

Anders Warén*, Ferdinando Carrozza** & Romualdo Rocchini***

ELACHISINA VERSILIENSIS, A NEW MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES OF
THE FAMILY ELACHISINIDAE (PROSOBRANCHIA,
TRUNCATELLOIDEA)****

Abstract

Elachisina versiliensis, a new species of the family Elachisinidae is described from the Mediterranean. *Cithna tenella canarica* NORDSIECK & TALAVERA (formerly in Lacunidae), from the Canaries is transferred to the Elachisinidae.

Riassunto

Viene descritta *Elachisina versiliensis*, nuova specie del Mediterraneo, appartenente alla famiglia Elachisinidae.

Viene trasferita nella fam. Elachisinidae anche *Cithna tenella canarica* NORDSIECK & TALAVERA, specie delle Canarie, precedentemente inserita nella fam. Lacunidae.

Introduction

Family Elachisinidae was erected by PONDER (1985) for the genus *Elachisina* DALL, 1918, previously placed in Naticidae (WENZ, 1941), and Rissoidae COAN (1964). PONDER also suggested relations to *Lacunella* COSSMANN, *Pseudocirsope* BOETTGER and *Boetica* DALL, Eocene genera usually placed in the Lacunidae, but in shell shape somewhat similar to *Elachisina*. Species of *Elachisina* were until now known from the tropical western Atlantic, the temperate and tropical eastern Pacific, the Philippines, New Zealand and St. Helena (Atlantic). The two species discussed below are thus the first records of the family in the northeastern Atlantic.

* Swedish Museum of Natural History, Box 50007, S-10405 Stockholm, Sweden

** Villa il Poggio, Via Chientina 7, I-56030 Soiana Pi. Italia

*** Via Don Bosco 15, I-51100 Pistoia, Italia.

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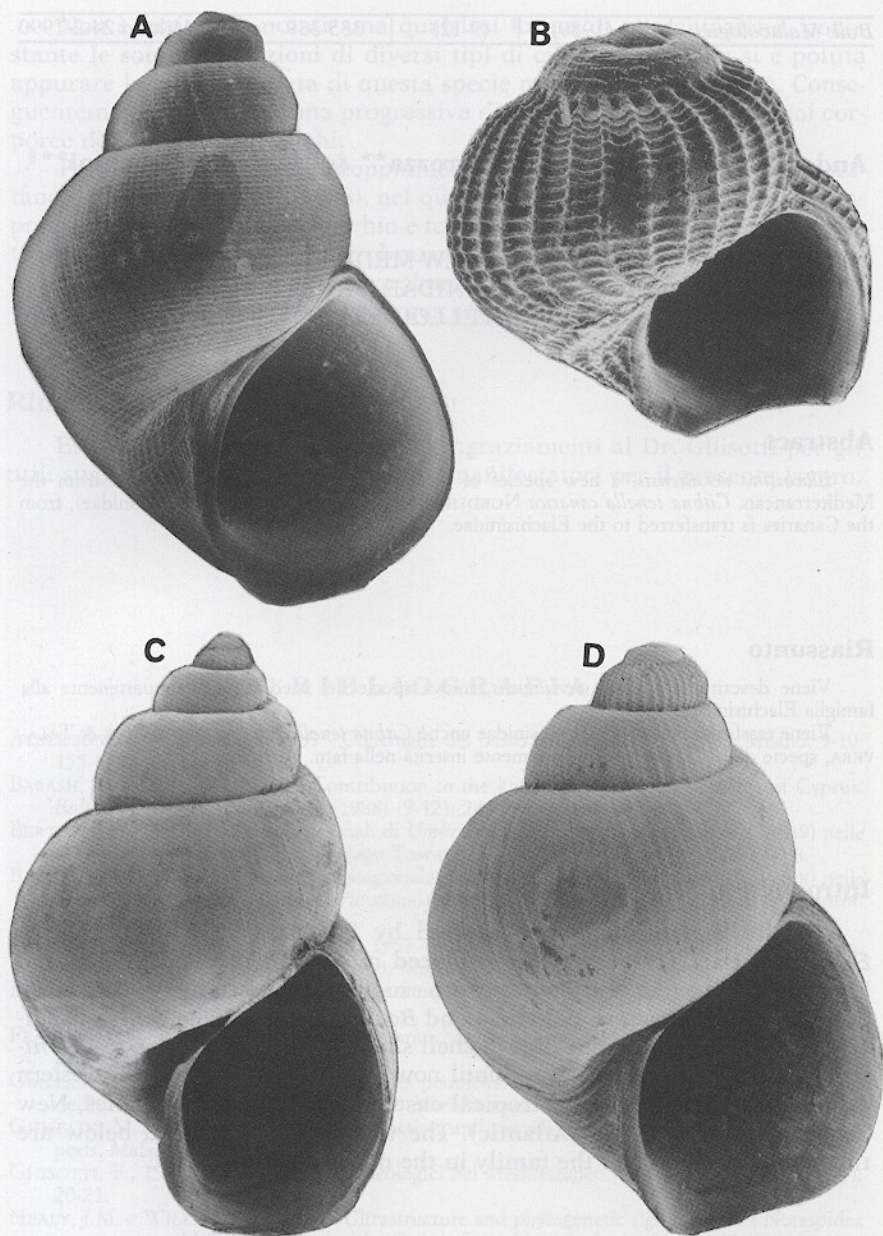


