

***Bela* Leach, 1847 (Gastropoda Conoidea) species distributed along the Turkish coasts and in the Saronic Gulf (Greece) with description of *Bela filioae* n. sp.**

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ABSTRACT

The present study includes the distribution of *Bela* Leach, 1847 (Gastropoda Conoidea) species along the Turkish coasts and in the Saronic Gulf, Aegean coast of Greece. The materials were collected between 1995 and 2023 and were taken from different habitats (soft and hard bottoms, and macrophyte beds) at depths ranging from intertidal zone up to 1000 m. As result of an analysed material of 266 live collected specimens and 14 shells belonging to genus *Bela*, 11 species were recognised. *Bela filioae* is described as a new species. Of the identified species, *Bela zonata* (Locard, 1891) was the most abundant and widely distributed species, especially on the Levantine coast of Türkiye, following by *Bela menkhorsti* van Aartsen, 1988 and *Bela nebula* (Montagu, 1803) mostly encountered in the Aegean Sea, while *Bela* cf. *ginmania* (Risso, 1826) was the rarest one. *Bela menkhorsti* was found to be significant as the deepest living species, sampled from depths up to 196 m. In the present study, along with the description of a new species, some ecological and distributional characteristics of the investigated species and their figures are also provided.

KEY WORDS

Bela; Gastropoda; Mediterranean Sea; new species; Turkish coast; Saronic Gulf.

Received 25.01.2024; accepted 02.03.2024; published online 30.03.2024

INTRODUCTION

With the present study we continue to investigate the conoidean gastropods of the genus *Bela* Leach in Gray, 1847 distributed along the Turkish coasts after the works carried out on the raphitomid (Öztürk & Geyran, 2020) and mangeliid (Öztürk, 2021) gastropods.

The genus *Bela* was based on *Murex nebula* Montagu, 1803 and the taxonomy of *Bela* species, as the other species within different mangeliid genera, mostly based on shell characters (a-taxonomy)

and suffers from the lack of comprehensive and modern revisions (Mariottini et al., 2008). Before the lectotype designation for *Bela nebula*, the genus identity was uncertain and problematic due to the poor characterization of the taxon to include a group of unrelated species (Mariottini et al., 2008; Scarponi et al., 2014). Scarponi et al. (2014), also investigated in detail the changes in the species composition of the genus *Bela* from its erection to the recent past and indicated that after the lectotype designation of the type species, the genus *Bela* should include species with small shell ($h < 15$

mm), smooth protoconch nucleus, mostly with a fusiform teleoconch having predominant axial sculpture extending between the sutures, and spiral elements commonly interrupted by dense growth lines, in a word, species like *Bela taprurensis* (Pallary, 1904), *Bela fuscata* (Deshayes, 1835), *Bela zonata* (Locard, 1891), etc.

The number of species included in the genus *Bela* is varied according to different authors (i.e., Nordsieck, 1977; Sabelli et al., 1990; Repetto et al., 2005). Nordsieck (1977) investigated 22 taxa of the genus *Bela* including some subspecies and forms. But later the number decreases, because of that some species such as *Bela aegeensis*, *B. turgida* and *B. fortis* were considered as *nomen dubium* by van Aartsen (1988b) due to the lack of detailed description and for which no type specimen could be found; *Bela brachystoma* was moved in the genus *Sorgenfreispira* Moroni, 1979 (Mariottini et al., 2015), and some of Nordsieck's taxa were synonymised (i.e., *Bela confusa* = *Sorgenfreispira brachystoma*, *Bela septenvillei* = *Bela nebula*, *Bela ornata* = *Mangelia costulata*) (WoRMS, 2023). On the other hand, in the work by Sabelli et al. (1990) 10 *Bela* species were reported from the Mediterranean basin of which a few numbers are not valid taxa at the present day. Besides, in another study carried out (Repetto et al., 2005) 13 *Bela* species were listed.

In a very recently published work by Giannuzzi-Savelli et al. (2023), 15 currently valid taxa of the genus were listed: *B. atlantidea* (Knudsen, 1952); *B. atticae* Nordsieck, 1977; *B. cycladensis* (Reeve, 1845); *B. fuscata* (Deshayes, 1835); *B. ginnania* (Risso, 1826); *B. menkhorsti* van Aartsen, 1988; *B. minoica* Bogi, Giannuzzi-Savelli et Pusateri, 2021; *B. nebula* (Montagu, 1803); *B. oceanica* (Locard, 1891); *B. plicatilis* (Risso, 1826); *B. powisiana* (Dautzenberg, 1887); *B. spatatina* Prkić, et Giannuzzi-Savelli, 2022; *B. taprurensis* (Pallary, 1904); *B. zonata* (Locard, 1891) and *B. zenetouae* (van Aartsen, 1988). Among the above listed species, some are widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean Sea (i. e., *B. nebula*, *B. menkhorsti* and *B. zonata*), while some other taxa (i. e., *B. minoica* and *B. spatatina*) are little known species found in restricted areas only.

Compared to different *Bela* species in relevant literatures, some specimens collected from the Turkish coasts were found to have different mor-

phologic characteristics, and they were herein described as a new species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The *Bela* specimens investigated herein were collected during various cruises and research projects conducted to the Turkish coasts between 1995 and 2023, and the material was sampled at depths ranging from intertidal zone up to 1000 m. Deep water benthic samples were taken with sampling gear such as Van Veen grab, Box Core, dredge, and beam trawl, whereas shallow water samples were collected by snorkelling. A part of the material was sampled during the projects 104 Y 065 and 111 Y 268 which were supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK); the other part was obtained during various sampling efforts that were carried out along the Turkish coasts, and few individuals examined herein were collected from the Saronic Gulf (Greece) by the second author. In the present study, along with some morphological and ecological characteristics of the studied species, some individuals of each investigated taxa have also been illustrated.

The protoconch whorls were counted and measured according to the method given in Spada et al. (2023), and the systematic of the species is based on WoRMS (2023) and Giannuzzi-Savelli et al. (2023). The studied materials are deposited in the collections of ESFM and POC.

ABBREVIATIONS. ESFM: Museum Collection of the Faculty of Fisheries at Ege University, İzmir, Türkiye; POC: Collection of Panayotis Ovalis, Greece; spm: specimen/s; sh: shell/s.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Systematics

Ordo NEOGASTROPODA Wenz, 1938
Superfamilia CONOIDEA Fleming, 1822
Familia MANGELIIDAE Fischer, 1883
Genus *Bela* Leach in Gray, 1847a

TYPE SPECIES. *Murex nebula* Montagu, 1803, by subsequent designation (Gray, 1847b)

The investigation of sampled *Bela* specimens from the Turkish coasts and Saronic Gulf (266 live collected and 14 shells) yielded 11 species: *Bela atticae*, *Bela cycladensis*, *Bela fuscata*, *Bela* cf. *ginnania*, *Bela menkhorsti*, *Bela nebula*, *Bela plicatilis*, *Bela taprurensis*, *Bela zenetouae*, *Bela zonata*, *Bela filioae* n. sp. Of the mentioned above taxa, 5 species (*Bela cycladensis*, *B. menkhorsti*, *B. nebula*, *B. taprurensis* and *B. zonata*) were sampled from the Levantine coast; 10 species in the Aegean Sea (*Bela atticae*, *B. cycladensis*, *B. fuscata*, *B. menkhorsti*, *B. nebula*, *B. plicatilis*, *B. taprurensis*, *B. zenetouae*, *B. zonata* and *Bela filioae*) 2 species (*B. menkhorsti* and *B. nebula*) in the Sea of Marmara, and only one species (*Bela nebula*) was found in the Black Sea. On the Levantine coast, *B. zonata* attracts attention as the most frequently encountered species, following by *B. cycladensis* and *B. nebula*. On the other hand, in the Aegean Sea, although a bit more individuals of *B. menkhorsti* and *B. nebula* were found, the frequency of occurrence and number of individuals found of each species, are nearly close to each other, except for *B. ginnania* and *B. zenetouae*.

The two species (*B. menkhorsti* and *B. nebula*) found in the Sea of Marmara, and *B. nebula* encountered in the Black Sea, are with restricted distribution in the mentioned areas.

All the investigated species in the present study were found in the littoral area. *B. menkhorsti* was the species with deepest distribution, encountered at depths up to 194 m, following by *B. zenetouae* found at depths up to 100 m, whereas most of the species were found to inhabit the shallower depths. *B. cycladensis*, *B. fuscata*, *B. nebula* and *B. taprurensis* were also encountered at depths of 50 m and over.

Information concerning the investigated species herein, including details of shell morphology and distributional patterns, and the description of *B. filioae* n. sp. are given below.

Bela atticae Nordsieck, 1977 (Figs. 1–16)

Raphitoma rissoi, Locard, 1886: 120-121 (replacement name for *Mangelia costulata* Risso, 1826, non Bellardi).

Raphitoma ornata, Locard, 1891: 57 (replacement name for *Raphitoma rissoi* Risso, 1886)

Bela ornata atticae, Nordsieck, 1977: 42, pl. 21, fig.

78a - Saronic Gulf (Aegean Sea), original description.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKIYE • 2 spm, Bozcaada, Aegean Sea, 7 m, Jul. 1999, sandy mud with shell fragments (POC); 1 spm, Salih Adası (Bodrum), Aegean Sea, 9 m, 21 Oct. 2001, *Posidonia oceanica* + sand, (ESFM-GAS/2001-62); 1 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 9 m, 10 Oct. 2017, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2017-122); GREECE • 1 spm, Saronic Gulf, Aegean Sea, 8 m, Sept. 2018, sand with shell fragments (POC); 3 spm, Saronic Gulf, Aegean Sea, 5 m, Jul. 2021, muddy sand (POC).

