

New record of *Ogasawara risso* snail, *Alvania ogasawarana*, in Singapore

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Subjects: *Ogasawara risso* snail, *Alvania ogasawarana* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Rissoidae).

Subjects identified by: Chan Sow-Yan & Lau Wing Lup.

Location, date and time: Johor Strait, Changi Beach Park; 3 August 2019 at about 0730 hrs, 31 August 2019 at about 0652 hrs & 1 September 2019 at about 0655 hrs.

Habitat: Estuarine beach at the intertidal zone. On shells of live windowpane oysters (*Placuna placenta*) among seagrass exposed during morning low tide.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: Freshly dead shells of *Alvania ogasawarana* were found adhering to the surfaces of the shells of windowpane oysters (Fig. 1 & 2). These minute shells, around 2 mm in shell length, were not inhabited by hermit crabs and bore minimal encrustations. They appeared to be uncommon as only one or two were seen on each of the three visits.

Remarks: *Alvania ogasawarana* is a small snail that tends to be overlooked by the casual beach-goer. It can easily be mistaken for the juveniles of other similar looking snail species such as the adorned dove-shell (*Zafra ornata*) and the dotted dove-shell (*Euplica scripta*) that live sympatrically on the host oysters. The shell of *Alvania ogasawarana* is ovate, short and with a straight conic spire. It is creamy white with irregular brown spots below the suture (Fig. 3 & 4). The shell sculpture consists of many small longitudinal riblets which do not pass below the periphery of the last whorl. The outer lip is thin with a thick varix behind it (Fig. 5) (Pilsbry, 1904).

Alvania ogasawarana is herein recorded for the first time in Singapore (see Tan & Woo, 2010). The species is named after the Japanese Ogasawara Islands from where it was described. It has also been found in Taiwan (Chen & Lee, 2007) and the Philippines (Poppe, 2008). With its range presently extended much further south to Singapore, this snail is likely to be widespread over the western Pacific.

References:

- Chen W.-D. & Y. J. Lee, 2007. *Mini-shells and small shells of Hengchun Peninsula, Taiwan*. National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium, Pingtung, Taiwan. 293 pp.
- Pilsbry, H. A., 1904. New Japanese marine Mollusca: Gastropoda. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*. 56 (1): 3-37, pls. 1-6.
- Poppe, G. T., 2008. *Philippine marine mollusks. Volume 1. Gastropoda Part 1*. Conch Books, 766 pp.
- Tan S. K. & H. P. M. Woo, 2010. *A Preliminary Checklist of the Molluscs of Singapore*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 78 pp.



Fig. 1: *Alvania ogasawarana* (in red circle) attached to the shell of a live windowpane oyster.

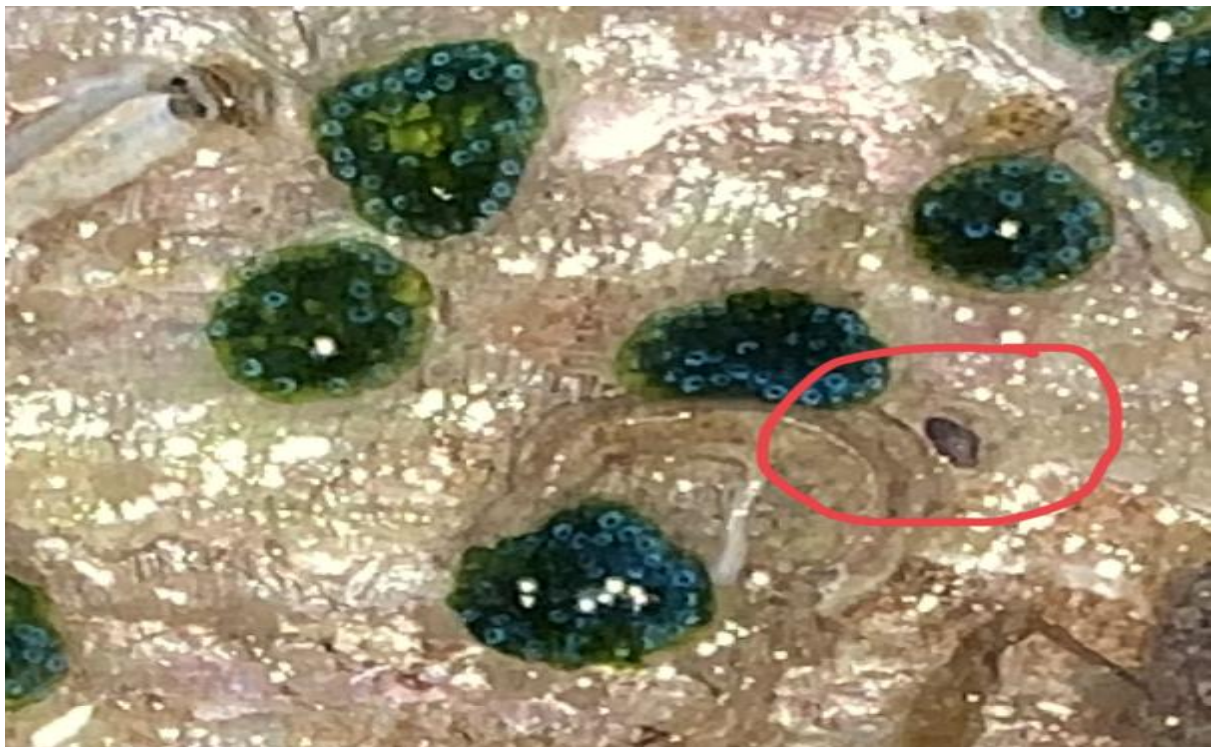


Fig. 2: Closer view of *Alvania ogasawarana* (circled in red) among colonial ascidians on the oyster shell.

Photographs by Lau Wing Lup



Fig. 3: Dorsal view of a *Alvania ogasawarana* shell.



Fig. 4: Apertural view of the same shell.

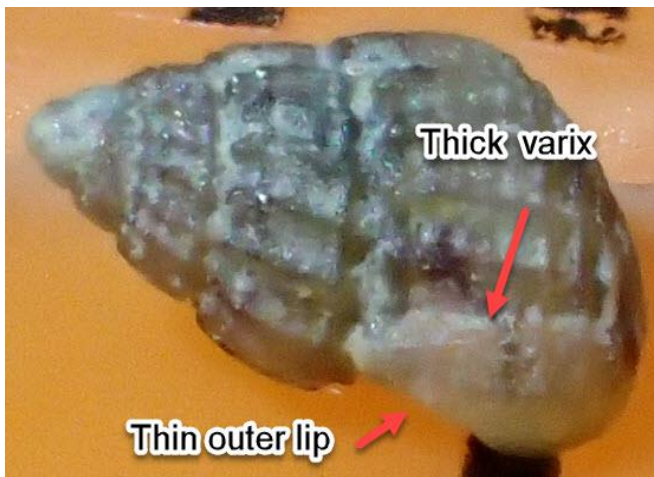


Fig 5: Lateral view of a shell showing the thick varix behind the thin outer lip

Photographs by Lau Wing Lup