

**A new marine bivalve species from the Mediterranean:
Nuculana illirica spec. nov.
(Bivalvia: Palaeotaxodonta: Nuculanoidea)**

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Nuculana illirica spec. nov. is described from off the Yugoslavian coast. Only at one locality this new species has been found sympatric with *N. commutata* (Phil.), probably the most closely related species.

Key words: Bivalvia, Palaeotaxodonta, Nuculanidae, *Nuculana*, taxonomy, Mediterranean, Jugoslavia.

Some time ago, the Ruder Boskovic Institute, Centre for Marine Research of Rovinj, Istra, Yugoslavia, kindly sent me for inspection some shell grit samples collected during the dredging campaigns of the ship "Vila Velebita" from August 1973 to August 1974 along the northern part of the Dalmatian coast from Zadar to Rijeka. The average depth of the dredgings ranged from about 60 to about 100 metres.

A remarkable result was the finding of nine dead specimens of various sizes and 150 valves of a bivalve which is very similar to *Nuculana commutata* (Philippi, 1844) but, yet, clearly distinct. A closer examination of the material and a thorough comparison with *N. commutata* from different localities in the Mediterranean has led to the conclusion that it represents an undescribed species.

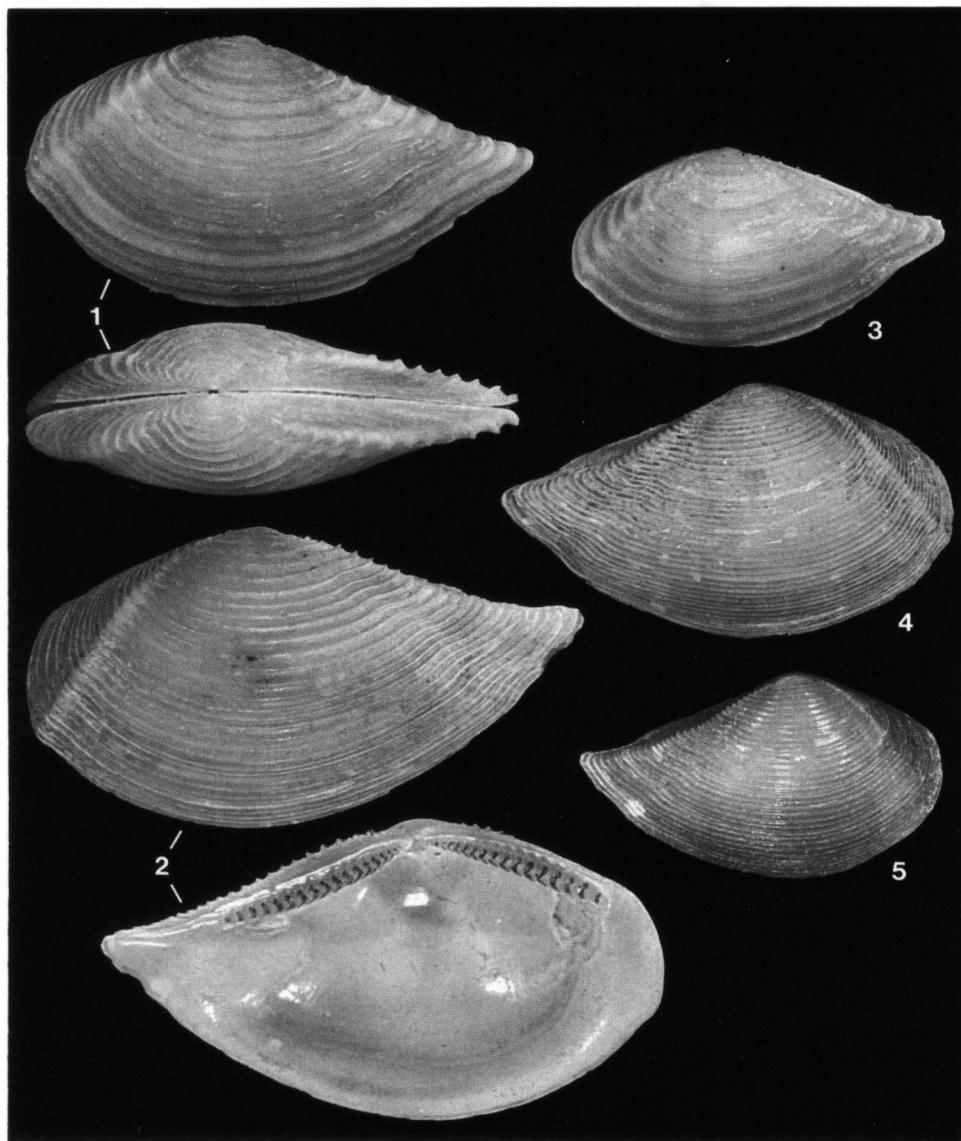
***Nuculana illirica* spec. nov. (figs. 1-3)**

The relatively flat and clearly rostrate shell is provided with widely spaced concentric furrows. The umbo is situated slightly anterior of the middle. There is an inconspicuous lunule and a relatively narrow and flat escutcheon. The hinge has 20-22 posterior and 19-21 anterior teeth. The shells are up to 14 mm long, 7 mm high and 6 mm broad.

N. illirica is most similar to *N. commutata*, which differs, however, by shells which are: (1) relatively broader (7-8 mm long, 3 mm high and 5 mm broad), (2) less rostrate, (3) provided with about twice as many concentric furrows, (4) provided with 15-16 teeth in both parts of the hinge, and (5) provided with a more prominent lunule and escutcheon.

Holotype: 14 km S. of Rijeka, depth 60-70 m (Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, Italy). Paratypes: type locality (19 valves); 10 km S. of the island of Plavnik, between Krk and Cres, depth 80-90 m (15 valves); 1 km W. of the southern tip of the island of Rab, depth 90-100 m (12 valves); 12 km W. of Novalja, island of Pag, depth 80-90 m (85 valves); Velebitski Kanal, 12 km S. of Karlobag, depth 70-80 m (19 valves); 12 km W. of the island of Vir, depth 70-80 m (16 valves).

Paratypes will be deposited in: Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, Italy; Marine Biological Station, Millport, Scotland; Muséum national d'Histoire Naturelle,



Figs. 1-5. Mediterranean *Nuculana* species. 1-3. *Nuculana illirica* spec. nov., dredged off the Jugoslavian coast. 1, holotype, 14 km S. of Rijeka, depth 60-70 m (actual length 10.0 mm, height 5.2 mm, breadth 3.0 mm) (Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, Italy); 2, 3, paratypes, Velebitski Kanal, 12 km S. of Karlobag, depth 70-80 m (actual length 12 and 7 mm, height 7 and 4 mm, respectively). 4, 5. *Nuculana commutata* (Philippi). 4, Jugoslavia, off the island of Pag, 12 km W. of Novalja, dredged at 80-90 m together with *N. illirica* spec. nov. (actual length 7 mm, height 4 mm); 5, France, off Corsica, 10-12 km E. of Capo Corso, depth 250 m, found in the stomach of *Astropecten aranciacus* (L., 1758) (actual length 8 mm, height 4 mm) (figured shells, except for the holotype of *N. illirica*, in the F. Carrozza collection). The photographs have kindly been made by Mr. R. Rocchini of Pistoia, Italy.

Paris, France; Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands; Ruder Boskovic Institute, Rovinj, Jugoslavia; the author's collection.

Only at one of the six localities, viz. 12 km W. of Novalja, where the largest sample of *N. illirica* was obtained, one complete specimen and a right valve of *N. commutata* were also found.

The new species derives its epithet from the old name of the area in which the type locality is situated.