

A note on the distribution of *Onoba aculeus* (Gould, 1841)

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Until recently *Onoba aculeus* (Gould, 1841) was thought to be a panarctic prosobranch gastropod (family Rissoidae) with its southern limits in Scotland and the Danish Sound (Fretter & Graham, 1978: 166). However, in a sample of beach drift from Port Bail, Cotentin, France, collected in July 1973, I found among many *O. semicostata* (Montagu, 1803), about one hundred specimens of *O. aculeus*. The latter could be easily separated by the much larger protoconch and the somewhat more swollen whorls with deep sutures. Both species exhibit some variation in axial ribbing. Most specimens of *O. aculeus* have rather strong axial ribs; in the others these are absent. Later on, I found 15 specimens in a sample of beach drift from Telgruc-sur-Mer, Crozon peninsula, Bretagne, France. This sample was collected in July 1974 by D.F. Hoeksema. All above material is preserved in my collection.

Dr. J.J. van Aartsen, who kindly checked my identification, wrote to me that *O. aculeus* is also known to him from the following localities (all material in Van Aartsen collection): Torquay, southern England; Kerfany-les-Pins, Bretagne, France; Gijon, Atlantic coast of northern Spain and Ria de Arosa, Galicia, Spain.

Obviously *O. aculeus* has a much wider distribution than generally known. This might be due to confusion with *O. semicostata*. Reliable records from the Mediterranean of the former are not known to me, although I think the species may be expected to occur in the Holocene-Pleistocene material, which is often present in dredged samples.

REFERENCE

- FRETTER, V., & A. GRAHAM, 1978. The prosobranch molluscs of Britain and Denmark. Part 4 - Marine Rissoacea. - Suppl. J. Moll. Stud. 6: 153-241.

SAMENVATTING

De soort *Onoba aculeus* (Gould, 1841) van de familie Rissoidae wordt gewoonlijk beschouwd als een slak met een noordelijke verspreiding, zuidwaarts tot in Schotland en de Sont in Denemarken. Recente vondsten van de Atlantische kusten van Frankrijk en Spanje tonen aan dat het verspreidingsgebied aanzienlijk groter is.