Fig. 1. **A.** *Elachisina. canarica*, holotype, MNHN. Height 2.1 mm. **B.** *Elachisina versiliensis*. Larva, Gulf of Naples, Ischia, ex. G. Richter. Diameter 0.34 mm. **C.** *E. versiliensis*, holotype. Height 3.92 mm. **D.** *E. versiliensis*, from I. Nofroni. Height 1.8 mm.

***Elachisina versiliensis* n.sp.**

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype Swedish Museum of Natural History 4113; paratypes 8 shells in coll. Carrozza, 12 shells in coll. Rocchini.

TYPE LOCALITY. Between Italy and Corsica, Central Tuscan Archipelago, in an amphora, 300-400 m.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: Mediterranean, Coll. Nofroni, 1 shell. - Gulf of Naples, Ischia, coll Richter, 2 larval shells.

DESCRIPTION. Shell (figs 1C, D) thin, fragile, colour-less, rissoiform with convex whorls and strongly cancellate larval shell. Larval shell (Figs 1B, 2A-D) consisting of protoconch I (embryonic shell) and protoconch II (larval shell). Protoconch I (fig. 2D) very small, diameter about 0.09 mm, consisting of about half a whorl with irregularly shaped and branching granules.

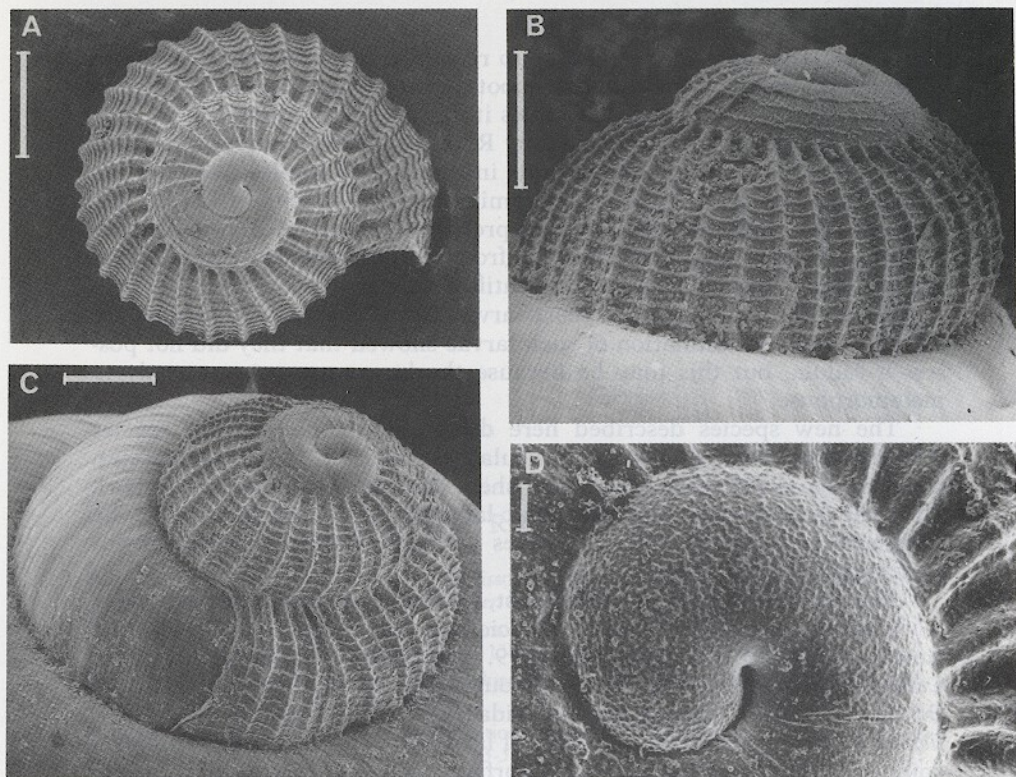


Fig. 2. *Elachisina versiliensis*. A. Apical view of larva. Gulf of Naples, Ischia, ex. G. Richter. diameter 0.33 mm. B. Side view of larval shell, ex Nofroni. Scale line 0.1 mm. C. Oblique view of same specimen. Scale line 0.1 mm. D. Protoconch 1 larva of fig. 2A. Scale line 0.01 mm.

Protoconch 2 consisting of about 2.2 whorls, diameter 0.39 mm, first 1/3 of whorl with 3 sharp spiral lines and irregular, very fine incremental lines. Remaining whorls with close-set strong axial ribs, 27 on the last whorl. These are crossed by six spiral lines on the first part of protoconch II, to which are added two new lines above and one below the original six lines, so that the last whorl has nine ribs visible above the suture to the teleoconch. Three of the spiral ribs of the larval shell, close to the columella are stronger than the others (fig. 1B, only visible in larvae). Teleoconch of 3.5 strongly convex whorls with occasional indistinct traces of spiral and incremental sculpture. Suture deep and channelled.

Aperture big, expanded, with a thin parietal callus.

Umbilicus deep and narrow, partly concealed by the expanded inner lip.

DIMENSIONS. Height of holotype, 3.92 mm.

ANIMAL unknown.

Remarks. This new species is easy to recognise from the combination of reticulate larval shell and almost smooth, rissoiform teleoconch. There is no other species known that resembles it in this combination.