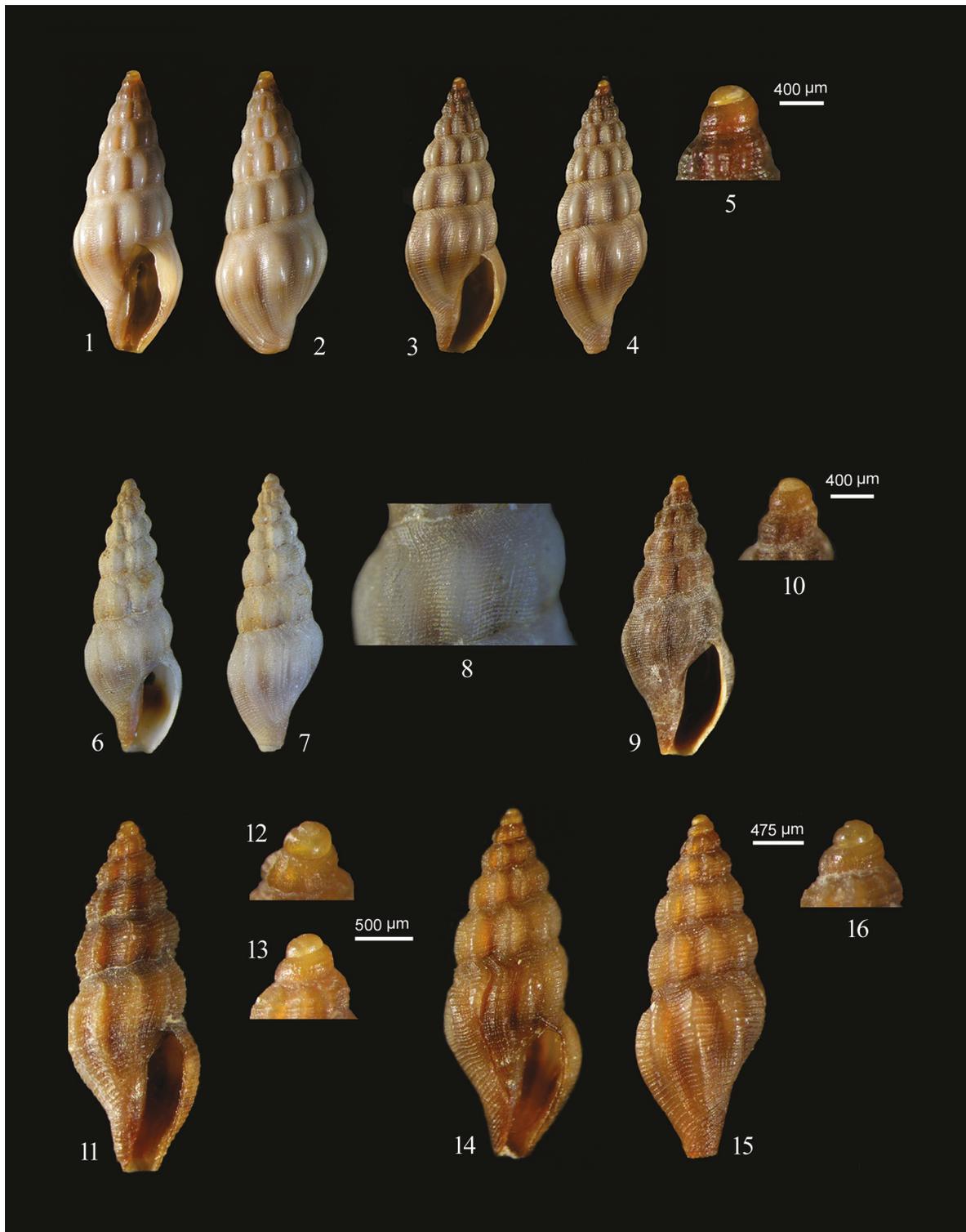
DISTRIBUTION. Mediterranean Sea (Nordsieck, 1977; Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023).

It is here reported from the Turkish coasts for the first time.

REMARKS. The species was previously known as *Raphitoma ornata* Locard, 1891 = *Bela ornata* (Locard, 1891), which is a replacement name for *Raphitoma rissoi* Locard, 1886. *Raphitoma rissoi*, in turn, is a replacement name for *Mangelia costulata* Risso, 1826. Nowadays, all three names have been considered as objective synonyms of *Smithiella costulata* (Risso, 1826) (WoRMS, 2023). Consequently, the first useful name to use for this taxon should be *B. ornata atticae* Nordsieck, 1977 renamed as *B. atticae* Nordsieck, 1977 (Giannuzzi-Savelli, pers. comm.). The type locality of the species is Saronic Gulf (Aegean Sea) (Nordsieck, 1977: 42).

Shell of the species slender, fusoid and consists of 6–7 teleoconch whorls. Protoconch of about 2.5 whorls with a diameter varying between 420 and 485 µm. On the teleoconch whorls exist a sculpture of 7–10 thick axial ribs equal to interspaces or slightly wider, and regularly spaced numerous spiral striae intersected by growth lines. Spirals running over axial ribs, but less evident in some specimens.

Body whorl height 1/3 of the shell height. Aperture narrow oblong, columellar edge sinuous and posterior sinus obsolete. Siphonal canal wide and short. Shell in yellowish or brownish colour with a brown stripe on spire whorls at the suture and more visible at the interspaces, and one on the body whorl at the periphery, wider than those on the spire. The brown band is well pronounced in specimens of yellowish colour, also inside the aperture.



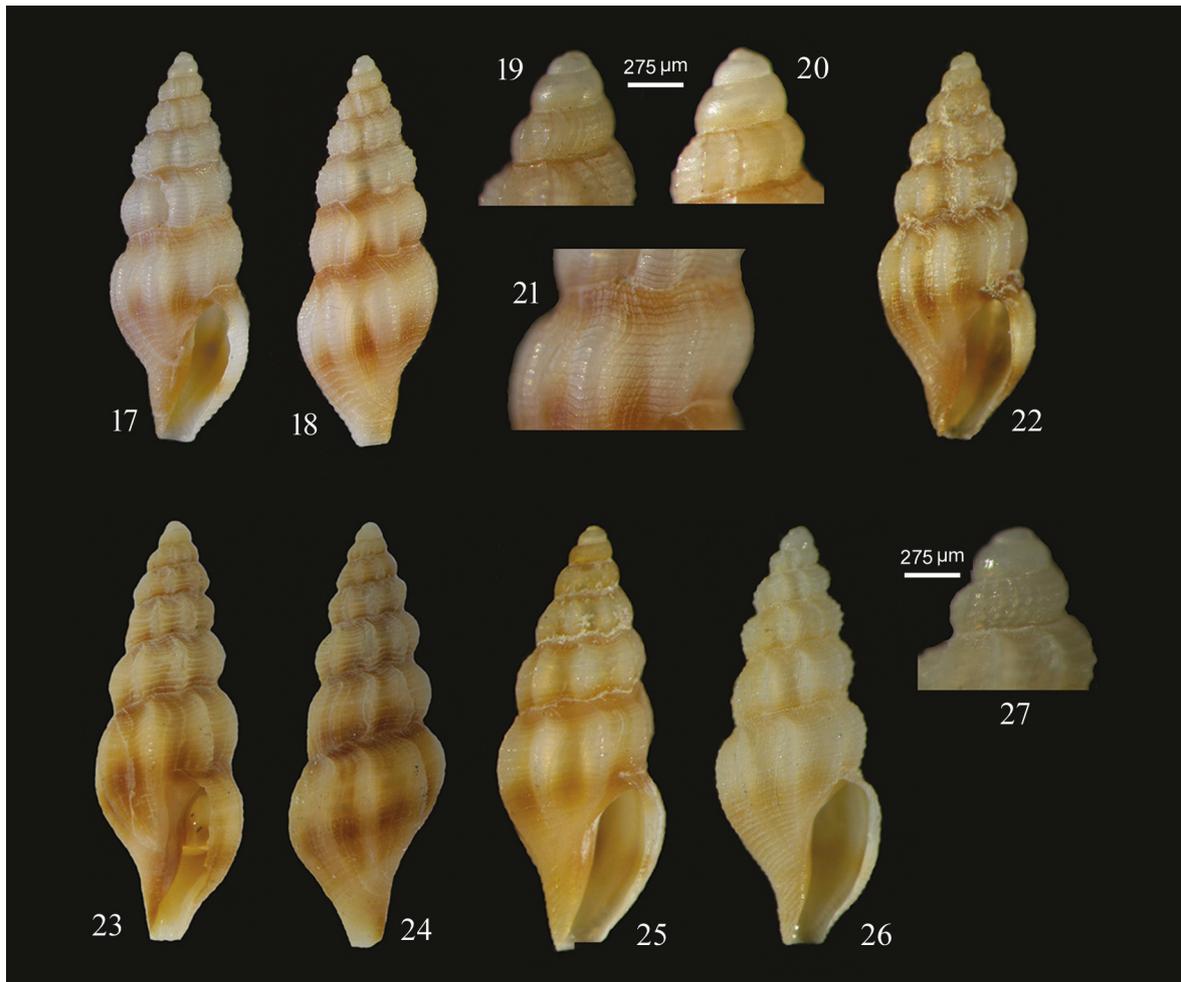
Figures 1–16. *Bela atticae* Nordsieck, 1977. Ventral (Figs. 1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 14), dorsal (Figs. 2, 4, 7, 15) views of six specimens and protoconch of the specimens 3 (5), 9 (10), 11 (12, 13) and 14 (16), and microsculpture (8) on the teleoconch whorls of the specimen 6 under magnification (x20) (1=2=9.6 mm, 3=4=9.8 mm, Bozcaada Island (Aegean Sea), 7 m; 6=7=8.5 mm, Salih Island, Bodrum (Aegean Sea), 9 m; 9=7.7 mm, Saronic Gulf, 5 m; 11=6.5 mm, İzmir Bay, 9 m; 14=15=6 mm, Saronic Gulf, 8 m).

In addition, we found two specimens in the Aegean Sea: one in the İzmir Bay (Figs. 11–13) and the other in the Saronic Gulf (Figs. 14–16) which were a quite different from those sampled from the region. However, we compared them with those specimens of *B. atticae* figured in the atlas on the conoidean species by Giannuzzi-Savelli et al. (2023) and considering the possibility that the specimens may be sub-adult ones, they were tentatively assigned to *B. atticae*.

