

## Description of a new species of *Morum* from the Indian Ocean (Gastropoda: Harpidae)

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**KEYWORDS:** Gastropoda, Harpidae, *Morum*, new species, Indian Ocean.

**ABSTRACT.** *Morum* (*Oniscidia*) *vicdani* new species is described from 12-200 m off Saya de Malha Bank, Indian Ocean (ca. 10°30'S, 62°25'E) and compared with congeners.

### INTRODUCTION

A number of new species and otherwise interesting discoveries of mollusks have been made in recent years by Russian and Japanese commercial fisheries operations and biological oceanographic surveys undertaken on or near Saya de Malha Bank (ca. 10°30'S, 62°25'E) in the western Indian Ocean (cf. BOUCHET and BAIL, 1991; OKUTANI, 1991; EMERSON and SAGE, 1991; BONDAREV and ROECKEL, 1992; BONDAREV, 1995; SIRENKO, 1995).

Through the good offices of Donald Dan, specimens of an unnamed species of *Morum* were submitted to the author for study. I take pleasure in describing this new species in honor of Victor Dan of Manila, Philippines, a connoisseur of Old World mollusks.

Abbreviations used for institutions:

AMNH = American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA;

BM(NH) = British Museum of Natural History [now The Natural History Museum], London, England.

### SYSTEMATIC TREATMENT

Family HARPIDAE Brown, 1849

Subfamily MORUMINAE

Hughes & Emerson, 1987

Genus *Morum* Röding, 1798

Subgenus *Oniscidia* Mörch, 1852

*Morum vicdani*, new species  
(Figs. 1-6)

*Morum* (*Oniscidia*) cf. *grande* (A. Adams, 1855), BONDAREV, 1995: 48, 49, fig. 3; [not *Morum grande* (A. Adams, 1855)].

Two specimens, one of which was illustrated in color, were reported "... to have been dredged from the [Saya de Malha] bank

lagoon at about 80-100 m. depth by R/V IKHTIANDR in 1989."

*Morum* (*Cancellomorum*) sp. SIRENKO, 1995: 11, 16, fig. 14.

A specimen, illustrated in color, was reported from a depth of 12 m on the Saya de Malha Bank.

**Diagnosis:** Similar to *Morum* (*Oniscidia*) *grande* (A. Adams, 1855: 185), but *M. vicdani* n. sp. differs in having a more fusiform outline and a much less dense shell, with fewer axial ribs (10 to 12 vs. 17 to 19) and a thinner, less pustulated parietal shield, and with the exterior edge of the outer lip non-crenulate at maturity.

**Material Examined:** Holotype, (Figs. 3, 4), 59.5 mm in length, 36.2 mm in width (AMNH n° 226517); Paratype 1, (Figs. 5, 6), 57.0 mm in length, 33.1 mm in width (AMNH n° 226518); Paratype 2, (Figs. 1, 2), 47.1 mm in length, 28.0 mm in width (AMNH n° 226519). Only a very few other specimens of this taxon are known and these are in private collections (*teste* Donald Dan).

**Type Locality:** Trawled off Saya de Malha Bank, Indian Ocean in ca. 200 m, in 1986 (holotype).

**Description:** Spire raised, shell inflated, thin, elongately fusiform with cancellate sculpture. The 10 spiral ribs on the body whorl more prominent than the 10 to 12 axial ribs, forming blunt spines at the intersections and with fine axial threads crossing the interspaces and spiral ribs. Outer lip weakly reflexed, marginal edge smooth, not crenulate, with irregularly placed plications on the inner edge. Parietal callus thin with irregularly placed pustules on the marginally raised shield. Protoconch of 2 1/2 smooth whorls. The five postnuclear whorls cancellate. Base color white

Figures 1-6. (opposite) *Morum vicdani*, new species.

1, 2, Paratype 2, AMNH n° 226519.

3, 4, Holotype, AMNH n° 226517.

5, 6, Paratype 1, AMNH n° 226518.

