

European marine Mollusca: notes on less well-known species
VIII. *Caecum armoricum* De Folin, 1869¹

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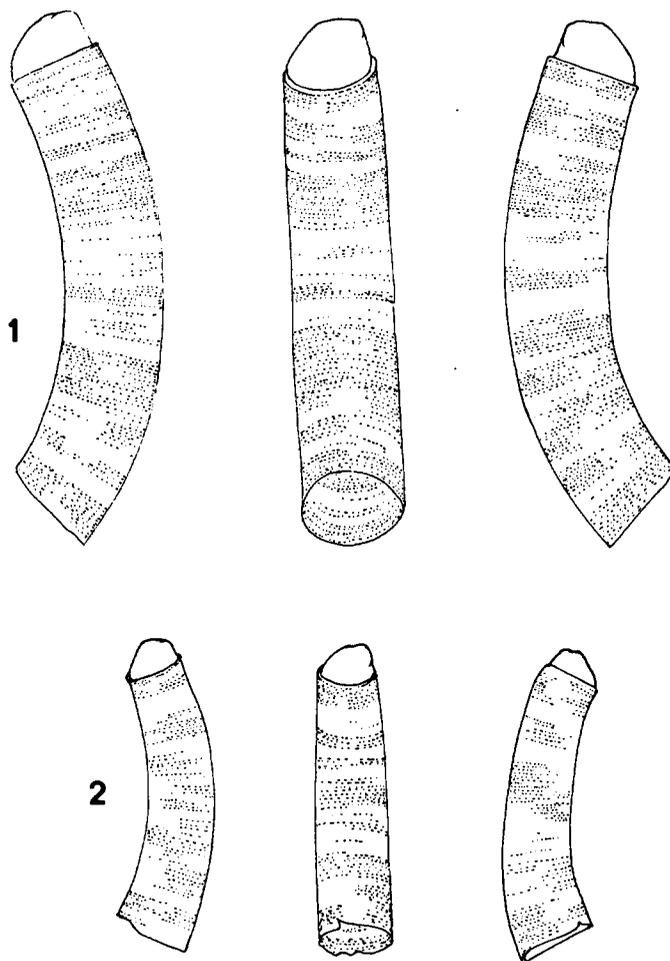
Kalmanstraat 45, 1817 HW Alkmaar, The Netherlands

A number of years ago, in a revision of the European Caecidae, the first author considered the species *Caecum armoricum* De Folin, 1869, to be an aberrant form of the widely distributed *Caecum glabrum* (Montagu, 1803) (Van Aartsen, 1977: 8). This opinion was based on the type-lot in the De Folin-collection in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, from Mesquer (France), and one other specimen in the Jeffreys collection in the National Museum of Natural History in Washington (no. 189852) which was obtained by Jeffreys from De Folin. This last specimen originated from St. Malo and is rather strongly curved, thus indicating that it is a young specimen (second growth stage). The specimen is glued onto a glass-slide, thus making accurate study of the septum impossible.

Last year the second author collected quite a number of specimens (about 100) of a species of *Caecum* at Penthièvre (Southern Brittany, France) which were quite clearly not identical with *Caecum glabrum* nor with *Caecum trachea* (Montagu, 1803). Restudy of the De Folin collection showed that, apart from the type-lot, there existed a second lot of five specimens originating from "St. Malo, Embouchure de la Rance". This second lot is also mentioned by Kisch (1959: 25). These specimens are also glued onto glass in the characteristic blue slide used by De Folin. Although these specimens cannot be used as type material, because they are not mentioned in the original description by De Folin (1869: 148, 149), it was apparent that the specimens from Penthièvre are identical with those from St. Malo. The specimens of St. Malo, however, are somewhat younger and therefore the septum is not yet fully developed as it is in some of the specimens of Penthièvre. The fully developed septum clearly shows an auriculiform appendage on the septum somewhat reminiscent of that of *Caecum auriculatum* De Folin, 1868, but differently placed. Because of the relative rarity of this species, we thought it interesting to publish some drawings of the full-grown *Caecum armoricum* and its septum in figs. 1 and 2, as well as of the second growth stage in fig. 3.