Bela cycladensis (Reeve, 1845) (Figs. 17–27)

Pleurotoma cycladensis; Reeve, 1845: pl. 32, fig. 289 (original combination).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKIYE • 3 sh, Bozcaada, Aegean Sea, 65 m, May 1996, sandy mud with shell fragments, (POC); 2 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 12 m, 19 Sept. 2003, sand + mud (ESFM-GAS/2003-112); 1 spm, Ildır Bay (Çeşme), Aegean Sea, 45 m, 9 Jun. 2003, muddy sand (ESFM-GAS/2003-113); 1 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine sea, 25 m, 9 Sept. 2005, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2005-87); 2 spm, Fethiye Bay, Levantine Sea, 25 m, 6 Jun. 2005, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2005-375); 1 sh, Mersin Bay, Levantine Sea, 15 m, 4 Aug. 2009, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2009-64); 2 spm, Sea of Marmara, 50 m, 24 Jun. 2013, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2013-224); 3 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea,



Figures 17–27. *Bela cycladensis* (Reeve, 1845). Ventral (Figs. 17, 22, 23, 25, 26), dorsal (Figs. 18, 24) views of different specimens and protoconchs (Figs. 19, 20, 27) of the specimens 17 and 26, and microsculpture (Fig. 21) on the teleoconch whorls (17 = 18 = 5.9 mm, İskenderun Bay, 25 m; 22 = 6.1 mm, 25 = 5.6 mm, İzmir Bay, 12 m; 23 = 24 = 7.3 mm, İzmir Bay, 7 m; 26 = 6.2 mm, Güllük Bay, 37 m).

49 m, 25 Aug. 2014, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2014-2); 2 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 37 m, 24 Aug. 2017, mud with silty sand (ESFM-GAS/2017-121); 1 spm, Taşucu, Levantine Sea, 25 m, 6 Sept. 2019, muddy sand with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2019-16); 1 spm, Fethiye Bay, Levantine Sea, 48 m, 10 Sept. 2019, mud (ESFM-GAS/2019-35); 1 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 7 m, 21 Aug. 2021, mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2021-15).

DISTRIBUTION. The type locality of this species is Paros Island (Aegean Sea) (Reeve, 1845). The species was also recorded from the central and eastern Mediterranean (Nordsieck, 1977; Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023). *Bela cycladensis* was previously reported by Demir (2003) from the Turkish Levantine and Aegean coasts.

It is here reported from the Sea of Marmara for the first time.

REMARKS. Shell fusiform and consists of about six teleoconch whorls with pronounced 7-9 axial ribs and spirals on the surface. Body whorl nearly half of the shell height. A brown stripe exists on the spire whorls below and above the suture, and two stripes on the body whorl, of which one at the periphery. Protoconch of about 2.5 whorls. Due to the similarities of the species to *Bela zonata*, it is possible sometimes to be misidentified for it. *Bela cycladensis* differs by having narrow and compressed axial ribs.

Bela fuscata (Deshayes, 1835) (Figs. 28–35)

Pleurotoma fuscata Deshayes, 1835:177 (original combination).

Bela ginnania formica Nordsieck, 1977: 42, 92, pl. 10, fig. 76 (replacement name for *Bela formicaria* Forbes, 1844 not Sowerby, 1834).

Bela formica Nordsieck, 1977: 139 (in Prkić & Giannuzzi-Savelli, 2022: 944).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, Eski Foça, Aegean Sea, 4 m, Jul. 1995, *Posidonia oceanica* and sand (ESFM-GAS/1995-110); 2 spm, Bozcaada Island, 55 m, Jun. 2000, sand with shell fragments (POC); 1 spm, Ildır Bay, Aegean Sea, 20 m, 26 Sept. 2002, *Posidonia oceanica* and sand (ESFM-GAS/2002-47); 1 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 6.7 m, 28 Jul. 017, sandy mud with

shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2017-120); GREECE • 1 spm, Saronic Gulf (Aegean Sea), 5 m, Jul. 2021, muddy sand (POC).

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic Ocean (Canary Island) (Nordsieck, 1977: 42; Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023). Along the Turkish coasts, it was before reported from Dardanelles (Aslan & Ovalis, 2013) and from the Sea of Marmara (Ostroumoff, 1896).

REMARKS. The species has a slender, fusiform shell with multispiral protoconch of about 2.5 whorls, with diameter between 340–440 μ , and a teleoconch consists of about 6–8 whorls. Body whorl nearly half of the shell height. On the whorls exists a sculpture of thick and spaced axial ribs varying between 7–10 ribs on the body whorl, and spirals running over the ribs. In some specimens, the spirals may be frequently disposed. Growth lines evident and sinuous. Aperture oval-oblong, columellar edge sinuous and outer lip not thickened. Posterior sinus absent. Siphonal canal wide and short. Uniformly coloured in dark or greyish brown. Inside of aperture is also dark brown.

Bela fuscata was originally described from Morea (Greece) coast by Deshayes (1935) and later it was reported as *Bela ginnania formicaria* (= *Bela formica*) from the Adriatic and Aegean Seas by Nordsieck (1977: 42). *Bela formica* was recently considered as junior synonym of *B. fuscata* by Prkić and Giannuzzi-Savelli (2022).

Bela cf. ginnania (Risso, 1826) (Figs. 36–40)

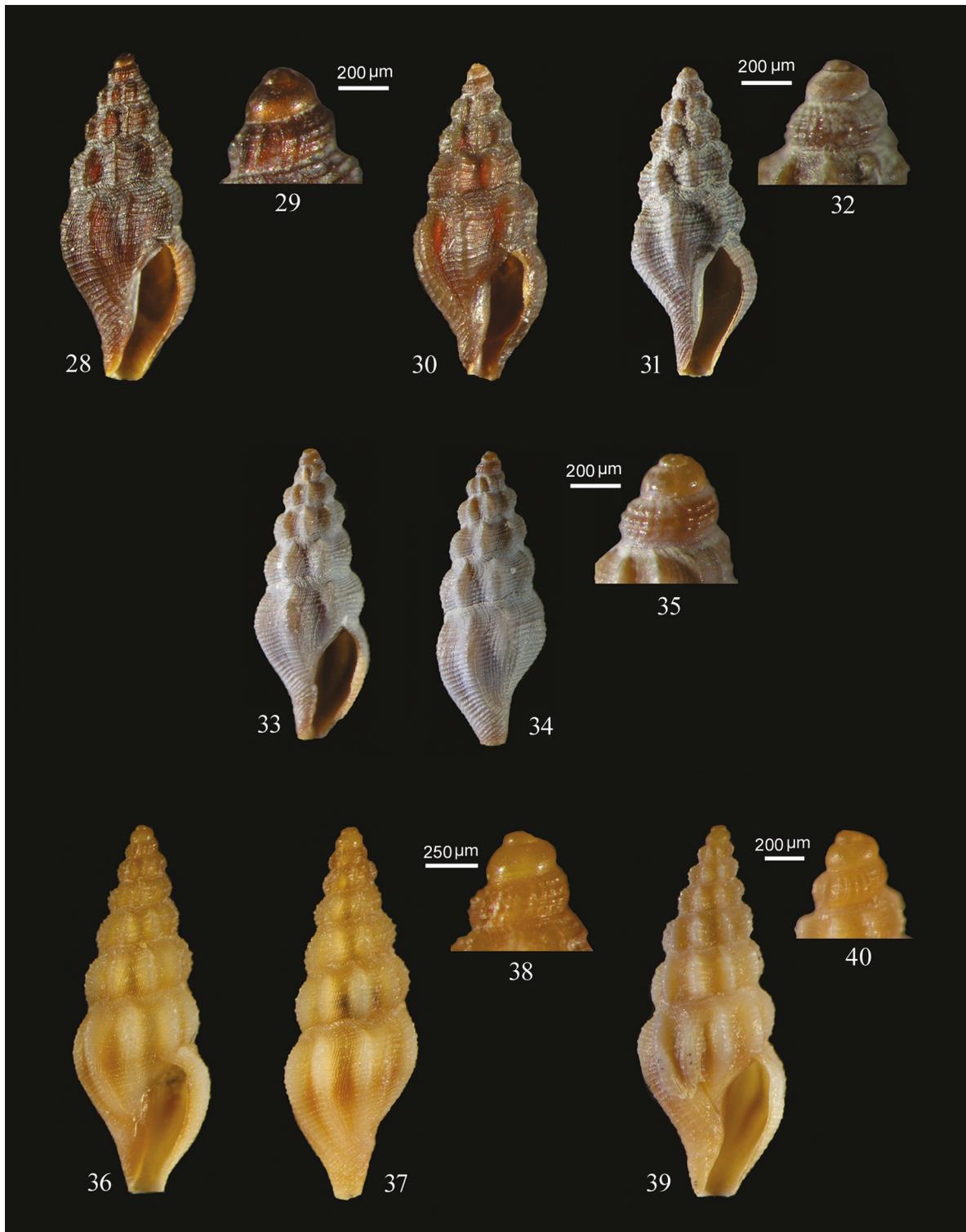
Mangelia ginnania, Risso, 1826: 220, pl. 7 fig. 99 (original description).

Bela ginnania; Nordsieck, 1977: 42, Pl. 10, fig. 75. Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023, figs 1049-1058.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, Taşucu, Levantine Sea, 5 m, Aug. 2015, sand with shell fragments, 1 spm (POC); GREECE • 1 spm, Saronic Gulf, Aegean Sea, 7 m, May 2017, sand with shell fragments, 1 spm (POC).

DISTRIBUTION. Mediterranean Sea (Nordsieck, 1977; Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023).

The record from Taşucu (Levantine Sea) is a new one from the Turkish coasts.