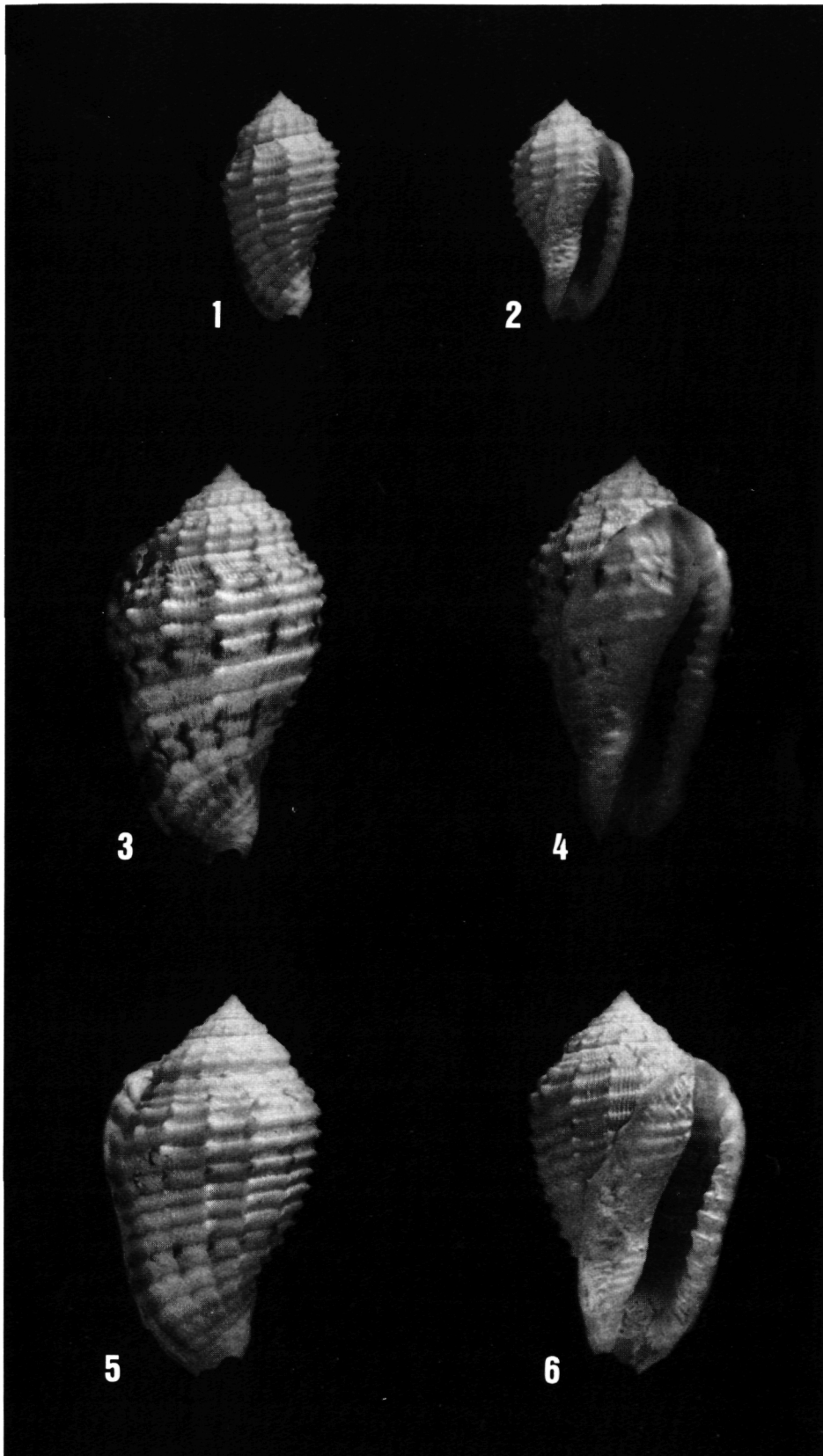
All figures x1.

with 4 tanish brown, discontinuous spiral bands in the form of isolated, narrow, irregular, bar-like axial lines on the body whorl; aperture white. The spiral color bands are weakly defined in some specimens. No soft parts available for study.

**Discussion:** The new species and *Morum* (*Oniscidia*) *praeclarum* Melvill, 1919, from off Somalia, Mozambique and the Seychelle Islands, are the only species of *Morum* known to be living on the African lithospheric plate (cf. EMERSON, 1990: 152). *Morum grande*, in contrast, occurs from southern Japan to the Philippine Islands, Indonesia, and SE Australia on the Eurasian, Philippine and Indo-Australian plates, respectively. Two morphological forms of *M. grande* have been recognized: a stout obese shell is more commonly found in the northern part of the range (EMERSON 1985, pl. 2, figs. 1, 2) and a larger, more elongate shell is more frequently encountered in Australian waters (EMERSON, 1985, pl. 2, figs. 3, 4). The taxonomic significance of this shell dimorphism has yet to be determined. The new species more closely resembles in outline the southern form (WILSON et al., 1994: 139, pl. 30, figs. 1, 4). The northern form is represented by the lectotype of *M. grande* (YEN, 1942: 214, pl. 17, fig. 104) from the "China Seas." The lectotype is BM(NH) (n° 1966726) (DANCE and EMERSON 1967: 95) and measures 61.0 mm in length and 53.8 mm in width (EMERSON, 1985: 54). *Morum grande* has been confused with *M.* (*Oniscidia*) *cancellatum* (Sowerby, 1824: pl. 233, figs. 1-3; EMERSON, 1985: 52, pl. 1, figs. 17, 18 = lectotype, BM(NH) n° 197744), but differs in its larger size (attaining 75 mm in length), higher spire, more numerous axial ribs, more narrowly spaced spiral cords and a wider expansion of the outer lip. *Morum cancellatum* is distributed from southern Japan to the Philippine Islands, the East and South China Seas, and is also known from the Fiji Islands (EMERSON, 1990: 152). The type locality is the

Straits of Formosa, off Taiwan (EMERSON, 1985: 54). With the description of *Morum vicdani* n. sp., 17 species of *Morum* (16 in *Oniscidia*, 1 in *Herculea* Hanley, 1858) are now recognized as living in the Indo-west Pacific biogeographic region (EMERSON, 1990: 150).

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