

***Pyrene scaldensis* nova species, a hitherto misunderstood species from the Plio-Pleistocene of Western Europe**

by

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Pyrene (Columbellopsis) scaldensis nov. spec.¹⁾

- 1878 *Columbella subulata* Nyst, Ann. Mus. R. Belgique, vol. 3 atlas, pl. 3 fig. 3a, 3b (non *Murex subulatus* Brocchi).
 1882 — — Nyst, Op. cit. text, p. 36 (exclus. part of synonymy).
 1912 — — Tesch, Meded. Rijksopsp. Delfst., No. 4, p. 78.
 1914 — — Harmer, Plioc. Moll., vol. 1, p. 56 (exclus. part of synonymy), pl. 2 figs. 11, 12.
 1937 *Pyrene subulata* v. R. Altena, N. Verh. Bat. Gen. Proefond. Wijsb. (2), vol. 10 no. 3, p. 36.
 1946 — — Beets, Meded. Geol. Stichting, Serie C-IV-1-no. 6, p. 72 (exclus. part of synonymy).

Description. — Height 9 to 13, generally 11 to 12 mm, major diameter 3 to almost 5, generally about 4 mm. Shell fusiform, slender; spire acute, consisting of about 9 smooth, hardly convex whorls separated by a canaliculate suture. The nucleus is missing in all my specimens. Last whorl subcarinate, the siphonal part with about 14 spiral grooves. Aperture oval, rather narrow, with a relatively wide siphonal canal; outer lip thickened, with about 8 elongated denticles inside.

Type material. — Holotype: height 11 mm, major diameter 4 mm; from Upper Pliocene (Scaldisien) beds at a depth of 122-135 m below Ordnance Datum at Dorst, province of Noord-Brabant, Netherlands; in the collection of the Geologische Stichting, afdeling Geologische Dienst, Haarlem. Paratypes: 44 specimens from 11 localities mentioned by BEETS (l.c.) under "*Pyrene subulata*"; in the same collection. These localities are situated in the Dutch provinces of Noord-Brabant and Zeeland. The specimens come from Upper Pliocene (Scaldisien) and Lower Pleistocene (Icenian) beds lying at depths varying between 14 and 135 m below Ordnance Datum. 40 derivative specimens from the Westerschelde (estuary of the Scheldt), and the beaches of the island of Goeree and the island of Walcheren (near Domburg and Ritthem); in the collection of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden. In the British Museum (Natural History) there is a specimen from "Walton-on-Naze" (catalogue no.

¹⁾ The species is figured on pl. 11 fig. 121 in the same part of the present volume of this journal.

G 3866) which probably belongs to this species, it is labelled „*Columbella Borsoni* Bel.” I doubt, however, whether WOOD'S „*Columbella Borsoni?* Bellardi” (1874, Suppl. Mon. Crag Moll., p. 174, Addendum pl. fig. 19) is the same species. In that case the figure must have been enlarged.

Discussion. — Hitherto this species has been wrongly identified with *Pyrene subulata* (Brocchi) by Belgian and Dutch palaeontologists. *Pyrene subulata* is, however, a much larger species from the Italian Pliocene. The new species seems more closely related to *P. borsoni* Bellardi, 1848, and *P. astensis* Bellardi, 1890. *P. borsoni*, however, is a less slender species with coarser spirals on the siphonal part of the last whorl and a turreted spire. *P. astensis*, on the other hand, has a slenderer shell with a less canaliculate suture and relatively slightly lower whorls.

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