is very small, half hidden behind the posterior extremity. Aperture narrow, gently curved behind. Teeth strong, twentyone on both sides. The columellar teeth are rather long midways, reaching over third of the base. The labral teeth are comparatively short throughout. The base and margins are uniform brownish while the dorsum has a greyish to greenish tint. There are numerous indistinct greyish spots on dorsum and margins (in the holotype these are absent on the somewhat eroded dorsum).

**Material:** (enumerated length x width x height)  
Holotype: 77,3 mm x 51,5 mm x 40,3 mm, coll. Haus der Natur, Cismar, HNC 52871  
Paratype 1: 70,5 mm x 52,9 mm x 42,0 mm, coll. Marco Chiapponi, Lecco  
Paratype 2: 71,4 mm x 49,6 mm x 38,0 mm, coll. Ludwig Gabrielli, Neuss

**Type Locality and distribution:** Scattered findings have been made throughout the Indian Ocean. The holotype was trawled in the southern Andaman Sea at a depth of 200 m. Several more living shells have been found in that region, at similar depths. One specimen was found ex pisce in the Maldives in 1975. Two specimens were fished by trawlers off the eastern Somali coast, near Mogadishu in 1983 (Capt. F. LORENZ, unpublished report). The distribution probably covers larger parts of the Indian Ocean.

**Discussion:** The western subspecies differs from Philippine populations, to which the holotype of the nominate species belongs, by a number of rather distinct features. Besides the much smaller average size (75 opposed to 85 mm), it differs by having smaller, more numerous and indistinct dorsal spots, the greenish instead of brownish dorsal ground colour, a flattened instead of humped dorsum, the marginal callus being bent up towards dorsum, and finally, by the narrower (but NOT more numerous) teeth. The teeth in both subspecies of *L. leucodon* may vary considerably in number, while the feature of the wider interstices and longer columellar teeth in *leucodon tenuidon* ssp. nov. are of distinguishing character). The name *tenuidon* (tenuis Lat.: narrow) gives credit to this feature.

In 1978 RAYBAUDI described a subspecies from the Philippines, *L. leucodon angioyna*. His description, however, does not contain any arguments retrievable in the shell material shown along with the description. In a review in World Shells No. 3 (1992) he compares the western and eastern populations, but maintains his former error of assigning the holotype of *leucodon* to a western population. The holotype of *leucodon* was studied by the author in the British Museum in 1985. It is illustrated in colour in TAYLOR & WALLS (1975, p. 208). The holotype of *leucodon* measures 82,6 mm, it has broad teeth with narrow interstices labrally, short columellar teeth and distinct, large dorsal spots. All these features safely identify this shell as belonging to an eastern population.

It appears that prior to the recent findings in the Andaman Sea, no authentic specimen of *leucodon* from the Indian Ocean had never been studied or illustrated in detail.

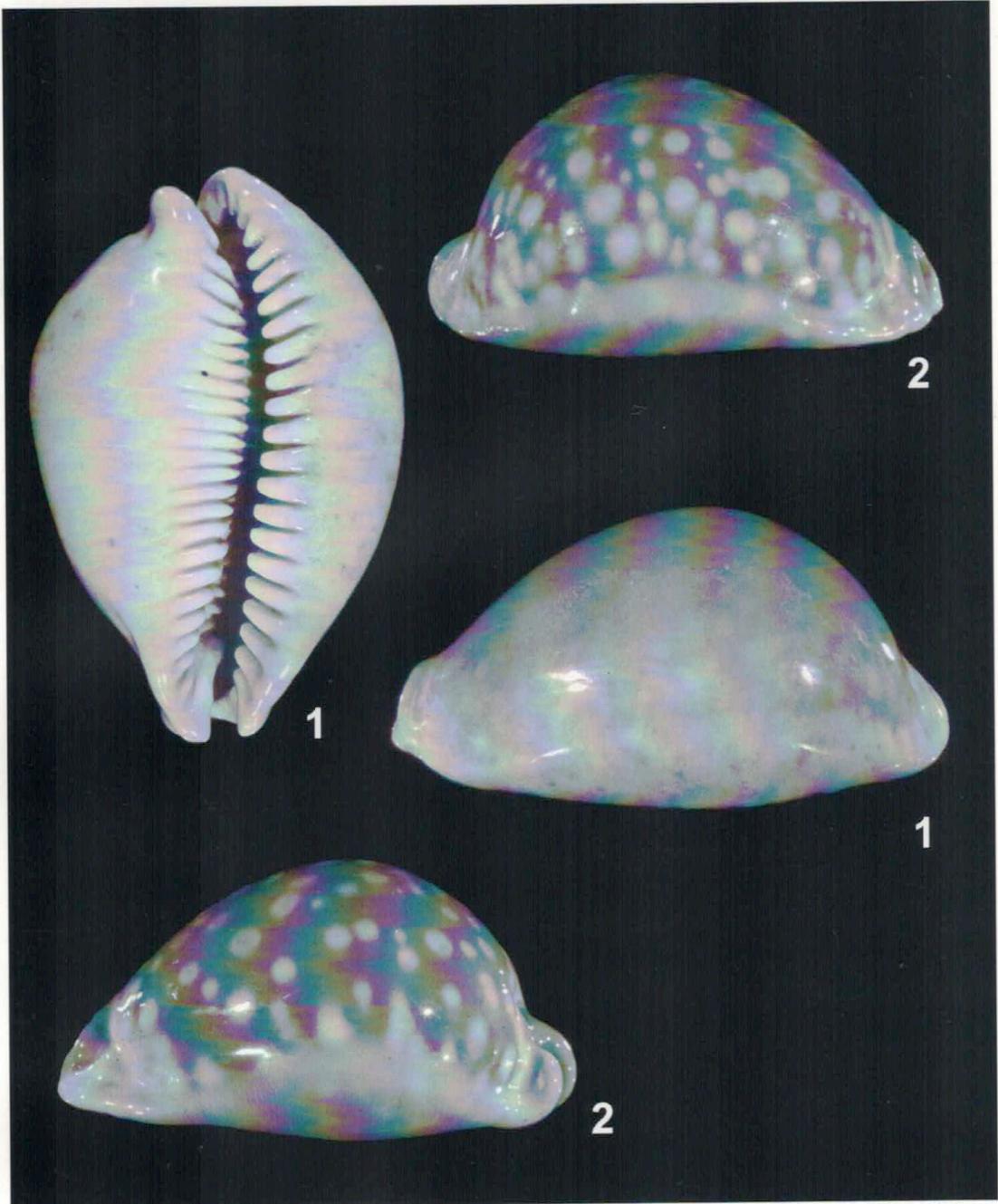
**Acknowledgements:** Many thanks to Dr. Marco CHIAPPONI, Lecco and Ludwig GABRIELLI, Neuss, for making their specimens of *L. leucodon tenuidon* available as paratypes.

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**Explanations of plate 5:**  
(lize size, photos: V. WIESE)

*Lyncina leucodon tenuidon* ssp. nov.

Fig. 1: Holotype, southern Andaman Sea, 200 m, HNC 52871

Fig. 2: Paratype 2, southern Andaman Sea (coll. GABRIELLI)

F. LORENZ: A western subspecies of *Lyncina leucodon* (BRODERIP 1832).