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OCENEBRA ISAACSI SP. NOV., A NEW MURICID FROM
GHANA, WEST AFRICA (MURICIDAE: OCENEBRINAE) (**)

KEY WORDS: Mollusca, Gastropoda, *Ocenebra* n. sp., West Africa.

Summary

A new muricid species from Ghana, West Africa, is here described for the first time. It is compared with *Ocenebra inermicosta* (VOKES, 1964), the only related, but easily separable species.

Riassunto

Viene descritta *Ocenebra isaacsi* n. sp., Muricidae rinvenuto a scarsa profondità, in ambiente roccioso, lungo le coste del Ghana (Africa occidentale). Simile a *Ocenebra inermicosta* (VOKES, 1964), se ne distingue per il canale sifonale aperto e per la scultura differente, anche negli esemplari giovanili.

Introduction

This little species was brought to my attention some time ago. Recently the radula could be examined and suggested placement in the subfamily Ocenebrinae. This genus was chosen for the radular and sculpture characteristics, although the open canal and the operculum are atypical.

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Ocenebra isaacsi sp. nov.

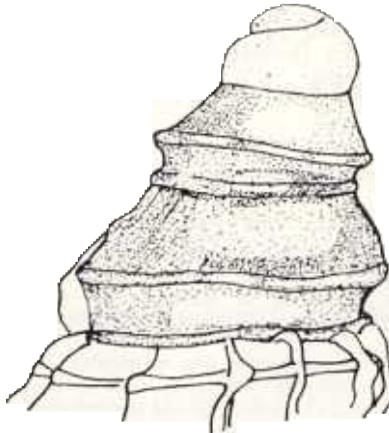
Description

Shell small for the genus, from 8 to 13,5 mm; color blue grey to brown, very often covered with a thick calcareous layer.

Aperture ovate, bluish-grey. Columellar lip smooth, completely adherent to the shell. Anal notch very obvious and channelled, one of the most distinctive feature for the species. Outer lip slightly crenulated; the inner part bearing 5 strong knobs.

Spire high, consisting of three and one half nuclear whorls, the two last with a strong carina; and 5 angular, strongly ribbed, postnuclear whorls. Suture slightly appressed.

Penultimate whorl bearing 8 prominent varices, becoming on the body whorl 3 prominent frondose varices and a single intervallic node.



Protoconch of *O. isaacsi* (the only preserved one) ex R. Isaacs coll., leg. Dr. E.H. Vokes. Now paratype in the Inst. R. des Sc. Nat. de Belgique x 55).

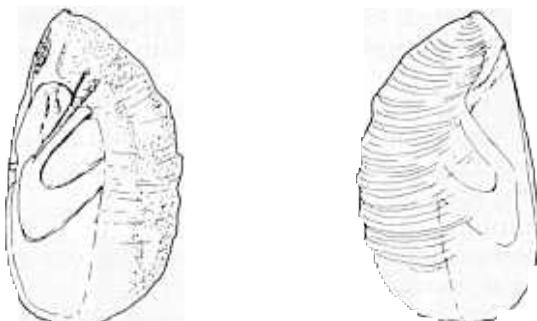
Spiral sculpture consisting of 7 prominent ribs with one intermediate scabrous cord, which continues across the varices. Where the ribs intersect the varices, scabrous, short fronds, are developed. Two or three scabrous cords on the shoulder.

Siphonal canal wide, short, narrowly open, bearing 2 shallow scabrous cords. Slightly recurved distally.

Operculum very thin, light brown, with a subapical nucleus.

Radula typical for the genus, with a rachidian and two recurved lateral teeth.

The rachidian bears 3 cusps; a short central one and 2 laterals. The 2 laterals are flanked by a short denticle. 2 denticles are apparent between each lateral cusp and the strong base endpoint.



Operculum of *O. isaacsi* from a paratype in R. Houart coll. (x 18)

Material examined

Holotype n° 26716/404 in the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique; 2 paratypes I.R.S.N.B. n° 26716/405; 2 paratypes Natal Museum n° H7091/T2743; 2 paratypes BM (NH) n° 1984001; 2 paratypes Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen; 2 paratypes National Mus. Nat. History, Washington D.C. n° USNM 749863; 2 paratypes Museum National d'Hist. Naturelle, Paris; 16 paratypes Australian Museum, Sydney (6 n° C90294, 6 n° C138630); 6 paratypes R. Houart coll.; 36 paratypes R. Isaacs coll. (all type specimens: leg. R. Isaacs).