This species was first reported by RICHTER & THORSON (1975) as «Unknown larva 2», from plankton hauls in the Gulf of Naples. We have examined specimens kindly sent for examination by G. Richter (fig. 1B, 2D). A similar but evidently distinct (and probably undescribed) larva was reported by TURNER & al. (1985, fig. 19), from bottomplankton at the Galapagos Rift Zone and reported as «unidentified veliger».

Warén has examined also these larvae and is convinced that they are closely related. Examination of such larvae showed that they did not possess a radula, but this may be because the larvae are not yet ready to metamorphose.

The new species described here differs distinctly from all species known of *Elachisina*, in having a reticulate larval shell. The known species, however, have a domeshaped larval shell, consisting of about one whorl. This type indicates non-planktotrophic larval development, and can not be compared with larval shells of species with planktotrophic development (WARÉN & BOUCHET, 1989).

The position in Elachisinidae must, however, be considered tentative.

A second northeast Atlantic species of *Elachisina* is *Cithna tenella canarica* NORDSIECK & TALAVERA, 1979. The species was described from Lanzarote, Canaries, and was previously classified as a subspecies of *Benthonella tenella*, then in the Lacunidae. It differs from *Elachisina versiliensis* in having a smooth, paucispiral larval shell and a distinct, uniform spiral sculpture covering the whole surface. This species is a more typical member of *Elachisina*.

The specific name *versiliensis* refers to the name, Versilia of the area where the species was found.

Acknowledgements

We want to thank Mr I. Nofroni, who sent a specimen of *Elachisina versiliensis* to Dr. P. Bouchet for examination, which specimen is figured in fig. 1D.

Note added in proofs

«After this issue of *Bollettino Malacologico* was finished and to late to withdraw this article, van Aartsen, J.J., C. Bogi and Fr. Giusti (1989, *La Conchiglia* 246-249:19-22) described *Elachisina versiliensis* as *Laeviphitus verduini*, new genus and species in the Epitonidae. We admit conspecificity and that there may be need for a new genus. Presently we find Elachisinidae a more appealing systematic position for the species».

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