

European marine Mollusca: notes on less well-known species.
XII. *Alvania gittenbergeri* spec. nov. (Gastropoda: Rissoidae) from the
Mediterranean

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Alvania gittenbergeri spec. nov., somewhat similar to *A. rudis*, is described from the Mediterranean.

Key words: Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Rissoidae, *Alvania*, taxonomy, Mediterranean.

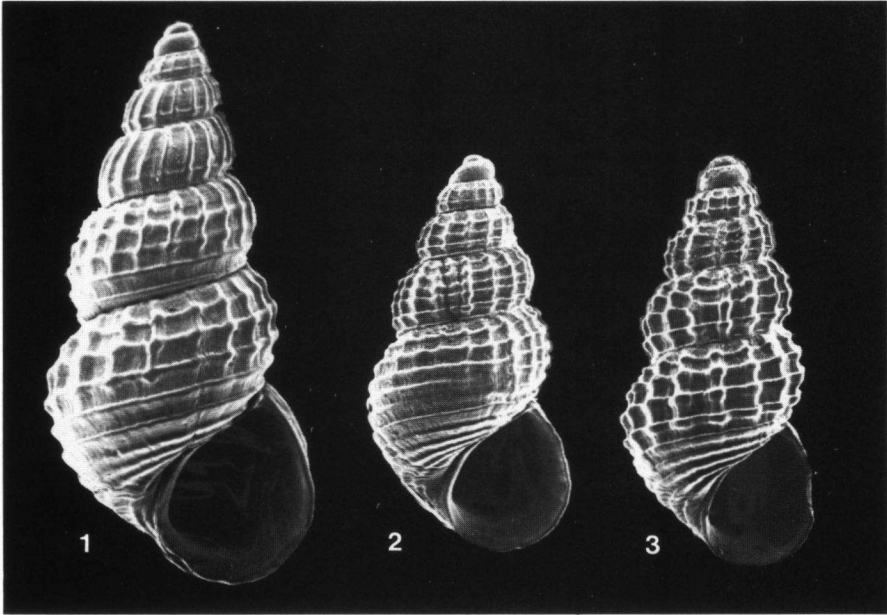
In a recent paper Amati, Nofroni & Oliverio (1987) discuss the “*Alvania rudis* (Philippi, 1844) group”. These authors conclude that two species should be recognized. One species, A, has a very small embryonic nucleus and is also characterized by the fact that the spiral sculpture is less developed than the axial sculpture and sometimes wanting altogether (= *Rissoa rudis* subsp. *hyperrudis* Oberling, 1970) on the first teleoconch-whorls. This species should be called *Alvania rudis* (Philippi, 1844) according to Amati et al.

The second species, B, is rather similar, but possesses a bigger protoconch, probably signifying a non-pelagic development, and has conspicuous spirals about as strong as the axials on all whorls. Amati et al. identify this second species with *Alvania litoralis* (Nordsieck, 1972).

Now in the first place one should realize that both species are very similar indeed. It is therefore not self-evident that the one with the small embryonic whorls is Philippi's species. On the other hand we know several localities (Sausset les Pins, St. Tropez) where both species occur together. It therefore seems wise to follow the current interpretation by Van Aartsen (1983: 4, no. 3), Van Aartsen, Menkhorst & Gittenberger (1984: 111, fig. 109), Ponder (1985: 137, fig. 88 D) and Amati et al. (l.c.: figs. 1, 2) and regard the species A as figured by these authors to be the real *Alvania rudis* (Philippi, 1844). The finding of species B at Magnisi (Sicily), the type locality of *Alvania rudis*, is not in itself sufficient proof that only species B can be Philippi's species as assumed by Oberling (1971: 3).

Alvania rudis is known from a number of Mediterranean localities as cited by Van Aartsen (1983: 4, 5), as well as from the Greek islands Naxos, Paros and Crete, and from Terrasini and Trapani on Sicily.

Species B was known to us already for a number of years, but we did not think of identifying it with Nordsieck's species *litoralis*, which was described as a subspecies of *Turbona (Actonia) elegantissima* (Seguenza, 1874), the originals of which are from Taranto and Ibiza. The species B is certainly not an *Actonia*, as also admitted by Amati et al. (1987: 26) and so the identification seemed dubious.



Figs. 1-3. *Alvania* species. 1, *A. rudis* (Phil.), Playa de Getares 4 km S. Algeciras, Spain, length 3.9 mm (RMNH); 2, *A. gittenbergeri* n. sp., holotype; 3, do., paratype. S.E.M. photographs by J.H.W. Krom (RMNH), all highly enlarged.

