

Gibbula vimontiae,
a good marine gastropod species from the Mediterranean

A. VERDUIN

Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden

INTRODUCTION

A number of authors have denied *Gibbula vimontiae* Monterosato, 1884, its status of full species, and connected it in some way or another to *G. drepanensis* (Brugnone, 1873). The following may help to clarify the situation.

<i>Gibbula vimontiae</i>	Monterosato, 1884a: 106
—— <i>vimontiae</i> Mtrs.	Monterosato, 1884b: 42
—— <i>vimontiae</i> Mtrs.	Locard, 1886: 322
—— (<i>Puteolus</i>) <i>vimontiae</i> Mtrs.	Monterosato, 1888: 174
—— <i>vimontiae</i> Mtrs.	Locard, 1891: 214
—— <i>drepanensis</i> Mtrs., var.	Carus, 1893: 250
—— <i>vimontiae</i> Mtrs.	Bucquoy, Dautzenberg & Dollfus, 1898: 798
—— (<i>Colliculus</i>) <i>drepanensis vimontiae</i> Mtrs.	Nordsieck, 1968: 23
—— <i>drepanensis</i> var. <i>vimontiae</i> (Monts.)	Parenzan, 1970: 46
—— <i>vimontiae</i> Mtrs.	Ghisotti & Melone, 1972: 95, 144

Monterosato (1884b: 42) described *G. vimontiae* as follows: "Più depressa [as compared with *G. drepanensis* — AV.] ad anfratti subangolati, liscia invece di striata, a colorazione verdastra con riflessi metallici.

Comunicata dalla fu Mad. Vimont alla cui memoria la dedico.

Toulon (Vimont); altri punti delle coste di Provenza (H. Martin col nome ms. di *Margarita pulchella*; Sollier ed altri); Bona (Hagenmüller); Mondello e Trapani (Monts.)."

As far as I am aware, *G. vimontiae* has never been depicted before.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

(1) A sample of four specimens of *G. vimontiae*, taken alive, in the Dautzenberg collection, now in the Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussels. The sample is labelled: "Tr. vimontiae Monts./Toulon", and is accompanied by a loose label in the same handwriting, which reads "Trochus sp. nov. (Tr. vimonti Monts.)/provenant des plantes qui accompagnaient des Sèches (Vim.)/Toulon!"

(2) One shell of *G. vimontiae* washed ashore at Sestri Levante, 40 km ESE. of Genova, Italy (my colln. No. 0003).

(3) A ditto from the harbour of Rhodos town, Greece (my colln. No. 0234).

(4) A sample of six shells, including five juvenile ones, of *G. drepanensis*, washed ashore at Getarès, a few km S. of Algeciras, S. Spain (my colln. No. 0001).

(5) A sample of nine shells, including one juvenile shell, of *G. drepanensis*, washed ashore at Torremolinos, 15 km SW. of Málaga, S. Spain (my colln. No. 0011).

(6) One large shell of *G. drepanensis* (height 6.1 mm, width 6.3 mm) in the Dautzenberg collection, labelled "Gibbula vimontiae Monts./Cherchell/Nicollon 2.86/ex Chevreux".

OBSERVATIONS

The material of *G. drepanensis* mentioned above is in excellent agreement with the original diagnosis and figure by Brugnone (1873: 13), and with all other descriptions and figures known to me, be it that neither the figure by Monterosato (1888: 174), nor that by Nordsieck (1968: 23), Shirò (1971: 11) or Parenzan (1970: 46) is very good, and that the shell is not particularly thin, as suggested by Carus (1893: 250).