Figures 28–35. *Bela fuscata* (Deshayes, 1835). Ventral (Figs. 28, 30, 31, 33) and dorsal (Fig. 34) views of four specimens and protoconchs (Figs. 29, 32, 35) of the specimens Figs. 28, 31 and Fig. 33 (28 = 5.3 mm, Bozcaada Island, 55 m; 31 = 5.7 mm, İzmir Bay, 6.7 m; 30 = 5.2 mm, Saronic Gulf, 55 m; 33 = 34 = 6.2 mm, Eski Foça, 4 m). Figures 36–40. *Bela* cf. *ginnania* (Risso, 1826). Ventral (36, 39), dorsal (37) and protoconchs (38, 40) of the specimens (36=37=6.1 mm, Taşucu, 7m; 39=6.3 mm, Saronic Gulf, 5m).

REMARKS. Shell fusiform with slender spire. Teleoconch consists of 6-7 whorls, bearing 8-10 thick axial ribs equal to interspaces between them. Dense, equidistantly spaced and of equal thickness spirals running over the axial ribs. Growth lines sinuous and evident. Protoconch of about 2.5 whorls in light brown colour. First whorls smooth, last whorl delicately cancellated. The protoconch diameter of the found specimens is 460 μ and 520 μ . Body whorl a bit shorter than the spire. Aperture oblong, columellar edge S-shaped. No evident posterior sinus. Siphonal canal short and open. Shell background in brownish colour with lighter coloured axial ribs on the whorls.

Bela menkhorsti van Aartsen, 1988 (Figs. 41–49)

Bela menkhorsti van Aartsen, 1988a: 30–31 (*nomen novum* for *Pleurotoma nana* Scacchi, 1836 not Deshayes, 1835).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 49 m, 8 Nov. 1997, mud (ESFM-GAS/1997-22); 1 spm, Kuşadası Bay, Aegean Sea, 194 m, 14 Sept. 2000, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2000-162); 1 spm, Mordoğan (İzmir Bay), Aegean Sea, 8 m, 14 Jun. 2001, *Posidonia oceanica* (ESFM-GAS/2001-38); 1 spm, Çandarlı Bay, Aegean Sea, 56 m, 10 Jun. 2003, coralligenous (ESFM-GAS/2003-67); 1 spm, Ildır Bay, Aegean Sea, 10 m, 1 Dec. 2004, sand (ESFM-GAS/2004-34); 1 spm, Ildır Bay, Aegean Sea, 48 m, 16 Aug. 2009, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2009-40); 2 spm, Sea of Marmara, 50 m, 24 Jun. 2013, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2013-135); 1 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 44 m, 26 Jul. 2014, mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2014-40); 1 spm, Ildır Bay, Aegean Sea, 64 m, 25 Oct. 2014, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2014-41); 1 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 49 m, 15 Feb. 2015, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2015-20); 1 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 47 m, 16 Feb. 2015, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2015-22); 1 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 31 m, 16 Aug. 2015, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2015-21); 3 spm, Eski Foça, Aegean Sea, 8 m, 21 Oct. 2016, *Posidonia oceanica* (ESFM-GAS/2016-18); 1 spm, Kemer (Antalya Bay), Levantine Sea, 54 m, 4 Aug. 2017, mud with green algae fragments (ESFM-GAS/2017-84); 1 spm,

İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 19 m, 21 Aug. 2017, mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2017-83); 2 sh, Bozcaada, Aegean Sea, 8 m, Aug. 2017, sand with shell fragments (POC); 1 spm, Eski Foça, Aegean Sea, 21 m, 8 Nov. 2019, muddy sand (ESFM-GAS/2019-33); 1 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 15 m, 21 Aug. 2021, mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2021-9).

DISTRIBUTION. *Bela menkhorsti* is known from the entire Mediterranean Sea, and from the neighbouring Atlantic Ocean (Mariottini et al., 2009). The species has a wide distribution along the Turkish coasts, which was previously reported from the Aegean Sea and Sea of Marmara (Demir, 2003).

It is here reported for the first time from the Levantine coast of Türkiye.

REMARKS. The name *Bela menhorsti* was introduced by van Aartsen (1988a) as a replacement name for *Pleurotoma nana* Scacchi, 1836 not Deshayes, 1835. It is easy to distinguish the species from the congeneric ones by its biconical, elongate-fusiform shape, thin light spiral band on the body whorl and by its multispiral protoconch of about 2-2.5 whorls. On the teleoconch whorls there exist a sculpture of thick and spaced axial ribs (mostly 8 ribs and rarely 7 or 9 ribs on the body whorl) and dense spirals running over the ribs. Thin and dense growth lines are also evident under magnification. The species is identical to *Bela zenetouae* by shell shape and shell colour but differs from it by elongate-fusiform shell shape and multispiral protoconch.

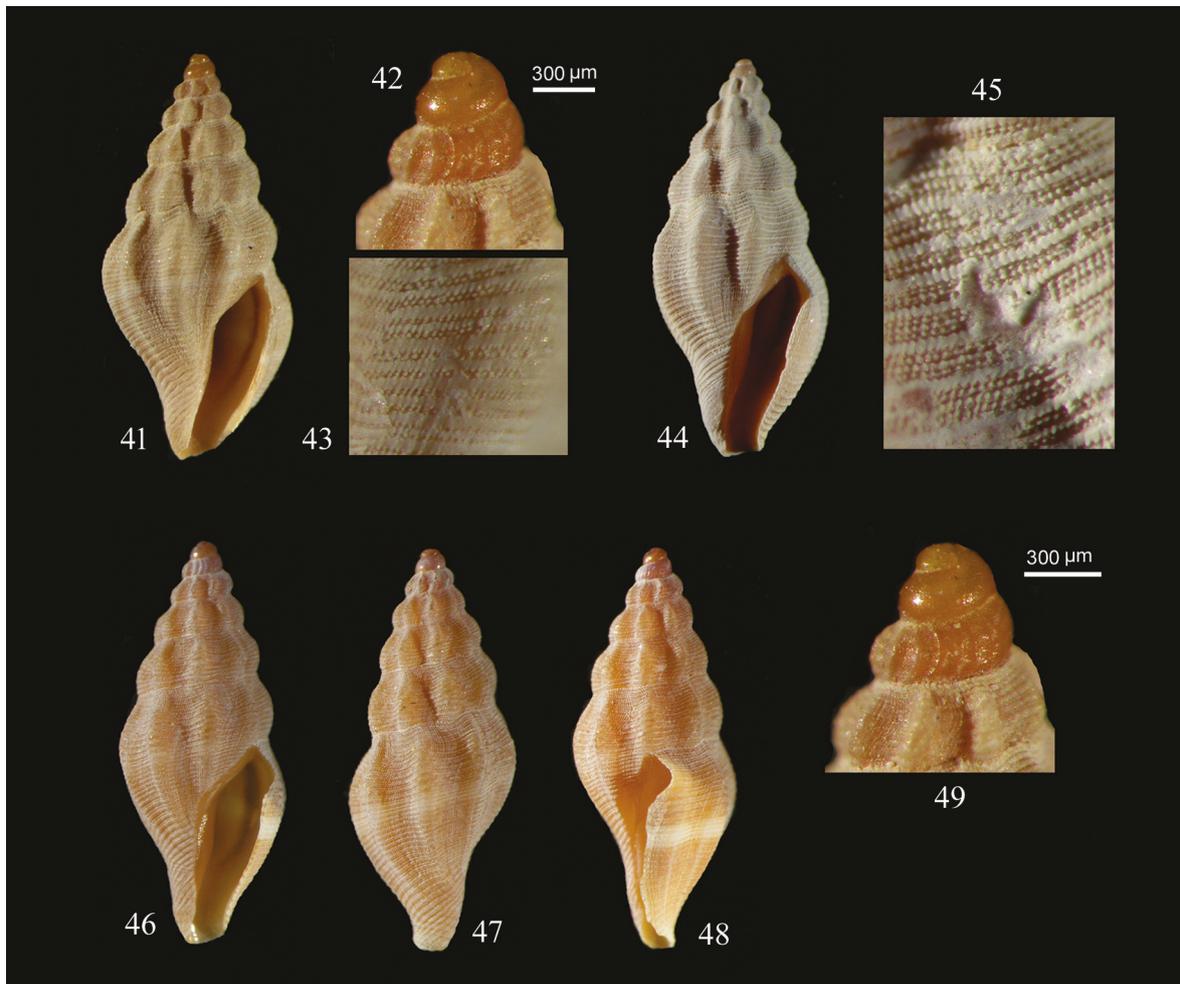
In the work by Nordsieck (1977: 45), the species was indicated as *Bela turgida* (Reeve, 1844), which taxon later was considered as *nomen dubium* by van Aartsen (1988b).

Bela nebula Montagu (1803) (Figs. 50–65)

Murex nebula Montagu, 1803.