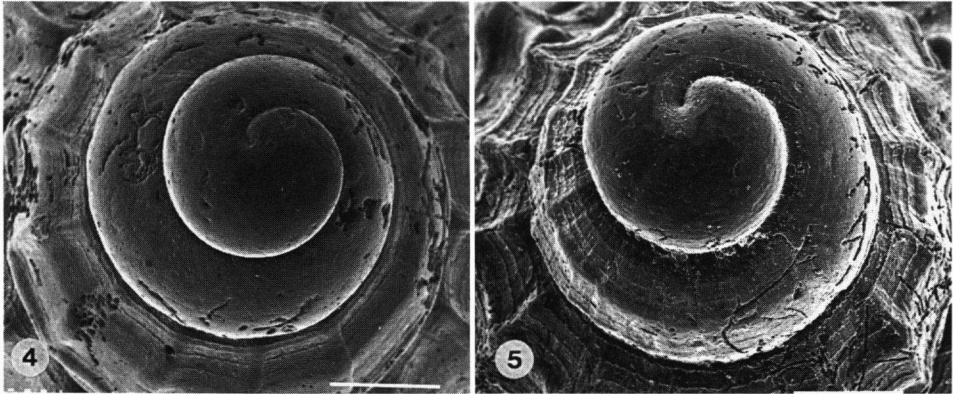
One of us (H.M.) recently had the opportunity to study the types of *Alvania litoralis* and it immediately became apparent that our species B is quite different.

We therefore describe the species B as a new species under the name of *Alvania gittenbergeri*.

***Alvania gittenbergeri* nov. spec.**

Shell small and relatively slender with about 1.5 embryonic and 4.5 teleoconch whorls, which are rather convex. There are two spirals on the first and four spirals on the second teleoconch whorl. The last whorl has five to six spirals and four to five additional spirals. Many, about 14, axial ribs cross the spirals; knobs can be seen at the crossing points. The embryonic whorls are smooth. Suture clearly visible. Last whorl occupying 0.55 of the total height of the shell. Aperture slightly oval. Outer lip curved and not strengthened by an outside rib; inside smooth. Inner lip mostly united with the outer lip. Apparently full grown specimens are 2.5-3.5 × 1.2-1.6 mm. Holotype 2.7 × 1.3 mm, fig. 2; paratype 2.8 × 1.3 mm, fig. 3.

Alvania gittenbergeri looks very similar to *A. rudis* (fig. 1), but differs from it by having the bigger type of protoconch (D_0 0.21, fig. 5) whereas *A. rudis* has the smaller one (D_0 0.15-0.16, fig. 4, cf. Verduin, 1982: 144, fig. 1). Moreover *A. gittenbergeri* always has four spirals on the second teleoconch whorl and *A. rudis* only one spiral, on the lower part of the whorl. The spirals and axials in *A. gittenbergeri* are of about the same strength.



Figs. 4-5. Protoconchs of *Alvania* species. 4, *A. rudis* (Phil.); 5, *A. gittenbergeri* n. sp. Scale bars 100 μ m. S.E.M. photographs by J.H.W. Krom (RMNH).

Material¹. — Holotype: France, Sausset-les-Pins, UTM FJ60 (RMNH 56100). Paratypes: Type locality (RMNH 56101: 10; AD 11215: 3; AD 11697: > 25; MK: > 25); La Capte, 6 km SSE. of Hyères, UTM KN67 (AD 11604: 1; AD 15677: 3); Plage de l'Estagnol, 7 km WSW. of Le Lavandou, UTM KN77 (AD 16213: > 25); Cabasson, 5 km SW. of Le Lavandou, UTM KN87 (AD 16731: 7); St. Tropez, UTM LN09 (AD 14308: > 25; AD 15091: 9). Tunisia, Nabeul, UTM PF53 (AD 9513: 8). Italy, Sicily, Pachino, UTM WA16 (AD 20520: 12). Greece, Gulf of Saronicos (AD 19577: 2; AD 19882: 2; coll. Tenekidis: 5); Rodhos, UTM PA13 (AD 203376: 1).

The new species is named after our good friend Prof. Dr. E. Gittenberger, curator of the department of Mollusca of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden.

From the localities given it is evident that *Alvania gittenbergeri* apparently occurs throughout the Mediterranean, although more localities are known in the western part. This is, we consider, due to much more intensive research in that area rather than to a true difference in frequency of occurrence.

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¹ The following abbreviations are used for collections: RMNH, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands; AD, J.J. van Aartsen, Dieren; MK, H.P.M.G. Menkhorst, Krimpen aan de IJssel.

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