In both stages the shell is perfectly smooth, there is no ring-like thickening at the aperture and the length (including the much protruding septum) is between 2.0 and 2.5

¹ VI. See Basteria 46: 129, 1982.



Figs. 1, 2. *Caecum armoricum* De Folin, from Penthièvre, département of Morbihan, France. 1, full-grown specimens; 2, shells of the second growth stage. Scale 1 mm.

mm. The tube-diameter in the second growth stage is about 0.25 mm near the septum, increasing to 0.35 mm at the aperture. The original description (De Folin, 1869: 148, 149) gives 0.2-0.3 mm at a length of 1.7 mm. In full-grown specimens there is hardly any increase in tube-diameter, which is between 0.45 and 0.50 mm.

Apart from the specimens of Penthièvre (Morbihan) and St. Malo (Ille et Vilaine) we know the following material: France, Manche, Gouville (1 shell; coll. H. J. Hoenselaar); France, Morbihan, Quiberon (5 shells & 15 fragments; coll. T. Keukelaar-van den Berge); Portugal, Algarve, Praia da Rocha (2 shells; coll. D. F. Hoeksema); Spain, Santander, Laredo (6 shells; coll. J. J. van Aartsen and coll. D. F. Hoeksema).

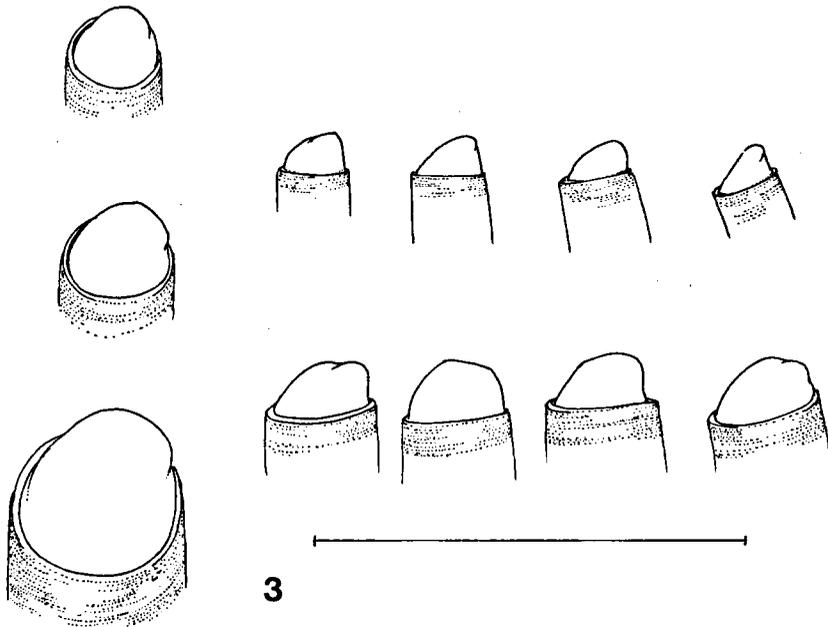


Fig. 3. *Caecum armoricum* De Folin, from Penthièvre, département of Morbihan, France. Several septa, to show development and variability. Scale 1 mm.

The type-lot of *Caecum armoricum* De Folin, kindly placed at our disposal by Dr. Ph. Bouchet of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, now consists of one shell, about 1.8 mm long with a breadth of 0.28 mm near the septum and 0.50 mm near the mouth, as well as one fragment of 0.5 mm total length, including 0.10 for the length of the septum and a cross-section of 0.25 mm. These evidently belong to two different species. The shell has a very much pointed septum and shows axial sculpture, in fact it is a young *Caecum trachea*. As this shell does not correspond with the original description, neither in dimensions nor in the form of the septum, it cannot be selected as lectotype. We therefore see no other possibility than to choose the fragment, which, although poor, evidently corresponds with the five specimens from St. Malo, as the lectotype of the species *Caecum armoricum* De Folin, 1869, but basing our interpretation of the species mainly on the sample of St. Malo, identified by De Folin and present in his collection in the Paris museum.

Together with *Caecum glabrum*, *Caecum trachea* and *Caecum clarkii* Carpenter, 1858 (see Hoeksema, 1982: 1239, 1240), *Caecum armoricum* De Folin, 1869, is the fourth species of Caecidae known to occur on the French Atlantic coast.

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