

SEGNALAZIONI ECOLOGICHE E FAUNISTICHE
--

Al. Barash * - Z. Danin * - I. Yaron **

BANKIVIA FASCIATA (MENKE, 1830) IN THE
GULF OF AQABA

Riassunto:

Gli Autori segnalano il ritrovamento di un esemplare deteriorato della specie sud-australiana *Bankivia fasciata* (MENKE) nel Golfo di Akaba. Sin quando non si abbiano segnalazioni di ulteriori ritrovamenti, il reperto è da considerarsi avventizio.

In a consignment of shells from Elat, Gulf of Aqaba, submitted to us for examination by Mr. Ya'acov Dafni of Elat, we have come across a damaged trochoid shell, which was sufficiently large and well preserved to permit the unmistakable identification of the specimen as *Bankivia fasciata* (MENKE, 1830) (Fig. 1). This find, which apparently constitutes the first record of this species in the Erythrean province in general, and in the Gulf of Aqaba in particular, poses a problem with regards to its range of distribution.

This species, previously also known as *B. varians* BECK in KRAUSS, 1848 (KRAUSS: 1848, 105), is essentially a South Australian one, occurring in the provinces of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania, and through Bass strait to South Australia (MACPHERSON and GABRIEL: 1962, 67). According to KRAUSS (1848: 106), von Ludwig brought to Stuttgart in 1828 this species together with other objects from the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. Krauss expressed some doubts about this find, since he himself did not encounter this species, neither at the Cape nor at Natal.

In Australia *B. fasciata* is a most common littoral species, living on and among kelp seaweeds at and below low water (ALLAN: 1959, 63). Thus, the presence of live specimens of this species in similar

* Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv

** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva

habitats in the Gulf of Aqaba and other localities in the Red Sea could have hardly been overlooked. Until additional evidence becomes available, it must be assumed, that the find of a single specimen of *B. fasciata* in the Gulf of Aqaba is possibly adventitious.

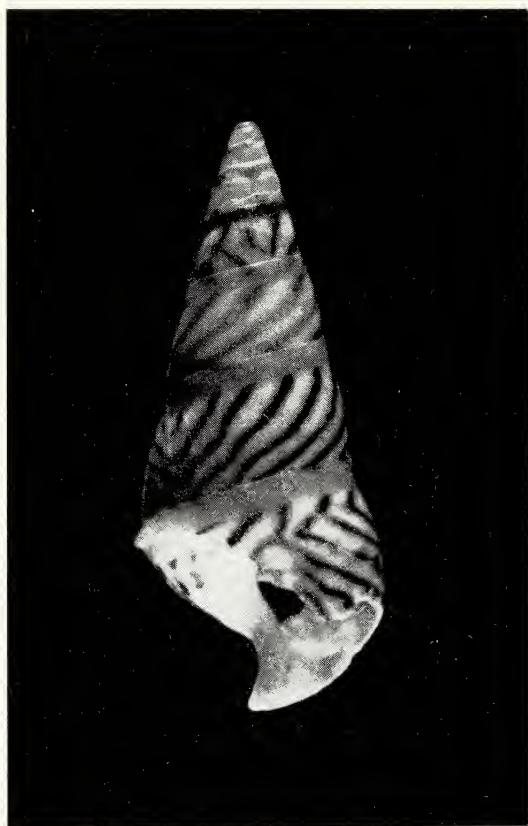


Fig. 1. Specimen of *Bankivia fasciata* (MENKE, 1830) from Elat, Gulf of Aqaba. Leg. Y. Dafni, 18. vii.1966.

References:

- ALLAN, J., 1959. Australian Shells. Revised edition, Melbourne, pp. 1-487.
KRAUSS, F., 1848. Die Sudafricanischen Mollusken, Stuttgart, pp. 1-140.
MACPHERSON, J.H., and GABRIEL, C.J., 1962. Marine Molluscs of Victoria, Melbourne, pp. 1-475.