

Note on banded colour varieties of the European marine gastropod *Rissoa interrupta* (Adams, 1798)

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In a sample of small shells, gathered on the beach of the Dutch island of Schiermonnikoog in August 1976, I found a small shell with three brown spiral bands on the last whorl and on the older whorls, which is the subject of this note.

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Besides the shell mentioned, I have examined: (1) a sample of *Rissoa interrupta* (Adams, 1798)¹ from the Lofoten, labelled: "Zool. Mus. Oslo Nr. D705/ *Rissoa interrupta* Ad = parva (da Costa)/ Stad: Lofoten, 6-40 Fv/ 19/ Rev. A. Warén/ lg. 1973 dt"; (2) a sample of *R. interrupta* and (3) a sample of *Cingula cingillus* (Montagu, 1803), both from Quiberon, Bretagne, France (my own collection).

The shell from Schiermonnikoog looks fresh, has a length of 2.1 mm, a breadth of 1.2 mm and $5\frac{1}{4}$ whorls; the apical dimensions, i.e., the diameter of the nucleus and that of the first half whorl (fig. 1), are 0.08/0.13 mm respectively.

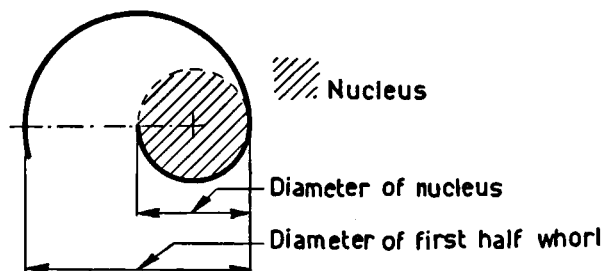


Fig. 1. Nucleus and first half whorl.

¹ The problem whether *Rissoa parva* (Da Costa, 1778) and *R. interrupta* (Adams, 1798) are separate taxa or not is not relevant here.

The colour pattern, as described in the introduction, at first gave me the impression to have found a specimen of *C. cingillus*, which species has been described by Montagu (1803: 328) as being "marked with alternate bands of horn-colour and chestnut brown, usually three of each on the body, and two on the other spires". However, comparison with sample (3) showed the following differences:

- (a) the whorls are more convex than the whorls of *C. cingillus*;
 - (b) the apical dimensions are smaller than those of *C. cingillus*;
 - (c) the shell is entirely smooth, whereas specimens of *C. cingillus*, with the same number of whorls, usually possess very clear spiral striae on the last whorl;
 - (d) the brown band on the base is relatively more narrow than that on *C. cingillus*.
- After comparison with samples (1) and (2) I concluded, especially on account of the similarity of the initial whorls, to have found a specimen of a banded form of *R. interrupta*. The shell, not being adult, lacks the labial rib with the falciform streak. Remains to account for the three bands on the last whorl, a feature which appears to be unknown from literature.

Forbes & Hanley (1853: 102) mention a form "*fasciata*, in which the coloured zones being continuous, the shell reminds one of *cingillus*"; from their preceding text it may be



Fig. 2. *Rissoa interrupta* (Adams) var. *trifasciata* var. nov. (holotype), Schiermonnikoog, the Netherlands (X 42).

inferred that they only knew forms with two brown spiral bands on the body-whorl.

Jeffreys (1867: 24) writes under *Rissoa parva* (Da Costa, 1778): "Var. 1. *interrupta* (—), usually marked with longitudinal rays of chestnut-colour, which are curved on the body-whorl, or divided into two rows, so as to make the middle appear girdled with a whitish band; occasionally these rays become confluent and form dark bands".

Sars (1878: 180) describes "*Rissoa interrupta*, Ad. var. b., *bifasciata*" explicitly with two spiral bands and Nordsieck (1972: 201) only mentions the same banded form of *R. interrupta*: "Form *bifasciata* G.O. Sars: 4 mm, deutlich doppelbindig"

I therefore consider the forms *fasciata* Forbes & Hanley, 1853, and *bifasciata* Sars, 1878, to be colour varieties of *R. interrupta*, both denoting the form last mentioned by Jeffreys in the description cited above, i.e., with two brown spiral bands on the body-whorl. Thus the three-banded form must be looked upon as a new colour variety, for which I propose the name *trifasciata*. The holotype (fig. 2), from Schiermonnikoog, has been deposited in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden (RMNH 55316, D.F. Hoeksema leg., 26-VIII-1976).

SAMENVATTING

Driebandige kleurvariëteit van *Rissoa interrupta*

In een monster schelpgruis, verzameld op het strand van Schiermonnikoog in augustus 1976, vond ik een horentje met drie bruine spiraalbanden op de laatste winding en twee op de oudere windingen. Hoewel dit kleurpatroon sterk aan *Cingula cingillus* doet denken, kwam ik na vergelijking met monsters van *Rissoa interrupta*, vooral op grond van de eerste windingen, tot de conclusie een gebandeerde kleurvariëteit van de laatstgenoemde soort gevonden te hebben. Uit de literatuur bleek alleen een vorm met twee spiraalbanden bekend: *fasciata* Forbes & Hanley, 1853, syn. *bifasciata* Sars, 1878. Dus moet de vorm met drie kleurenbanden worden beschouwd als een nieuwe kleurvariëteit, die ik *trifasciata* noem.

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