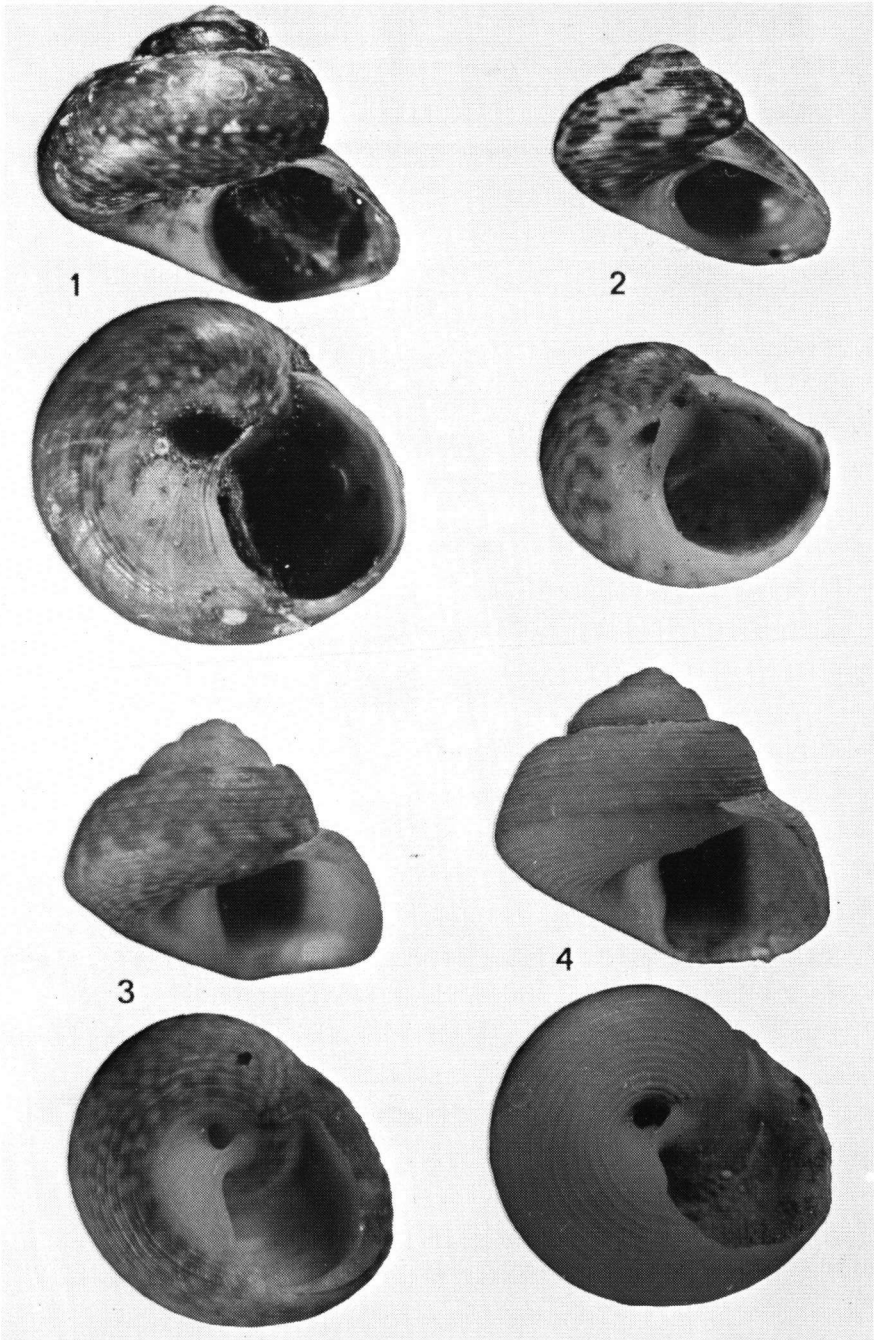
As is illustrated by figs. 1 and 2, the material of *G. vimontiae* from Toulon has little in common with *G. drepanensis*. I believe Dautzenberg's identification to be correct because (1) the shells agree satisfactory with the original diagnosis, (2) they are from the type locality, and were probably even collected by a member of the Vimont family, and (3) the shells clearly do not belong to any other known species. The colour of the shells of *G. vimontiae* from Toulon is shining brown, with small diamonds and parallelograms of a lighter shade, which are arranged in spirals, but otherwise do not show regular patterns. On the base of *G. vimontiae* fine distant spiral striae can be seen, which cover the greater part of the base in some specimens. For the remainder, the shells are completely smooth, as described by Monterosato. Among the adult specimens of *G. drepanensis* examined, the ratio height/width varies between 0.86 and 0.97. These values are somewhat higher than those given by Ghisotti & Melone (1972: 95): 0.75-0.85. Among the specimens of *G. vimontiae* this ratio varies between 0.84 and 0.89. These data do not give much support to Monterosato's opinion that the latter species is somewhat less high, though on the average there may be some difference.