Bela nebula; Scarponi et al., 2014: 45–54, figs 1–2, app. 1 (lectotype designated).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 2 spm, Bozcaada, Aegean Sea, 6 m, Mar. 1996, sand with shell fragments (POC); 1 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 20 m, 8 Nov. 1997, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/1997-29); 1 spm, Sinop, Black Sea, 15 m, 14 Jul. 2001, muddy sand (ESFM-GAS/2001-36);

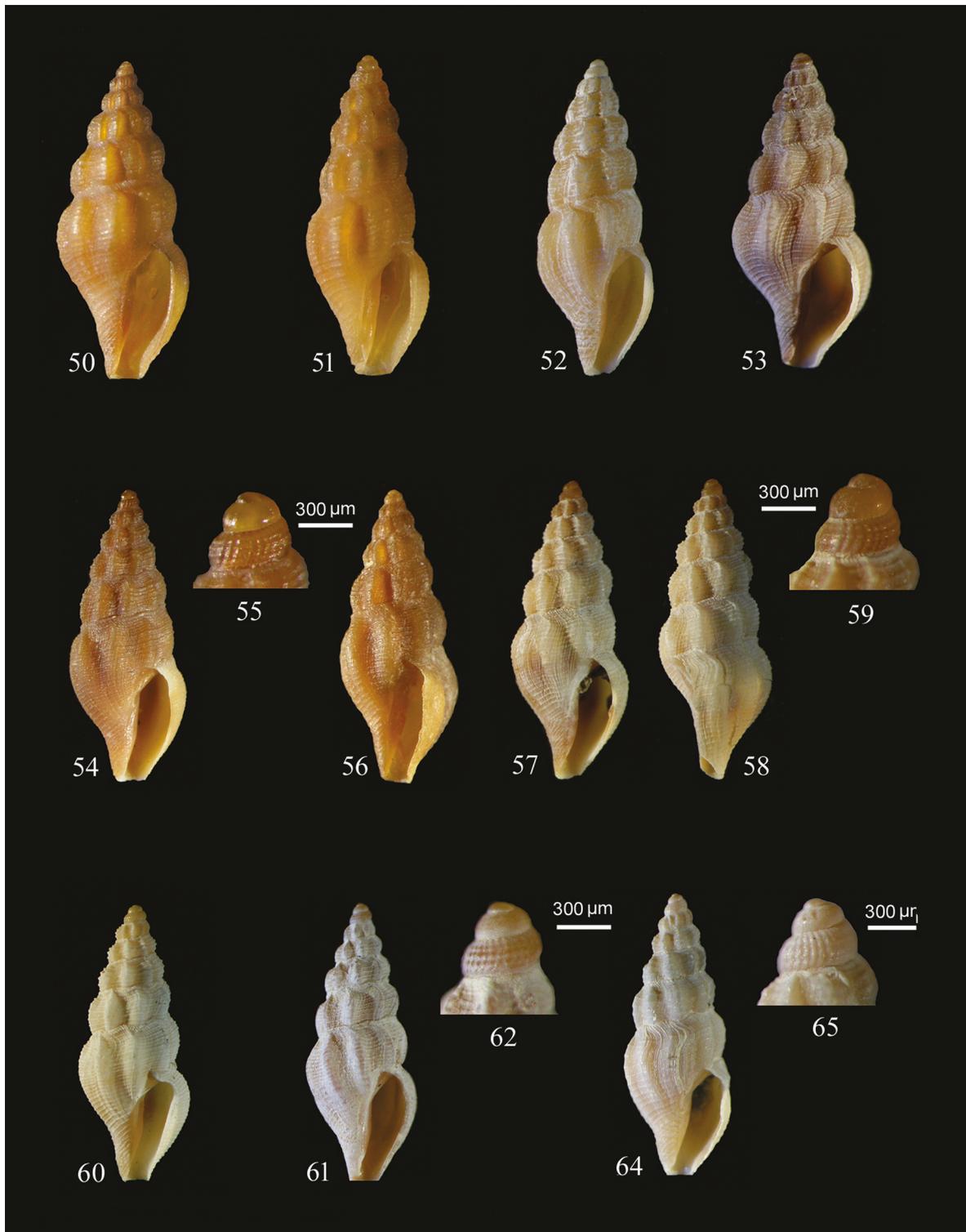


Figures 41–49. *Bela menkhorsti* van Aartsen, 1988. Ventral (Figs. 41, 44, 46), dorsal (Fig. 47) and lateral (Fig. 48) views of three different specimens, and protoconchs (Figs. 42, 49) of the specimens 41 and 46 (41 = 5.9 mm, Çandarlı Bay, 56 m; 44 = 6.9 mm, İzmir Bay, 8 m; 46 = 47 = 48 = 6.1 mm, Güllük Bay, 49.5 m). Figs 43 and 45 views of microsculpture on the teleoconch whorls under magnification (x 40).

1 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 19 m, 11 Jun. 2002, muddy sand (ESFM-GAS/2002-61); 1 spm, Ildır Bay, Aegean Sea, 45 m, 1 May 2003, sand (ESFM-GAS/2003-68); 5 spm, Kuşadası Bay, Aegean Sea, 5 m, 8 Oct. 2005, mixture of *Caulerpa racemosa*, sand and mud (ESFM-GAS/2005-370); 1 sh., Ildır Bay, Çeşme, Aegean Sea, 46 m, 25 Jun. 2009, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2009-65); 2 spm, Mersin Bay, Levantine Sea, 13 m, 4 Jul. 2009, mud (ESFM-GAS/2009-63); 1 spm, Dardanelles, 50 m, 6 Jun. 2013, mud (ESFM-GAS/2013-213); 3 spm, Sea of Marmara, 25 m, 18 Jun. 2013, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2013-212); 2 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 44 m, 26 Jul. 2014, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-

GAS/2014-135); 1 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 44 m, 16 Feb. 2015, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2015-59); 1 spm, Gökova Bay, Aegean Sea, 48 m, 19 Aug. 2016, mud (ESFM-GAS/2016-40); 1 spm, Marmaris Bay, Aegean Sea, 0.5 m, 1 May 2017, gravelly sand (ESFM-GAS/2017-119); 1 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 47 m, 4 Sept. 2019, mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2019-34); 2 spm, Arhavi, Black Sea, 16 m, 3 May 2021, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2021-3).

DISTRIBUTION. The species is distributed in central (near Gibraltar) and northeastern Atlantic Ocean and in the Mediterranean Sea (Nordsieck, 1977; Gofas et al., 2011; Scarponi et al., 2014). It



Figures 50–65. *Bela nebula* (Montagu, 1803). Ventral (Figs. 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 60, 61, 64) and lateral (Fig. 58) views of different morphotypes and protoconchs (Figs. 55, 59, 62, 65) of the specimens 54, 57, 61 and 64 (Figs. 50 = 6.1 mm, 51 = 6.5 mm, Black Sea, 16 m; 52 = 6.7 mm, İzmir Bay, 20 m; 53 = 6.2 mm, Marmaris Bay, 0.5 m; 54 = 6.9 mm, 56 = 7.2 mm, Bozcaada, 6 m; 57 = 58 = 6.7 mm, 60 = 6.3 mm, Gökova Bay, 48 m; 61 = 6.8 mm, İskenderun Bay; 1–19 m; 64 = 6.6 mm, Sea of Marmara, 25 m).

is widely distributed along the Turkish coasts (in Öztürk et al., 2014).

REMARKS. *Bela nebula* (Montagu, 1803) was established as type species of the genus *Bela* by Gray (1847b). Long after of that, from the syntypes deposited in the Montagu collection at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery (RAMM) in Exeter (UK), the lectotype of the species was designated by Scarponi et al. (2014).

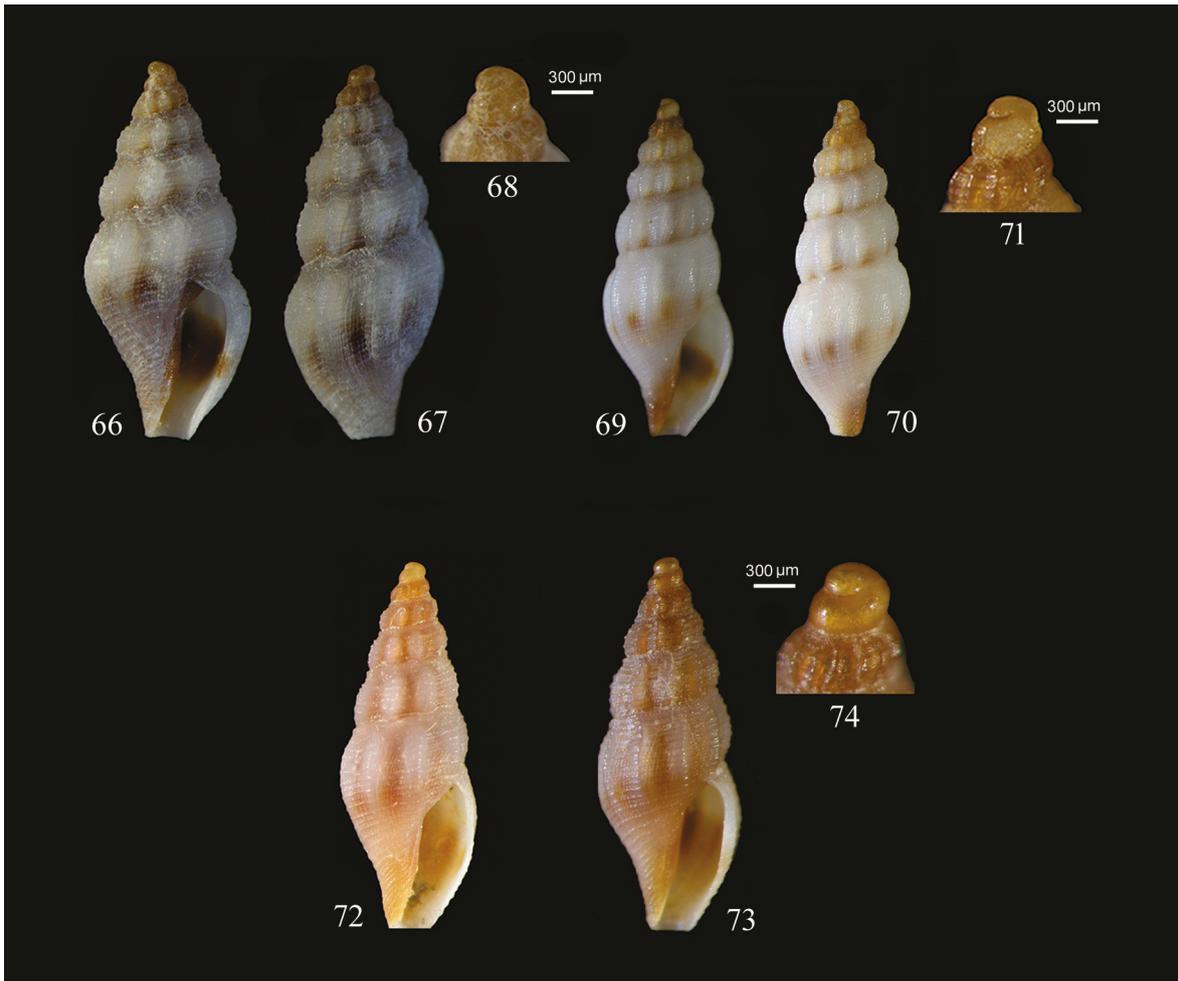
The species has a shell consists of 6–7 teleoconch whorls bearing a sculpture of axial ribs and weak spirals. Axial ribs are strong, rounded, as wide as the interspaces and thinner over subsutural ramp, and numbered 7–10 on the body whorl. The spirals are overrunning axial ribs and interrupted by

growth lines. Protoconch of about 2.5 whorls. Body whorl nearly half of the shell height. Aperture elongate, columellar edge straight or a bit sinuous with thin parietal callus and angulated adapically. Outer lip thin, anal sinus shallow. Siphonal canal short and open. In light brown or pale yellowish in colour.

