

***Alvania vermaasi* nov. spec.,  
a new species of gastropod from the Gulf of Algeciras (Spain)**

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During a recent excursion to the South coast of Spain a visit was paid to the village of Getares on the West coast of the Gulf of Algeciras. A sample of beach-drift, washed ashore at this place, was examined and surprisingly yielded quite a number of species previously known only from rather deep water. Among the Rissoidae the species *Alvania fischeri* (Jeffreys, 1884), *A. parvula* (Jeffreys, 1884) and *A. spinosa* (Monterosato, 1890) may be mentioned in this connection. These species were found in large numbers.

At the same time about one hundred specimens and fragments of an unknown species of *Alvania* were obtained. This new species is apparently allied to *A. scabra* (Philippi, 1836) on the one hand and *A. parvula* on the other. Although there is a certain variability in both *A. scabra* and *A. parvula*, of which about a hundred and fifty specimens were found in the present material, no forms transitional to the new species were detected. Thus it seems clear that it must be regarded a separate species and not merely a variety of one of the other species mentioned; neither can the new species be regarded as a variety of any of the many other known European species of *Alvania*.



Fig. 1. *Alvania vermaasi* n. sp., holotype, front view, actual length 2.05 mm. SEM photo by J.Th. Stenfert.

***Alvania vermaasi* nov. spec.**  
(figs. 1-2)

Shell obtusely conical with rather flat sides. Sculpture consisting of many straight, nearly vertical, ribs (a total of eighteen to twenty on the body whorl) as well as somewhat weaker spiral striae which can be detected mainly between the vertical ribs. Because of the comparative weakness of the spiral ribs the sculpture is not reticulate. The spiral ribs number about four on the older whorls and eight to ten on the last whorl. These ribs are more pronounced at the base where the vertical ribs gradually fade away. The embryonic whorls have a different sculpture consisting of six to eight undulating spiral lines. This sculpture is entirely comparable to the sculpture on the embryonic whorls of *A. scabra*, *A. parvula*, and other species of this group. Whorls four to five, including one and a half embryonic ones, which form a perfectly hemispherical apex. The later whorls are only slightly convex and are separated by a clear but not very deep suture. The suture is accentuated by the lowermost spiral rib on each whorl and so shows a tendency to excavation. The height of the last whorl is equal to about two-thirds of the total height of the shell.

Aperture nearly round and strengthened on the outside by a slight labial rib. The inside of the outer lip is plain and does not show signs of teeth. The height of the aperture is about two-fifths of the total height of the shell. Umbilicus none.

Colour a clear semitransparent yellowish-brown with a number of dark brown-red vertical streaks directly below the suture.

Measurements: 1.80 - 2.05 x 100 - 1.20 mm, average 2.0 x 1.15 mm.

Holotype: 2.05 x 1.20 mm, deposited in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands, under number 55080.

Paratypes: two specimens each in the British Museum (Natural History), London; Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), Washington (D.C.); and the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden; seven specimens in the collection of Mrs. M.C. Fehr-de Wal under number 6298; 89 specimens in the collection of the author under number 9836.

The species is named in honour of Dr. D. Vermaas, former head of Akzo Corporate Research, Arnhem, the Netherlands.

Compared with *A. scabra* and *A. parvula* the new species differs from both in having much flatter whorls and more close-set vertical ribs. The sculpture on the embryonic whorls is clearly related to that of the above-mentioned species. *A. vermaasi* is also different from *A.*

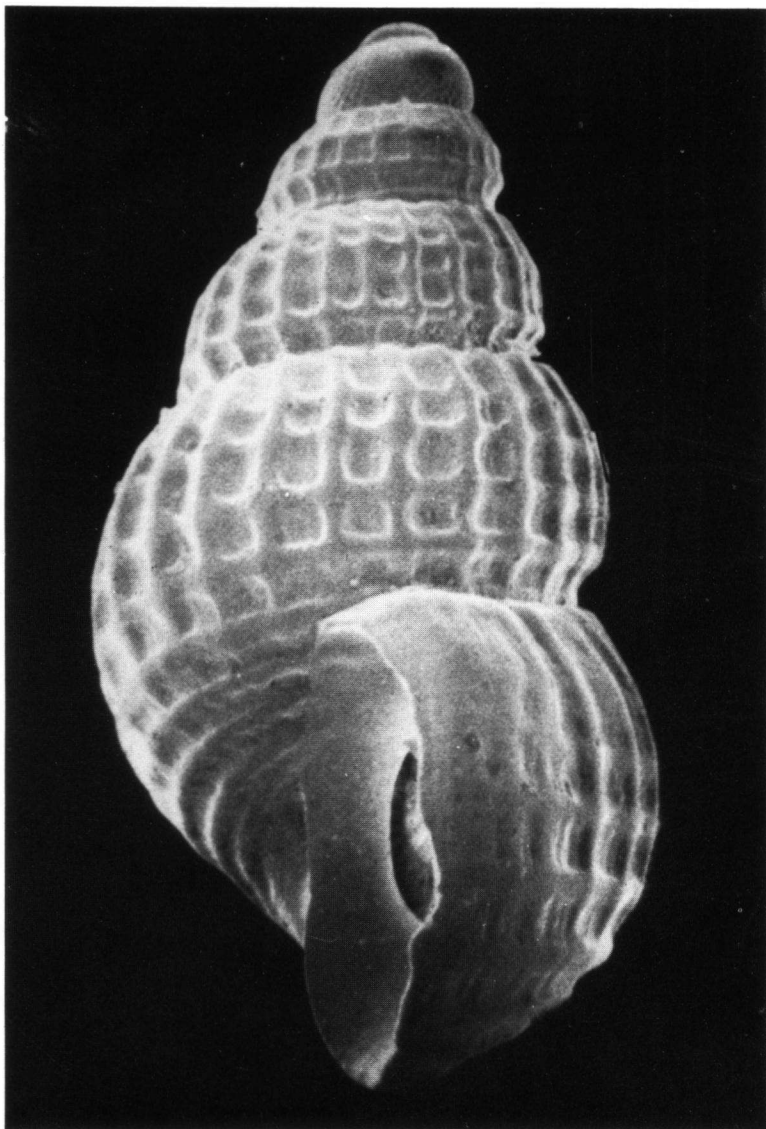


Fig. 2. *Alvania vermaasi* n. sp., holotype, side view showing straight and vertical outer lip, highly enlarged. SEM photo by J.Th. Stenfert.

*deliciosa* (Jeffreys, 1884) in being smaller, more slender and thus less bulky. The same holds true for the variety *multicostata* (Jeffreys, 1884) of that species as can be seen from the figures given by Jeffreys (1884) as well as by Van Aartsen & Fehr-de Wal (1973).

In view of the fact that most of the *Alvania* species mentioned in this article are known from Tangier (Chaster, 1896; Pallary, 1902) there is a possibility that *A. vermaasi* is identical to one of the species *A. conspicua* (Monterosato MS) or *A. inconspicua* (Monterosato MS) mentioned by Pallary (1902). As far as the author is aware these species have never been described and so their names must be considered nomina nuda.

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## SAMENVATTING

De nieuwe soort *Alvania vermaasi* wordt beschreven van talrijke exemplaren van de Golf van Algeciras, Spanje. De soort lijkt wat op *A. scabra* en *A. parvula*, maar onderscheidt zich van deze door vlakkeren windingen en dichter opeen staande ribben. *A. vermaasi* verschilt eveneens van *A. deliciosa*; eerstgenoemde soort is slanker en kleiner.