

H.J. Hoenselaar\* & G.J. Gulden\*\*

FIRST RECORD OF *UTRICULAstra KNOCKERI* (E.A. SMITH, 1872) IN  
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (GASTROPODA: SCAPHANDRIDAE)

KEY WORDS: Mollusca, Gastropoda, Scaphandridae, Mediterranean Sea, West Africa, Tunesia, new finding

**Summary:**

The occurrence of *Utriculastra knockeri* is recorded, the generic status is discussed and the distribution range is extended.

**Riassunto:**

Viene segnalata la presenza in Mediterraneo di *Utriculastra knockeri*, viene discussa la relativa posizione generica ed estesa la sua distribuzione geografica.

In March 1989 the second author visited Tunesia for a short collecting trip. Besides many interesting larger species from Djerba and the surrounding islands, shellgrit from the beaches was sampled. In a sample from the Ile of Gharbi, near the pier of the harbour of Sidi Youssef, one dead specimen of *Utriculastra knockeri* (E.A. SMITH, 1872) was found (fig. 1).

This species was originally described by SMITH (1872) in the genus *Tornatina* with locality West Africa, Dahomey, Wydah (now Republic Benin, Ouidah). The species was named after Captain Knocker, who dredged the material and donated it to the British Museum of Natural History (London).

Later study of the soft parts by MARCUS (1977), revealed that the radula did not fit the genus *Tornatina*.

The genus *Acteocina* GRAY, 1847, currently used, was introduced for the fossil species *A. wetherelly* LEA, 1833. However, it is not known whether the species belongs to the Retusidae (without radula) or the Scaphandridae (with radula).

THIELE (1925) originally introduced the genus *Utriculastra* as belonging to the Retusidae with the type species *U. canaliculata* (SAY, 1826). WELLS & WELLS (1962) however discovered the radula of *U. canaliculata*, so the genus *Utriculastra* had to be transferred to the Scaphandridae.

\* Zoological Museum Amsterdam, P.O. Box 4766, 1009 AT Amsterdam, The Netherlands

\*\* Natuurmuseum Rotterdam, P.O. Box 23452, 3001 KL Rotterdam, The Netherlands

\*\*\* Lavoro accettato il 15 febbraio 1991

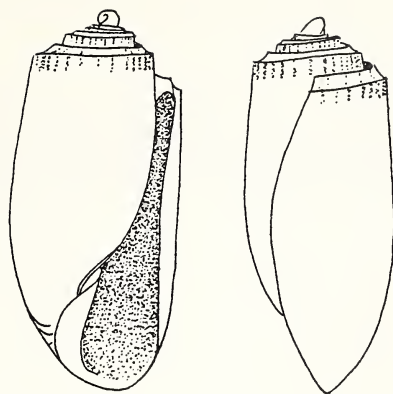


Fig. 1. *Utriculastra knockeri* (E.A. SMITH), Tunesia, Ile Gharbi (near Djerba), March 1989, length 3.7 mm, width 1,7 mm.

We know *U. knockeri* from Mauritania, Banc d'Arquin, where the species was collected by the Dutch Mauritania Expeditions, 1988, I (NIOZ) and II (RMNH) in reasonable numbers (1).

The shell of *U. knockeri* has some resemblance to *Retusa mamillata* (PHILIPPI, 1836), but differs in being more cylindrical and having plications on the postnuclear whorls. Also it is less fragile than *R. mamillata*.

Our identification is based on the excellent drawing and description of E.A. SMITH (1872), which leaves no doubt and therefore we did not study the type material.

The original description and drawing (fig. 2) are given here.

### *Tornatina knockeri*

«Testa cylindrica, albida; spira turrita, perbrevis; apex tubercularis; anfract. 5, ultimus politus, laevis, superne angulatus et plicatus; apertura anfrac. ultimum subaequans; labium rectum; columella uniplicata Long. 4 1/2 mill., diam. 2.

Hab. Whydah.

Easily known by its flattish spire, tubercular apex and the plications at the upper part of the body-whorl».



Fig. 2. *Tornatina knockeri* E.A. SMITH, Dahomey, Wydah, figure of holotype (after SMITH, 1872).

(1) Abbr. NIOZ: Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee.

RMNH: Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (in 1990 renamed in Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum).

This species is not mentioned by PIANI (1980), by BRUSCHI et al. (1985) and SABELLI et al. (1990), so we regard this the first record for the Mediterranean Sea.

The species *U. mucronata* as recorded by VAN AARTSEN et al. (1989) and BOGI et al. (1990) is different, especially the upper part of the shell.

Distribution of the species according to MARCUS (1977) was West Africa from Conakry (Guinea) to Moçâmedes (Angola), and will now be extended from Mauritania to Angola and (accidentally?) in the Mediterranean.

## REFERENCE

- AARTSEN, J.J., VAN, F. CARROZZA & G. LINDNER, 1989 - *Acteocina mucronata* (PHILIPPI, 1849) a recent Red Sea immigrant species in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Boll. Mal.*, Milano, **25**: 285-288.
- BOGI, C. & F. GIANNINI, 1990 - Notes on a few molluscs, found in the Mediterranean Sea, *La Conchiglia*, Roma, **22** (256): 48-51.
- BRUSCHI, A., I. CEPPODOMO, C. GALLI & P. PIANI, 1985 - Catalogo dei Molluschi conchiferi viventi nel Mediterraneo. ENEA: 1-65.
- MARCUS, Eveline d.B. - R, 1977 - On the genus *Tornatina* and related forms. *J. Moll. Stud.*, suppl. **2**: 1-35.
- PIANI, P., 1980 - Catalogo dei Molluschi conchiferi viventi nel Mediterraneo. *Boll. Mal.* Milano, **16**: 113-224.
- SABELLI, B., R. GIANNUZZI-SAVELLI & D. BEDULLI, 1990 - Catalogo annotato dei Molluschi marini del Mediterraneo, Parte I, Bologna, pp. 348.
- SMITH, E.A., 1872 - A list of species of shells from West Africa, with descriptions of those hitherto undescribed. *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* (1871): 727-739.
- THIELE, J., 1925 - Gastropoda der Deutschen Tiefsee-Expedition Pt. 2. *Wissenschaftliche Ergebn. Deutschen Tiefsee-Exp.* **17**: 37-382.
- WELLS, H.W. & M.J. WELLS, 1962 - The distinction between *Acteocina candei* and *Retusa canaliculata*. *Nautilus*, **75**: 87-93.