The nomenclature of the species was considered in detail by Scarponi et al. (2014) in which study the lectotype of the species was designated.

Bela plicatilis (Risso, 1826) (Figs. 66–74)

Mangelia plicatilis, Risso, 1826: 220, pl. 7, fig.97. *Bela plicatilis*; Spada, 2016: 77–78, fig. 1, A-D (lectotype designated); Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023, figs 1095–1098.



Figures 66–74. *Bela plicatilis* (Risso, 1826). Ventral (66, 69, 72, 73), dorsal (67, 70) views of four specimens and protoconchs (68, 71, 74) of the specimens 66, 69 and 73 (66 = 67 = 5.1 mm, Çeşme, 12.5 m; 69 = 70 = 6.1 mm, Bozcaada, 47 m; 72 = 5.8 mm, Saronic Gulf, 8 m).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, Çeşme, Aegean Sea, 12.5 m, 23 Apr. 2018, *Posidonia oceanica* (ESFM-GAS/2018-16); GREECE • 3 spm, Saronic Gulf, 6 m, Sept. 2020, shell grit (POC); 3 spm, Saronic Gulf, Aegean Sea, 8 m, Sept. 2021, shell grit (POC); TÜRKİYE • 3 spm, Bozcaada, Aegean Sea, 47 m, Feb. 2023, sand with shell fragments (POC).

DISTRIBUTION. Mediterranean Sea (Spada, 2016; Giannuzzi-Savelli, 2023).

The present record of the species is the first one from the Turkish coasts.

REMARKS. Shell fusoid and consists of about 5 teleoconch whorls. Protoconch paucispiral of about 1.5 whorls. On the whorls, a sculpture of thick axial ribs (7-9 ribs on body whorl) and equally spaced thin spirals, overrunning axial ribs. Sometimes spirals a bit thicker and more evident. In some specimens exist a sutural band on the spire whorls and at periphery of body whorl, being clearly visible inside the aperture. The brown band on body whorl more obvious between ribs. No posterior sinus. Siphonal canal short and open. Shell background in whitish or light brown colour.

Regarding the protoconch type, *B. plicatilis* is like *B. taprurensis*, from which it differs by having thick axial ribs and brown band especially on the body whorl.

Spada (2016), in his work on Risso's materials, designated a lectotype for this species and considered *B. plicatilis* as a valid species with type locality Côte d'Azur (France).

Bela taprurensis (Pallary, 1904) (Figs. 75–80)

Ginnania taprurensis Pallary, 1904: 217–218, pl. 7, fig. 1 (original description).

Bela cycladensis conspicua; Nordsieck, 1977: 45, 94, fig. 89.

Fehria taprurensis; van Aartsen, 1988a: 31, figs. 2, 3.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, Anamur, Levantine Sea, 5 m, 22 Sept. 2005, sand (ESFM-GAS/2005-365); 1 spm, Finike Bay, Levantine Sea, 5 m, 30 Sept. 2005, sandy mud with *Cynodocea nodosa* fragments (ESFM-GAS/2005-96); 2 spm, Eski Foça, Aegean Sea, 26 m, 3 Aug. 2017, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2017-103); 2 spm,

Eski Foça, Aegean Sea, 30 m, 1 Aug. 2017, mud (ESFM-GAS/2017-102); 1 spm, Kemer, Levantine Sea, 54 m, 4 Aug. 2017, mud with algae fragments (ESFM-GAS/2017-85); Saronic Gulf, Aegean Sea, 8 m, Sept. 2021, sand with shell fragments (POC).

DISTRIBUTION. Mediterranean Sea (Nordsieck, 1977; Mariottini et al., 2015; Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023). Its presence along the Turkish Levantine and Aegean coasts was previously reported (in Öztürk et al., 2014).

REMARKS. The type locality of the species is Sfax (Tunisia) (Pallary, 1904). Nordsieck (1977: 45) re-described the species considering a specimen from Karpathos. In the same work, the author also described *Bela brachystoma apicalis* (= *Bela taprurensis*) from Sfax (Nordsieck, 1977: 44, pl. 11, Fig. 86).

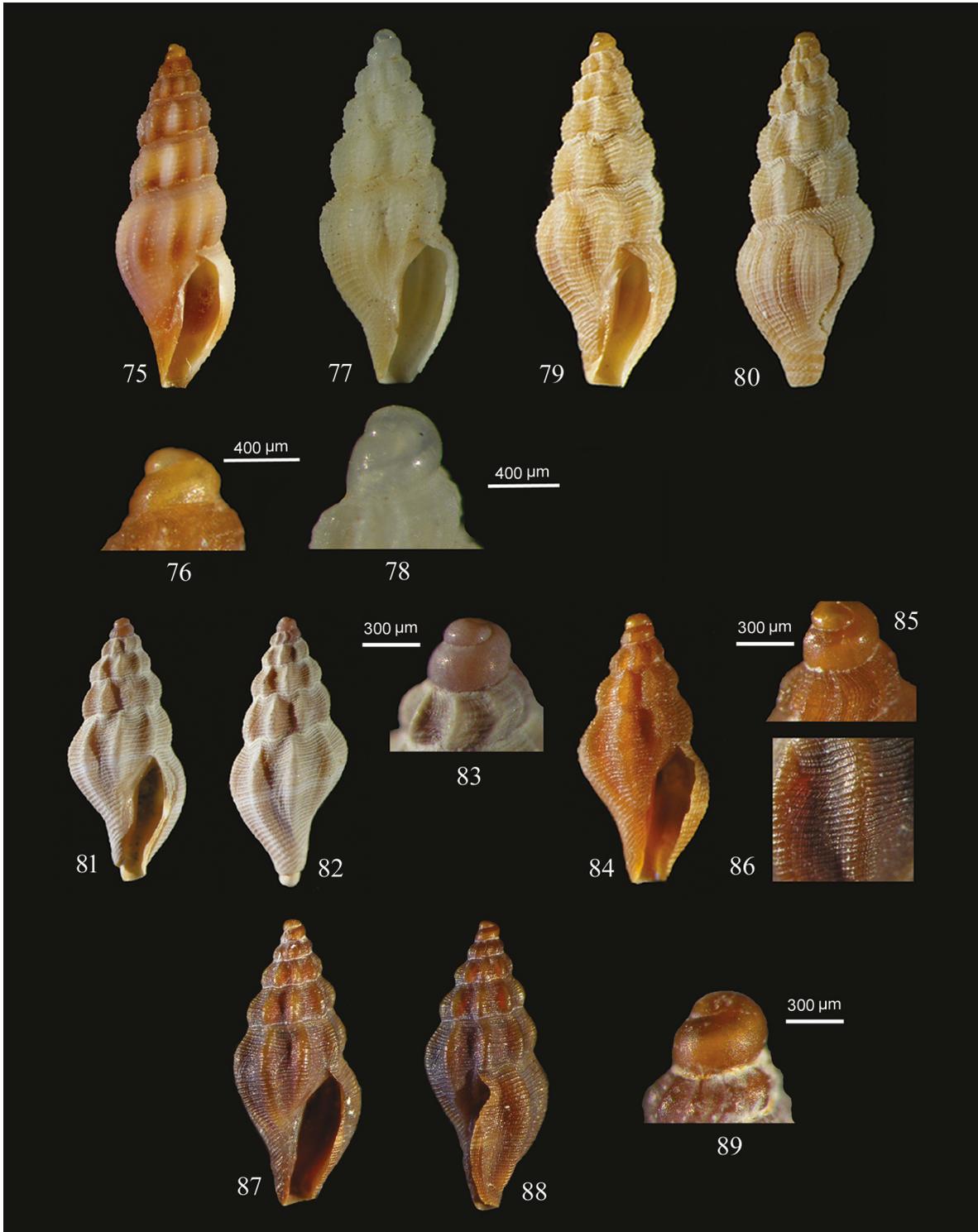
B. taprurensis is a species with paucispiral protoconch like *B. plicatilis* and *B. zenetouae*. Regarding shell shape, the species is looking more similar to *B. plicatilis*, from which it differs being mostly monochrome and having somewhat larger protoconch varying between 400-450 μ (We compared our specimens with a specimen sampled from Kerkennah Island (right across the Sfaks, where is the type locality of the species) (Figs. 77, 78) and found it with more tilted protoconch compared to those collected from the Levantine and Aegean Seas).

Axial ribs of the investigated specimens were thick and ortocline (7 or 8 on the body whorl). The spiral threads in *B. taprurensis* are mostly equally spaced and of the same thickness. The shell background of the found specimens was in grey-yellowish or light brown colour. Protoconch in light brown colour.

