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FIRST RECORD OF *MIRALDA ELEGANS* (DE FOLIN, 1870) NOV. COMB.
FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SEE (GASTROPODA,
PYRAMIDELLIDAE).**

KEY WORDS: Mollusca, Gastropoda, Pyramidellidae, Mediterranean Sea, Spain, Formentera, new finding.

Riassunto:

Miralda elegans (DE FOLIN, 1870) fu trovata in un campione di sedimento raccolto presso l'isola di Formentera (Spagna, Baleari). Furono studiati i sintipi originali mentre vennero rinvenute altre conchiglie di questa specie in campioni di sedimento raccolti in Mauritania. *Pyrgulina sculptatissima* DAUTZENBERG, 1913 è sinonimo juniore.

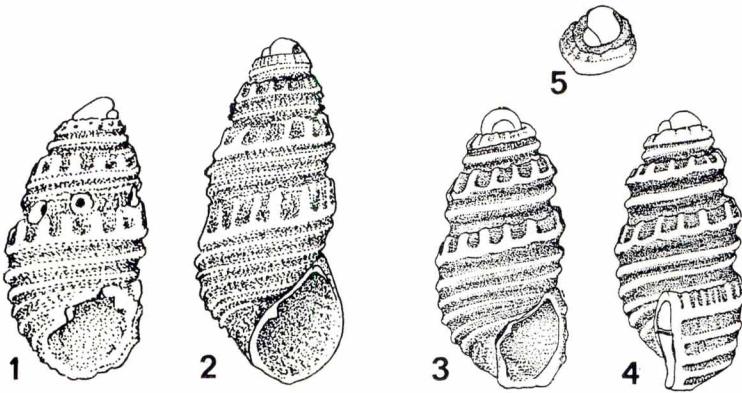


Fig. 1. *Miralda elegans*, Formentera, Cala-Baster, length 1.56 mm (ZMA).

Fig. 2. *M. elegans*, Mauritania, Banc d'Arguin, length 2.0 mm (ZMA).

Figs. 3-4. *M. elegans*, syntype of *Mathilda elegans* DE FOLIN 1870, West Africa, Cagnabac, length 1.60 mm.

Fig. 5. Same syntype, apical view (MNHN, Paris).

In September 1987 during his holiday on the island Formentera (Spain, Balears), George Bokstijn (Artis library, Amsterdam) collected sediment samples for malacological research. In material from the coast of Cala-Baster we found, besides many other Mediterranean shells, a peculiar pyramidellid (fig. 1). At first we thought that it might be an introduced species from the Red Sea.

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Recently, we sorted sediment samples from the Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania whereby specimens of the same species (fig. 2) were found. In the literature this species was described by DE FOLIN (1870: 212-213, pl. 28 fig. 15) as *Mathilda elegans*, from West Africa island «Cagnabac». DAUTZENBERG (1913) described it as *Pyrgulina sculptatissima*, with the type locality Conakry (French Guinea). This author knew of De Folin's publication but he was not convinced of the conspecificity of both species and due to De Folin's bad figure and description he redescribed it.

We studied the syntypes of *Mathilda elegans* (figs 3-4) and we are convinced now that both taxa represent the same species.

Only the nomenclatorial problem remains. We agree with Dautzenberg (1913) that this taxon does not belong to the genus *Mathilda* but we also disagree with Dautzenberg, who considered it a species belonging to the genus *Pyrgulina* A. ADAMS, 1864 (type species *Chrysallida* (*Pyrgulina*) *casta* A. ADAMS). Although there is much confusion on the generic level in the family Pyramidellidae, we provisionally regard it a species belonging to the genus *Miralda* A. ADAMS, 1864 (type species *Miralda diadema* A. ADAMS). This opinion is based on the shape of the protoconch, the columellar tooth and the general appearance of the shell.

Our conclusion concerning the correct name of this species must be *Miralda elegans* (DE FOLIN, 1870) with *Pyrgulina sculptatissima* DAUTZENBERG, 1913 being a junior synonym.

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