



# The presence of *Chauvetia turritellata* (Deshayes, 1835) in Izmir Bay (Aegean Sea)

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**KEY WORDS:** Muricidae, *Chauvetia*, Aegean Sea, Turkey

**SUMMARY** A single alive specimen of *Chauvetia turritellata* was collected during benthic researches carried out in Izmir Bay between 1996-1998. This is the first record of the species for the Aegean coast of Turkey. Some information and a photograph of the species are also given in the present study.

**RIASSUNTO** Un esemplare vivente di *Chauvetia turritellata* è stato raccolto durante ricerche bentoniche effettuate nella baia di Izmir negli anni 1996-1998. Questo è il primo ritrovamento della specie per le coste egee della Turchia. Alcune informazioni ed una fotografia della specie sono date con la presente nota.

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## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Chauvetia* was poorly known until recently, which is represented by 15 species (SABELLI *et al.* 1990:37, 194) in the Mediterranean Sea. Some studies on this genus exists, such as TIBERI (1868) and NORDSIECK (1976), however, taxonomical confusions are still encountered due to colour variations peculiar to some species. SABELLI *et al.* (1992:398) stated that detailed examinations on the genus *Chauvetia* are required. In this context, the study carried out by MICALI (1999) can be considered as an appropriate response to SABELLI's statement, which includes taxonomic characteristics and distributions of *Chauvetia* species encountered along the coasts of northeastern Atlantic Ocean.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The single alive specimen of *Chauvetia turritellata* was collected during studies carried out in Izmir Bay on board the R/V "K.Piri Reis" between 1996-1998 (Fig.1). The samplings were performed at 30 stations using grab, beam-trawl and trawl at depths ranging 10 to 77 m.

## RESULTS

Classis: Gastropoda  
Superordo: Caenogastropoda  
Ordo: Neogastropoda  
Familia: Muricidae  
Genus: *Chauvetia*

*Chauvetia turritellata* (Deshayes, 1835)

**Material examined:** Izmir Bay (Aegean Sea), one specimen, 08.11.1997, sandy-muddy habitat, depth 20 m, grab (Fig.2).

**Diagnosis:** DESHAYES (1835: 205-206, fig.27 in CLEMAM), MICALI (1999: 61-62, fig.15-18, 24-26).

## DISCUSSION

*C. turritellata* was first described as *Fusus turritellatus* by DESHAYES (1835: plate XIV, figs.28,29,30 according to the CLEMAM database).

The species is distributed along the coasts of eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean (MICALI, 1999). According to the same author, it was previously reported from Antalya and Kash both on the Turkish southern coast. This is the first record of the species for the Aegean coast of Turkey. The specimens of *C. turritellata* recorded by NORDSIECK (1976) from Paros Island (Aegean Sea) were actually based on a misidentification. Moreover, the species described as *Chauvetia vulpecula* (Monterosato, 1872) and *Chauvetia vulpecula attenuata* Nordsieck, 1976 in NORDSIECK's study are stated by MICALI (1999) to be *C. turritellata*.

The author also pointed out that colour variations are observed in *C. turritellata*, which is generally confused with *Chauvetia mamillata* (Risso, 1826), *Chauvetia recondita* (Brugnone, 1873) and *Chauvetia brunnea* (Donovan, 1804). For this reason, *Chauvetia brunnea* which was recorded by Koutsoubas *et al.* (1997) from Greek side of Aegean Sea is highly probable *C. turritellata*.

Because the distribution of *C. brunnea* is in western basin of Mediterranean Sea, and it is considered that species' eastern border is southern coast of Sicily Island. Furthermore, Micali (1999) stated that *Chauvetia affinis* (Monterosato, 1889) which was described by Sabelli *et al.* (1990:37, 193) as a different species and reported by Koutsoubas *et al.* (1997) from Greek coasts of Aegean Sea is colour variety of *C. turritellata*. Consequently, only two species, *C. turritellata* and *Chauvetia candidissima* (Philippi, 1836) of the genus *Chauvetia* are known recently from Aegean Sea.



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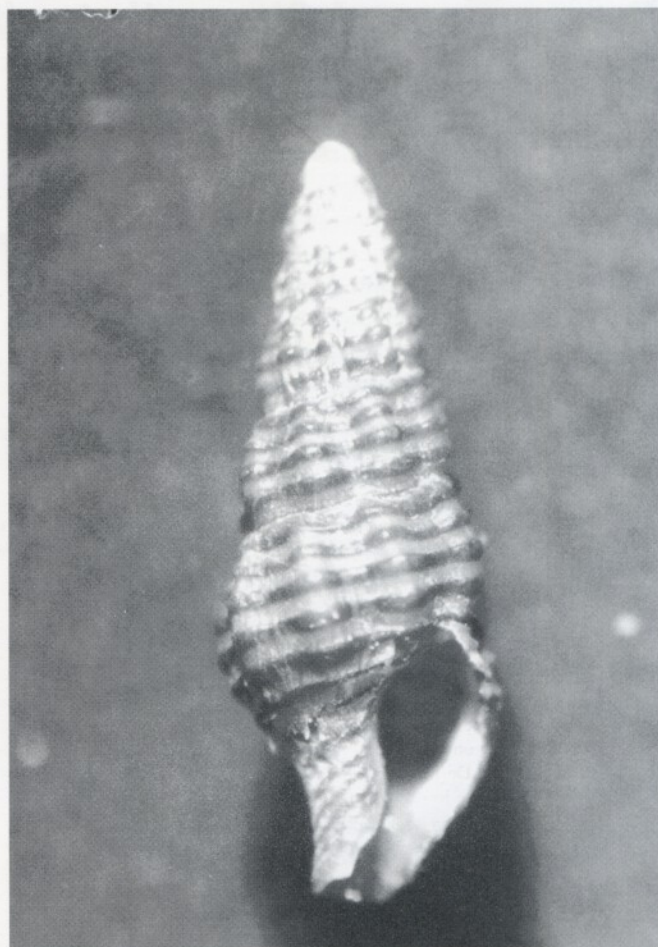


Figure 2. *Chauvetia turritellata* (Deshayes, 1835), Height = 5.4 mm.

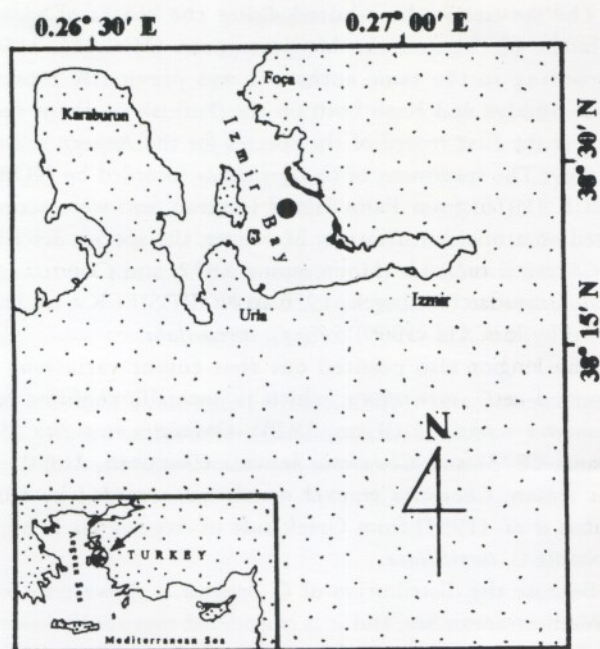


Figure 1. The view of the study area and the locality where the specimen encountered.