Bela zenetouae (van Aartsen, 1988) (Figs. 81–89)

Fehria zenetouae van Aartsen, 1988a: 30–31.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 1 sh., İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 48 m, 7 Nov. 1997, sand (ESFM-GAS/1997-17); GREECE • 2 sh., Saronic Gulf, Aegean Sea, 80-100 m, Nov. 2012, sandy mud (POC); TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, Akköy, Aegean Sea, 66 m, 24 Jul. 2014, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2014-88); 1 spm, Çeşme, Aegean Sea, 12.5 m, 23 Apr. 2018, *Posidonia oceanica*



Figures 75–80. *Bela taprurensis* (Pallary, 1904). Ventral (Figs. 75, 77, 79) and dorsal (Fig. 80) views of three specimens and protoconchs (Figs. 76, 78) of the specimens 75 and Fig. 77 (Fig. 75 = 7.1 mm, Saronic Gulf, 8 m; Fig. 77 = 5.9 mm, Kerkennah Islands (Tunisia); Figs. 79 = 80 = 5.7 mm; Eski Foça, 30 m). Figures 81–89. *Bela zenetouae* (van Aartsen, 1988). Ventral (Figs. 81, 84, 87), dorsal (Fig. 82) and lateral (Fig. 88) views of three specimens, and protoconchs (Figs. 83, 85, 89) of the specimens Fig. 81, Fig. 84 and Fig. 87. Fig. 86. Microsculpture on the teleoconch whorls of the specimen Fig. 84 (x 40) (Figs. 81 = 82 = 4.4 mm, Saronic Gulf, 80–100 m; Fig. 84 = 4.2 mm, Çeşme, 12.5 m; 87 = 88 = 4.5 mm, Saronic Gulf, 100 m).

(ESFM-GAS/2018-17); GREECE • 1 spm, Saronic Gulf, Aegean Sea, 100 m, Sept. 2018, fisherman nets (POC).

DISTRIBUTION. Mediterranean Sea (van Aartsen, 1988a:31; Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023).

In the present study, although only specimens collected from the Aegean Sea were investigated, the species is also distributed along the Turkish Levantine coast (in Öztürk et al., 2014).

REMARKS. The type locality of the species is Israeli coast (Haifa) (van Aartsen, 1988a: 31). *Bela zenetouae* is similar to *B. menkhorsti* by its shell shape and white band on the periphery of body whorl, but *B. zenetouae* can be easily diagnosed by its paucispiral protoconch. Further information on the differences between two species were given in the study by Mariottini et al. (2009: 13). In the present study, the species was only recorded in the Aegean Sea at depths up to 100 m.

Bela zonata (Locard, 1891) (Figs. 90–113)

Pleurotoma laevigatum; Philippi, 1836: 199, Pl. 11, fig. 17.

Raphitoma zonatum Locard, 1891: 58 (original combination).

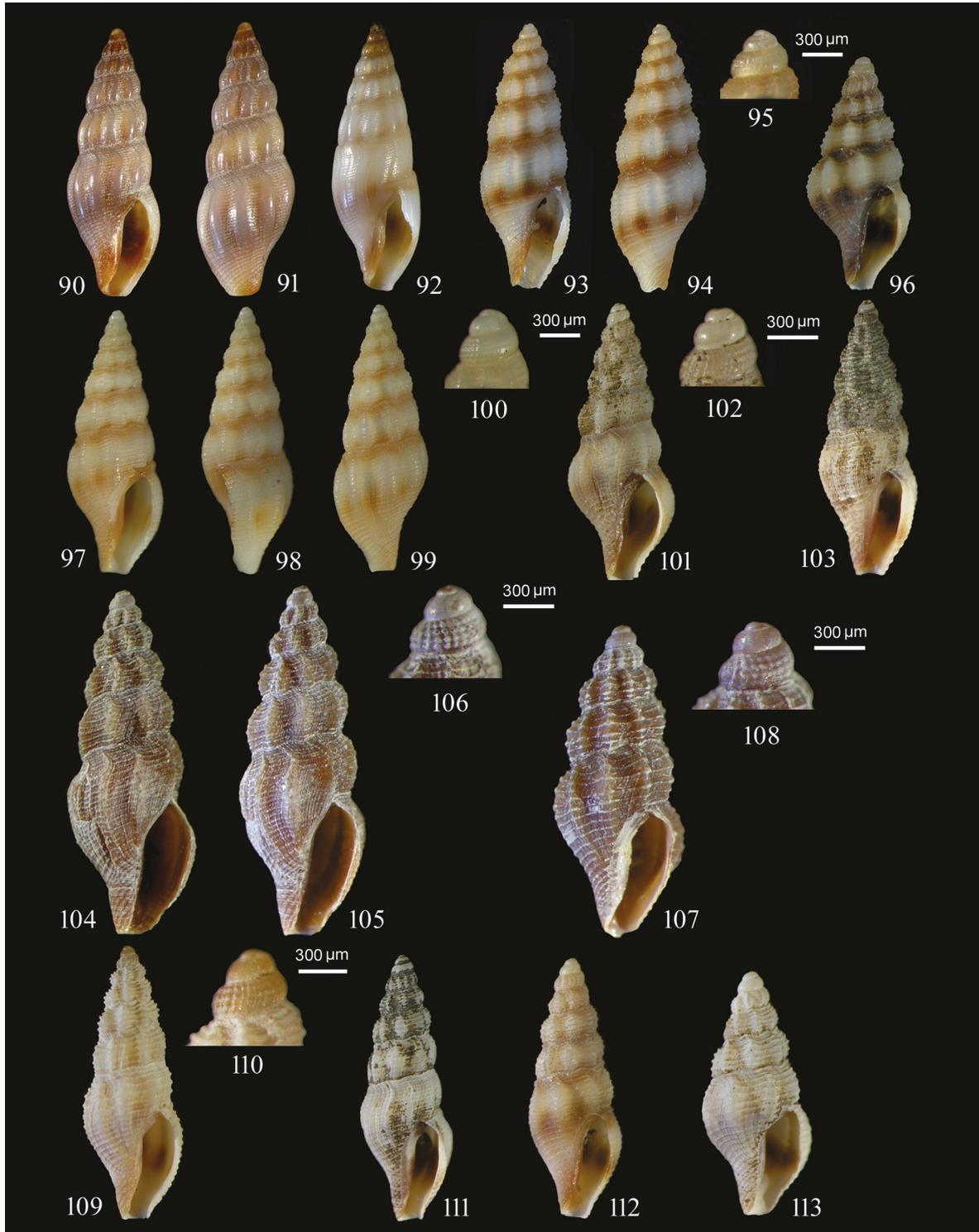
MATERIAL EXAMINED. TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 20 m, 8 Nov. 1997, muddy sand (ESFM-1997/GAS-30); 13 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 1-19 m, 11 Jun. 2002, muddy sand (ESFM-GAS/2002-34); 1 spm, Ildır Bay (Çeşme), Aegean Sea, 18 m, 9 Jun. 2003, *Posidonia oceanica* and sand (ESFM-GAS/2003-109); 3 sh, İzmir Bay, Aegean Sea, 12 m, 19 Sept. 2003, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2003-111); 1 spm, Mersin bay, Levantine Sea, 5 m, 9 Sept. 2005, sand (ESFM-GAS/2005-367); 6 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 10 m, 9 Sept. 2005, muddy sand, *Caulerpa prolifera*, 6 spm (ESFM-GAS/2005-371); 44 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 10 m, 10 Sept. 2005, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2005-136); 1 sh, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 12 m, 12 Sept. 2005, sand (ESFM-GAS/2005-366); 2 spm, Mersin Bay, Levantine Sea, 5 m, 17 Sept. 2005, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2005-373); 3 spm, Mersin Bay, Levantine Sea, 4 m, 17 Sept. 2005, sand (ESFM-GAS/2005-378); 3 spm + 3 sh, Mersin Bay, Levantine Sea, 15 m, 18 Sept. 2005, sand (ESFM-

GAS/2005-377); 4 spm, Mersin Bay, Levantine Sea, 4 m, 19 Sept. 2005, sand (ESFM-GAS/2005-372); 2 spm, Taşucu, Levantine Sea, 4 m, 19 Sept. 2005, *Halophila stipulacea* (ESFM-GAS/2005-374); 24 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 1-7 m, 5 Jul. 2007, sandy mud (ESFM-GAS/2007-40); 32 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 1-4 m, 14 Jul. 2007, mud (ESFM-GAS/2007-14); 17 spm, İskenderun Bay, Levantine Sea, 1.6 m, 14 Jul. 2007, sand + mud + *Halophila stipulacea* (ESFM-GAS/2007-41); 4 spm, Taşucu, Levantine Sea, 8 m, Aug. 2012, sandy mud with shell fragments (POC); 2 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 45 m, 26 Jul. 2014, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2014-137); 2 spm, Güllük Bay, Aegean Sea, 45 m, 15 Dec. 2015, silty sand (ESFM-GAS/2015-60); GREECE • 2 spm, Saronic Bay, Aegean Sea, 12 m, Jul. 2017, shell grit (POC); TÜRKİYE • 1 spm, Akbük (Didim), Aegean Sea, 20 m, 28 Aug. 2019, sandy mud with shell fragments (ESFM-GAS/2019-36).

DISTRIBUTION. Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea (Nordsieck, 1977; Gofas et al., 2011; Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023). Its occurrence on the Turkish Levantine and Aegean coasts was reported in the studies carried out before (Öztürk et al., 2014).

REMARKS. The species was initially described as *Pleurotoma laevigatum* by Philippi (1836), but this name cannot be used being a primary homonym of *Pleurotoma laevigata* Sowerby, 1823 and of *Pleurotoma laevigatum* Eichwald, 1830 (Sykes, 1906; van Aartsen et al., 1984; Urta & Gofas, 2009). Therefore, Urta & Gofas (2009) proposed *Bela zonata* as available name, originally described as *Raphitoma zonatum* from the Mediterranean coast of France (Locard, 1891: 58).

