

***Idasola argentea* (Jeffreys) washed ashore on the  
Dutch coast**

by

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*Idasola argentea* (Jeffr.) is a small mytilid bivalve living in deep water in the Atlantic Ocean. The following is a survey of the literature on this species.

*Idas argenteus* Jeffreys, 1876, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) vol. 18, p. 428 (Valorous Exp., Sta. 12, 1450 fms., one valve; Porcupine Exp., Bay of Biscay, 994 fms., one valve); Jeffreys, 1879, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 570, pl. 45 fig. 3; Jeffreys, 1882, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 683 ('Triton' cruise, between Hebrides and Faroes, 516 fms., 'inhabiting deserted tubes of *Teredo megotara* in a large water-logged piece of pine-wood'); Dautzenberg & Fischer, 1897, Mém. Soc. Zool. France, vol. 10, p. 198 (Princesse-Alice Exp., Azores, 1550 m and 1846 m); Jensen, 1912, Danish Ingolf Exp. vol. 2 part 5, p. 56 (S of Iceland, 975 fms., ca. 260 specimens in empty tubes of *Teredo* in two large pieces of pine-wood); Morris, 1951, A field guide to the shells, 2nd ed., p. 37, 200, pl. 43 fig. 8.

*Idas argenteus* Jeffreys variety? *lamellosus* Verrill, 1882, Trans. Conn. Ac. Arts Sci., vol. 5, p. 579 ('Fish Hawk' Sta. 997, off Martha's Vineyard, Mass., 335 fms., 'several living specimens').

*Idasola* Iredale, 1915, Proc. Mal. Soc. London vol. 11, p. 340 (new name for *Idas* Jeffreys, 1876, non Mulsant, 1875).

*Idasola argentea*, Thiele, 1935, Handb. Syst. Weichtierk. vol. 2, p. 798, fig. 796; Knudsen, 1961, Galathea Rep. vol. 5, p. 206 (habitat discussed).

*Adula argentea*, Lamy, 1937, Journ. Conchyl. vol. 81, p. 191.

From these references it appears that in an area roughly delimited by Iceland, the Bay of Biscay, the Azores and the coast of Massachusetts specimens have been dredged from depths ranging from 335 to 1450 fms. (603-2610 m); those which are explicitly stated to have been taken alive are from 335 to 975 fms. (603-1755 m). In the two cases where particulars about the habitat are recorded *Idasola* was found in empty tubes of *Teredo*.

On August 6, 1960, J. J. C. TANIS found a small piece of rubber washed ashore on the beach of the north coast of the island of Ter-schelling, near pole No. 19. This rubber consisted of two mem-

branes between which 24 shells of *Idasola argentea* were found (fig. 1). The size of these shells varied from length  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , height 1 mm, to length 4, height  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Most of them were pairs of loose valves; of the few entire shells the valves were easily detached from each other and contained no remains of the animals, neither were any traces left of byssal attachment. Of course this find puzzled us. The only



Fig. 1. *Idasola argentea* (Jeffer.), outer side of right and left valve,  $\times 15$ ; inner side of right valve  $\times 40$ ; Terschelling, north coast near pole 19, August 21, 1960, J. J. C. Tanis leg., H. F. Roman phot.

acceptable hypothesis seemed to be that the rubber came from the sheath of a submarine telegraph cable. According to PURCHON (1941, J. Mar. Biol. Ass. U. K. vol. 25, pp. 2, 21) *Xylophaga* spec. occasion-

ally lives in the gutta-percha sheaths of the cables. *Idasola* might have found a suitable habitat in the empty holes after *Xylophaga* had died.

Recently it appeared that another Dutch specimen of *Idasola argentea* was present in the collection of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden. It had been found in a piece of cork washed ashore near pole No. 86, at Katwijk aan Zee in the province of Zuid-Holland, on April 5, 1951, by J. A. W. LUCAS. Originally I had identified it as *Modiolus phaseolinus* (Phil.) juv. which it is, however, certainly not. Comparison with a series of *M. phaseolinus* showed that shells of that species have already a far more modioloid shape when of the size of the Katwijk specimen, which measures: length  $2\frac{1}{4}$ , height  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. This shell, which quite agrees with those from Terschelling, is in very good condition, but contains no remains of the animal. Probably, however, I treated it with caustic soda in order to examine the hinge before making my first, incorrect, identification. At any event it is most unlikely that the specimen had got into the cork *post mortem*. Therefore it seems proved that *Idasola argentea* may live occasionally at the surface of the sea. People studying the epifauna of floating objects should pay attention to its possible occurrence.

I am indebted to Mr. J. J. C. TANIS for permission to publish his interesting data.

#### SAMENVATTING

*Idasola argentea* (Jeffer.) is een kleine mosselachtige, die in diep water in de Atlantische Oceaan leeft. Op 21 augustus 1960 vond J. J. C. TANIS 24 exemplaren van deze soort in een stukje rubber, dat bestond uit twee dunne vliesjes, bij paal 19 op de noordkust van Terschelling. Wellicht was dit rubber afkomstig van een onderzeese telegraafkabel. Het bleek dat al eerder een exemplaar van deze soort op onze kust was gevonden: door J. A. W. LUCAS op 5 april 1951 in een kurk aangespoeld bij Katwijk aan Zee. Hiermee is wel aangetoond dat *Idasola* ook aan de oppervlakte kan leven. Men lette dus op deze soort bij het verzamelen van de fauna van drijvende voorwerpen!