

Additional notes on *Propeleda platessa* (Dall, 1890) and designation
of its lectotype (Pelecypoda, Nuculanidae)

by

J. NIJSSEN-MEYER

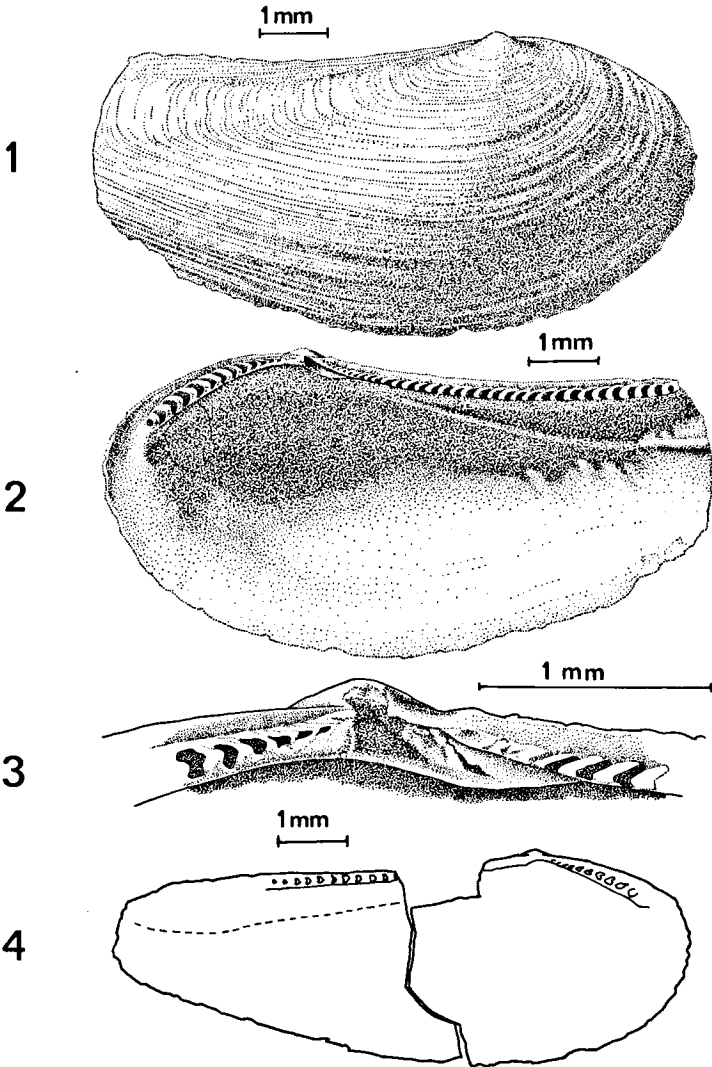
Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden

While working on a collection of marine molluscs from Surinam a species of Nuculanidae came to my attention that at first could not be identified. It was classified with the genus *Propeleda* for reasons given in my previous paper (Nijssen-Meyer, 1972: 452). While that paper was in press, I received on loan the type material of *Propeleda platessa* (Dall), which proved to be identical with the species from Surinam, so that the range of the species is extended from 23°08'S (Rio de Janeiro) to about 07°20'N (off the Surinam coast).

Until recently only a few references have been made to *Propeleda platessa* (Dall, 1890), viz., Lange de Morretes, 1950, Klappenbach & Scarabino, 1969, and Rios, 1970, all listing the original material of Dall. Rios (1970: 250) mentions: "Errata. Plate 50. Instead of *Nuculana acuta* Conrad read *Nuculana platessa* (Dall)". Although Rios lists Dall's material, he apparently did not examine the syntypes of *Propeleda platessa*, because his figure on Plate 50 does certainly not depict *Nuculana platessa*, this already being clear from the shape of the figured shell which does not agree with the shape of the syntypes of *Propeleda platessa*.

In his preliminary report on the molluscs collected by the s.s. "Albatross" in 1887-88 Dall (1890: 256, 257) gives a description of *Leda platessa* without figures. The type material (syntypes), received on loan from the U.S. National Museum, consists of 2/2 specimens, one right and one left valve, St. 2762, East of Rio de Janeiro, 23°08'S, 41°34'W, depth 59 fathoms, bottom mud, collected by U.S. Fish Commission.

The largest valve, mentioned by Dall as measuring 10.3 mm, is the right valve, now measuring 8.8 mm (tip of rostrum broken off). This valve is herewith designated lectotype (USNM 96107, figs. 1-3). The exterior of the lectotype has a polished appearance and is cream to yellowish in colour, with barely visible, regular growth lines. A very slight irregularity in the growth lines forms a faint ray running from the umbo to halfway the anterior part of the shell. The interior of



Figs. 1-4. Type material of *Propoleda platessa* (Dall). 1-3. Lectotype (USNM 96107) right valve, length 8.8 mm, exterior and interior views of the shell, and detail of the umbonal area. 4. Paralectotype (USNM 707679), left valve, length 9.0 mm, interior outline of damaged shell. A. Bos del.

the lectotype has 12 V-shaped teeth (more or less damaged) and three to four lamella-shaped teeth (damaged) at its anterior side. Posteriorly it has 24-25 V-shaped teeth (some damaged) and six to seven lamella-shaped teeth. A ridge runs from the umbo to the ventral side of the tip of the rostrum. In the lectotype the straight posterior hinge line is not as apparent as in the material from Surinam and its resilifer and hinge (near the umbonal area) are slightly damaged.

The paralectotype (USNM 707679, fig. 4, damaged and broken) has a cream-coloured, slightly translucent, polished shell. Its growth lines are slightly more noticeable than in the lectotype. It also has a very faint ray from the umbo to halfway the anterior part of the shell. The interior of the paralectotype bears ten V-shaped teeth, following which there is a part missing, two damaged and three lamella-shaped teeth posteriorly, and three to four lamella-shaped and nine V-shaped teeth anteriorly. A ridge runs from the umbo to the ventral side of the tip of the rostrum.

To my knowledge no valves of *Propeleda platessa* have been recorded, but for the syntypes and the material from Surinam (Nijssen-Meyer, 1972). Klappenbach (1969: 241) has examined the syntypes (which he names "el Holotipo") in Washington, D.C., and states that the two specimens are: "damaged, white coloured, with a shiny periostracum, slightly yellowish. Growth lines visible, although not very distinct." (freely translated from the Spanish). His remark "el Holotipo" is not correct, for the shells are not of the same size (figs. 1 and 4 are drawn on the same scale) and thus do not belong to the same specimen.

Characteristic features of *Propeleda platessa* are: a long, slender shell (posterior part three times as large as the anterior part) with a smooth and polished exterior; a straight posterior hinge line; a narrow oblique resilifer; a ridge running from umbo to rostrum along the interior of the shell; the first few teeth on both sides of umbo lamella-shaped, the other teeth V-shaped.

The rarity of *Propeleda platessa* may be due to the fact that it is a small shell (Surinam material ranges from 3.5 to 9.0 mm in length) which most probably is washed out of trawl catches, so that it stands a better chance of being found in grab hauls. It has been taken from 27 to 89 m depth on the shelf of Surinam; at the type locality it was found at a depth of 108 m.

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