Bela zonata is a polymorphic species with representatives having different shell shape and colour background. The shell consists of 6-7 teleoconch whorls and, in the vast majority, with orthocone axial ribs on the whorls (7-9 ribs on the body whorl). In some specimens the ribs are thinner and prosocline inclined in the subsutural ramp and, very rarely, the ribs are obsolete, especially on the body whorl. The spirals are present, and their thickness varied according to different shells. The spirals, being thicker or thinner, in some shells are of equal thickness and equally spaced, but in the other



Figures 90–113. *Bela zonata* (Locard, 1891). Ventral (Figs. 90, 92, 93, 96, 97, 101, 103, 104, 105, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113), dorsal (Figs. 91, 94, 99) and lateral (Fig. 98) views of different specimens, and protoconchs (Figs. 95, 100, 102, 106, 108, 110) of the specimens 93, 97, 101, 104, 107, and 109 (90 = 91 = 7.4 mm, 92 = 6.9 mm, Saronic Gulf, 12 m; Figs. 93 = 94 = 5.8 mm, Mersin Bay, 5 m; Fig. 96 = 4.3 mm (subadult specimen), İskenderun Bay, 1–4 m; Figs. 97 = 98 = 99 = 6.8 mm, İskenderun Bay, 1–19 m; Figs. 101 = 6.4 mm, 103 = 6.2 mm, 111 = 6.3 mm, 112 = 4.6 mm, İskenderun Bay, 10 m; Figs. 104 = 5.1 mm, 105 = 5.5 mm, 107 = 4.4 mm, 109 = 6.3 mm, İskenderun Bay, 12 m; Fig. 113 = 4.1 mm (subadult specimen), İzmir Bay, 7 m).

ones they alternate between them. Protoconch multispiral, of about 2.5 whorls and with a maximum diameter varying between 375 and 500 μm . The protoconch's whorls characteristics are as in the other *Bela* species with multispiral protoconch. Aperture oblong and the height is half of the body whorl. Columellar edge sinuous, posterior sinus obsolete. Siphonal canal short and open. The colour pattern of the shells consists of a background varying from whitish to light brown and brown bands at the sutures and middle part of the body whorl. In the shells with dark-coloured background, the brown bands are more visible while shell is wet.

Bela filioae n. sp. (Figs. 114–126)

<https://www.zoobank.org/D87582B9-8E2D-4B6F-AD9E-981891377AC4>

TYPE MATERIAL. TÜRKIYE • 4 spm, Kepez (Dardanelles), 40.104505 N - 26.372404 E, 2 m, Feb. 2023, sand with shell fragments. The holotype is deposited in the Museum of the Faculty of Fisheries at Ege University (İzmir, Türkiye), and paratypes are in the private collection of Panayotis Ovalis (POC) in Athens (Greece).

DESCRIPTION. Holotype (Figs. 114–117), protoconch: diameter of first whorl 325 μm , following whorl 475 μm . Shell height 7.1 mm, width 2.6 mm, height of body whorl 4.5 mm, height of aperture 3.2 mm. Shell biconic, h/d = 2.7 (ESFM-GAS/2023-01). Paratypes, 3 specimens (Figs. 118–126), protoconch: diameter of first whorl 250–325 μm ,

following whorl 375–475 μm , shell total height 5.9–7.0 mm, width: 2.2–2.5 mm, height of body whorl: 3.7–4.3 mm, height of aperture: 2–6–3.1 mm (POC). Shell biconic and of medium size. Protoconch paucispiral, smooth and consists of about 1.5 whorls. Teleoconch of 6 (5) whorls and spire whorls abapically slightly convex. Axial ribs on the whorls [on the body whorl 8 (7)] ribs equally or slightly wider than the interspaces (in square brackets the data of the holotype). Spiral sculpture of fine and densely settled lines, more visible at the interspaces. Thick lines may alternate with thinner ones. Growth lines visible at the interspaces. Body whorl about 62% (63%) and aperture about 44% (48%) of total height. Aperture elongate, smooth internally, columellar edge straight or slightly sinuous. Siphonal canal short and open. No anal sinus. Shell in light

background with dark brown bands at the sutures and at the periphery of body whorl. Base and siphonal fasciole brown coloured. Protoconch whorls light brown or brown.

Soft part unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. *Bela filioae* n. sp. is known only from the type locality (Türkiye: Kepez, Dardanelles).

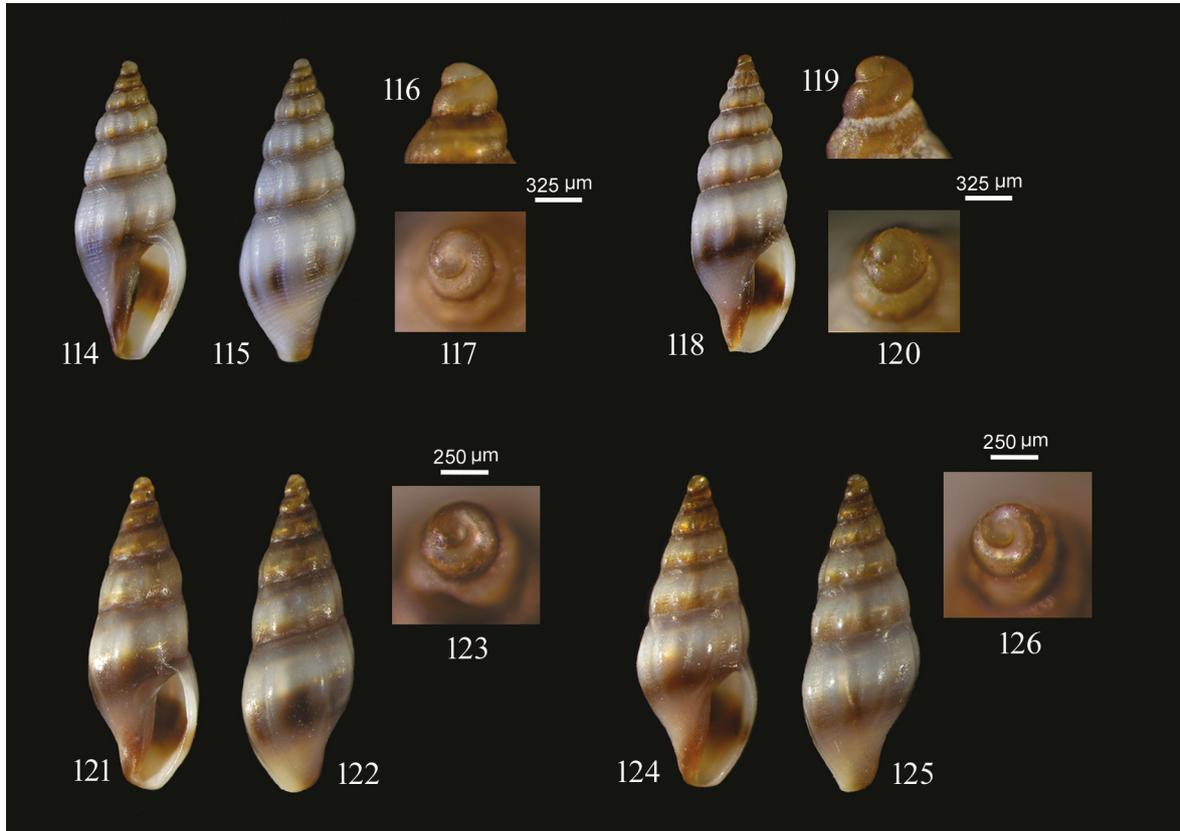
REMARKS. *Bela filioae* n. sp. is a species with paucispiral protoconch and, among the species with paucispiral protoconch distributed in the Mediterranean Sea, it is most similar to *Bela plicatilis*, but differs from it by: 1-shell shape, 2-nearly flat axial ribs especially on the body whorl, 3- less developed spiral sculpture, 4-abapically swollen spire whorls and, 5-base and siphonal fasciole brown coloured.

Bela specimens in the present study were identified according to shell and protoconch characteristics and recognised totally 11 species. Although there exist molecular phylogeny-based classification schemes for supraspecific taxa (Puillandre et al., 2008; Puillandre et al., 2011 and Bouchet et al., 2011), no available molecular data from *Bela* species touched on in the present study.

Out of 11 *Bela* species found along the Turkish coasts, the most encountered was *B. zonata*, a species with numerous morphological variations (Figs. 90–113). The representatives of the species varied considerably in colour pattern and teleoconch structure, which consist of less or more developed axial ribs and spirals. In this case, we may be faced with a species complex including different species, which situation could be clarified if molecular analyses were applied to its representatives.

In the studies carried out in the past *B. zonata* was also referred to *B. laevigata* (Philippi, 1836), but this taxon can not be used being a primary homonym of *Pleurotoma laevigata* Sowerby, 1823 and *Pleurotoma laevigatum* Eichwald, 1830 as it was indicated by Sykes (1906), van Aartsen et al. (1984) and Urra & Gofas (2009).

The other widely distributed species on the Turkish coasts were *B. menkhorsti* and *B. nebula*. The latter species was encountered along the entire coastline from the Levantine Sea to the Black Sea coast, whereas *B. menkhorsti* was found along all Turkish coasts, except for the Black Sea at depths between 8–194 m.



Figures 114–126. *Bela filioae* n. sp. from Türkiye, Kepez, Dardanelles. Figs. 114–117. Holotype (114 = 115 = 7.1 mm); Figs. 118–126. Paratypes (118 = 7.0 mm, 121 = 122 = 6.2 mm, and 124 = 125 = 5.9 mm).

Some of the studied species herein, such as *B. cf. ginnania* and *B. filioae* n. sp. are with very restricted distribution and were found only in one or two localities in few numbers. In WoRMS (2024), *B. ginnania* was referred to *Haedropleura septangularis* (Montagu, 1803), probably because of that Arnaud (1978) designated as a lectotype a specimen of *Haedropleura septangularis* (Montagu, 1803), a case may be caused of misplacement of the label (Giannuzzi-Savelli et al., 2023). The authors considered *B. ginnania* as a valid taxon.

According to Öztürk et al. (2014), in the studies carried out along the Turkish coast before, were reported 7 *Bela* species which number will be increased to 11 species along with the new collected taxa (*B. atticae*, *B. cf. ginnania*, *B. plicatilis* and *B. filioae* n. sp.) dealing with herein. The present study also adds to the world's and Mediterranean's malacofauna by increasing it by a one newly described *Bela* species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are much indebted to two anonymous referees for critically reading the manuscript. This work has been partially supported financially by Scientific Research Projects of TUBITAK (Project numbers: 104 Y 065 and 111 Y 268).

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