Dimensions

Holotype 10 x 5,5 mm.

Type locality

Prampram, Ghana, West Africa, 1971, on rocks, low water, by Ralph Isaacs. *Other localities*: Nungua, Ghana; Barra do Dande, Angola, low water, by S. Gofas, 1981-82, M.N.H.N., Paris (8 specimens).

Etymology

Named after the collector and friend, Mr. Ralph Isaacs of London who provided the specimens.

Discussion

This species can be compared with only one more or less related species: *Ocenebra inermicosta* (VOKES, 1964). Adult specimens of *O. inermicosta* are much larger and have a closed siphonal canal. The following differences may still occur with the comparison of a juvenile of this species:

O. inermicosta is a more elongate shell with a narrow aperture, which bears 4 low nodes on the inner apertural side; anal notch smaller and not channelled; no squamous surface on the varices, which are more rounded.

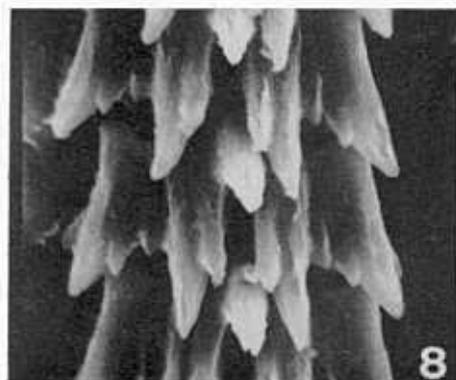
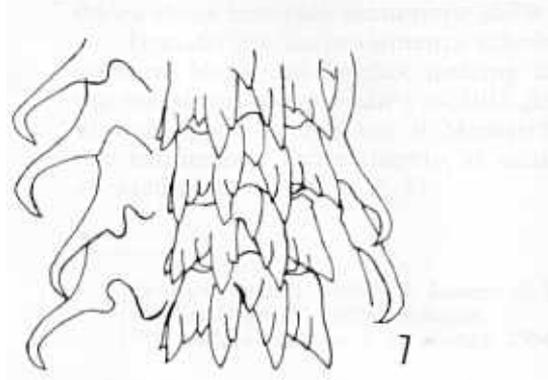
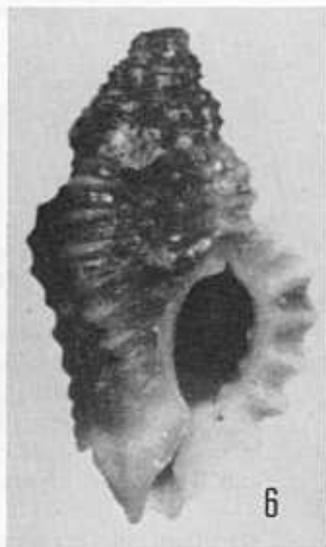
Spiral sculpture of the body bearing 6 to 7 strong ribs but with 4 to 5 intermediate threads; shoulder with one rib and several threads; siphonal canal larger and shorter.

The shell also superficially resembles a mini-*Chicoreus gubbi* (REEVE, 1849) but differences such as sculpture, ornamentation, aperture and radula made the comparison needless.

Acknowledgments

I am very grateful to Mr. Ralph Isaacs; to Dr. R.N. Kilburn (Natal Museum), to Dr. W.F. Ponder and Mr. I. Loch (Australian Museum) who made it possible for me to examine their specimens; To Dr. Emily H. Yokes for her very welcome and useful advice and to Mrs. Buyle (Brussels) for the development of my photographs. I am very thankful also to Dr. P. Bouchet (M.N.H.N., Paris) who extracted and took scanning micrographs of the radula.

1. *O. isaacsi* sp. n., holotype. 10 x 5,2 mm
2. Paratype R. Isaacs coll., Prampram, Ghana. 10,2 x 5,2 mm
3. Paratype R. Houart coll., Nungua, Ghana. 8 x 4,9 mm
4. Paratype Australian Mus. C90294, Nungua, Ghana. 8,9 x 5,1 mm
5. Paratype Australian Mus. C138629, Nungua, Ghana. 11 x 6 mm
6. *O. inermicosta* (VOKES, 1964) Australian Mus., Prampram, Ghana. 9 x 5 mm
7. Radula of *O. isaacsi* sp. n.: drawing after a scanning micrograph from a specimen of Nungua. X 1800.
8. Radula of *O. isaacsi* sp. n.: scanning micrograph. Same specimen as fig. 7 x 3750.



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