Fig. 1. *Gibbula vimontiae* Monts., 1884. Toulon, SE. France. Dautzenberg colln., 7.5 x.

Fig. 2. *Gibbula drepanensis* (Brugnone, 1873). Torremolinos, 15 km SW. of Málaga, S. Spain. My colln. No. 0011, 7.5 x.

Fig. 3. *Gibbula rackeretti* (Payraudeau, 1826). Benidorm, 40 km NE. of Alicante, E. Spain. My colln. No. 0007, 7.5 x.

Fig. 4. *Gibbula tumida* (Montagu, 1803). Ria de Arosa, NW. Spain. Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, 7.5 x.



The largest shell examined of *G. vimontiae* measures: height 5.4 mm, width 6.4 mm (Toulon, Dautzenberg colln.).

G. vimontiae clearly differs from *G. drepanensis* as regards the spiral striae, the more open umbilicus, the profile of the whorls, the less ample aperture and the colour. In many respects I find it more similar to depressed specimens of *G. racketti* (Payraudeau, 1826), as shown in fig. 3. It differs from the latter species in the spiral sculpture and the more rounded and less shouldered whorls. In fig. 4 *G. tumida* (Montagu, 1803) had been depicted. It clearly differs from all species mentioned in the small umbilical area. Locard (1891: 214) assigned *G. vimontiae* to the group of *G. richardi* (Payraudeau, 1826). Except for the larger dimensions of the latter, there certainly is much similarity between both species. Juvenile shells of *G. richardi*, however, clearly differ from adult *G. vimontiae* in the lower spira, the not shouldered whorls, the shallower suture, the presence of fine spiral striae on the whole of the whorls, the much sharper edge between base and umbilicus, and the colour.

Two shells, one from Sestri Levante and one from Rhodos, which I consider to belong to *G. vimontiae*, are much smaller (diameter 1.5 and 1.7 mm respectively) and somewhat more depressed (height/width ratio 0.82 and 0.75 respectively) than those from Toulon. Juvenile shells of the genus *Gibbula*, however, are often more depressed than are adult ones. Other differences with the shells from Toulon are the (distant and extremely fine) spiral striae which appear on the lower part of the whorls above the periphery of both specimens. These striae are much finer than those in *G. drepanensis* or *G. racketti*. The colour of the shell from Rhodos is very similar to that of the shells from Toulon, be it that it is a paler shade of brown. The shell from Sestri Levante is green instead of brown, with more white at the periphery and with a conspicuous broken line of a paler shade of green at half the height of the whorls. It has the metallic lustre mentioned by Monterosato.

DISTRIBUTION

Monterosato reported *G. vimontiae* from Toulon and other localities along the coast of Provence, France, from Bona, Algeria, and from Mondello and Trapani, both Sicilia. Priolo (1971), however, did not confirm its occurrence in Sicilia. Above it has also been reported from Sestri Levante, NW. Italy, and from Rhodos, Greece.

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SAMENVATTING

Gibbula vimontiae, een goede zeeslakkensoort uit de Middellandse Zee

Op onduidelijke gronden is deze weinig bekende soort door sommige auteurs als ondersoort of variëteit van *G. drepanensis* opgevat. In de verzameling van Dautzenberg (nu in Brussel) trof ik een als *G. vimontiae* geëtiketteerd monster aan, afkomstig van de typelokaliteit Toulon. Deze schelpen behoren duidelijk niet tot *G. drepanensis*, noch tot een andere bekende soort. Wel komen ze bevredigend overeen met de originele beschrijving van *G. vimontiae*. Een en ander is in de figuren 1 t/m 4 geïllustreerd. Monterosato vermeldt *G. vimontiae* van de Provence, ZO. Frankrijk, van Bona, Algerië, en van Sicilië. Zelf ken ik de soort van Sestri Levante, Italië, en Rhodos, Griekenland. *G. drepanensis* is niet zeldzaam in aangespoeld materiaal van Getarès, enkele km Z. van Algeciras, en van Torremolinos, Z. Spanje.