

**The identity of *Nassarius vaucheri* (Pallary, 1906)
(Gastropoda Prosobranchia)**

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Nassarius vaucheri, a little known species, was collected alive in the Algarve, Portugal. A scrutiny of the radula shows that the species belongs to *Nassarius* rather than *Chauvetia* (Cernohorsky, 1975, 1984). A lectotype is designated; type locality Rabat, Morocco. *N. vaucheri* is conchologically distinct from *N. incrassatus*.

Key words: Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Nassariidae, *Nassarius*, taxonomy, Portugal, Morocco.

In May 1987, the first author collected many specimens of an unknown nassariid from the fishing nets and at the bottom of small fishing boats in Monte Gordo and Alagoa (Portugal, Algarve). The fishing boats were rowing-boats with an outboard motor, which are generally used to catch fish in an area, not more than 5 kms off the coast.

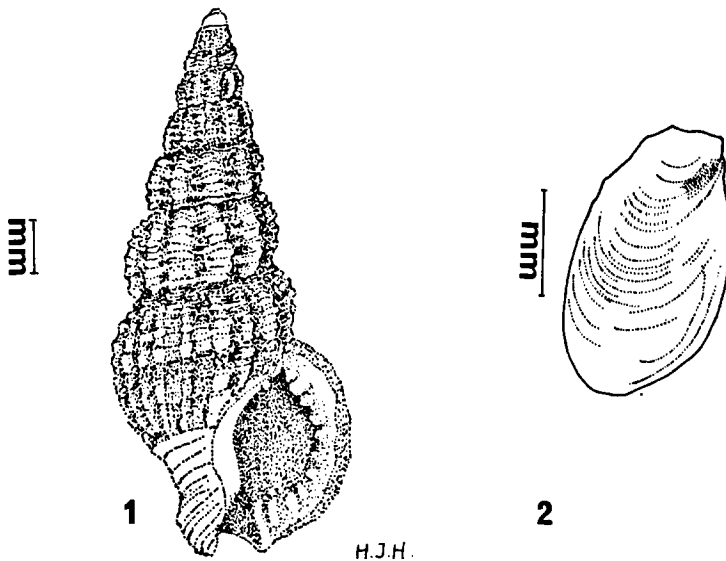
In the excellent monograph on the West African Nassariidae by Adam & Knudsen (1984), this species was not treated. At first sight our specimens looked like slender *Nassarius incrassatus* (Ström, 1786), but more extensive research convinced us that it was a different species.

After a study of the literature it became clear that *Nassarius vaucheri* (Pallary, 1906) was a good possibility. However, Cernohorsky (1975, 1984) stated, after studying a syntype in the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH no. 1906.4.17.14), that this taxon belongs to the genus *Chauvetia*. Unfortunately, the syntype in the BMNH was not available for study (K. Way, in litt., 1988) at the moment, but two syntypes from the Pallary collection, now in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) in Paris could be studied. These syntypes proved to be identical to our material from Monte Gordo and Alagoa. Since most of our specimens were collected alive, we could study the radula (fig. 4). This has convinced us that the species belongs to the genus *Nassarius* and not to *Chauvetia*, for which we refer to Bandel (1977).

In the description by Pallary (1920, which is identical to the original description of 1906), he figured two syntypes and gave measurements of the largest specimen (length 11 mm, width 4.5 mm) and indicated that he had seen more material. Pallary (1906) indicated the subgenus *Hima*, but in 1920 he used *Hinia*.

We herewith designate the largest specimen (fig. 1) in MNHN (precise measurements: length 11.0 mm, width 4.8 mm) as the lectotype of *Nassarius vaucheri* (Pallary, 1906). The type locality is herewith restricted to Morocco, Rabat, 11 m, being the locality of the lectotype.

Not much is known about the distribution of *Nassarius vaucheri*. Up to now, it seems limited to Morocco and the south-west coast of the Iberian Peninsula. Monterosato (1889) stated that he obtained a *Nassa signata* Dunker from Lisbon, donated to him by Mac-Andrew under the name *Nassa elegans* Searles Wood, 1848, a related fossil species from the Crag formations. We suppose (as Pallary did too) that this specimen was



Figs. 1-2. *Nassarius vaucheri* (Pallary). 1, Lectotype, Rabat, Morocco (MNHN); 2, Monte Gordo, Portugal (ZMA). 2, operculum.

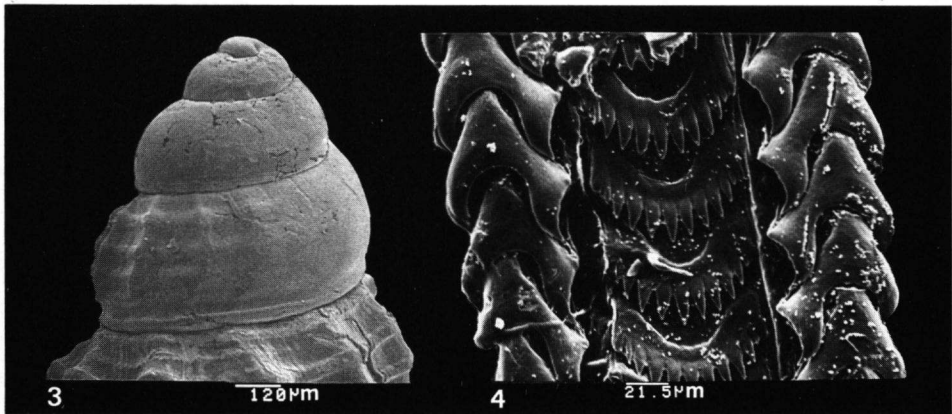
Nassarius vaucheri. We are supported in this opinion by a specimen in the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam (ZMA) with locality Portugal, Cascais near Lisbon, 1948, leg. R.W. van Dam. The true *Nassarius signata* (Dunker, 1847) is now considered a junior synonym of *Nassarius (Hima) kochianus* (Dunker, 1846), a South African species (Cernohorsky, 1984).

Among the recent nassariids, *Nassarius vaucheri* shows a relation to *Nassarius incrassatus*, but is distinct in several characteristics.

Nassarius incrassatus, from the same locality, has a prominent groove just above the siphonal fasciole. In full-grown specimens the number of post-nuclear whorls ranges from 4 to 6, they are inflated and provided with a fine reticulation. Ratio length-width is 1.83 ($n = 24$); length of shell varies from c. 12 to about 16 mm.

Nassarius vaucheri lacks the prominent basal groove. The number of post-nuclear whorls ranges from 7 to 9 and the shell is slender. Ratio length-width is 2.14 ($n = 100$). Also, the outer lip is more expanded than in *Nassarius incrassatus*. Full-grown specimens of *Nassarius vaucheri* vary considerably in length: 9.1-12.7 mm. Pallary (1920) mentioned shells with lengths from 6-8 mm, and named them variety *minor*.

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Figs. 3-4. *Nassarius vaucheri* (Pallary); Monte Gordo, Portugal (ZMA). 3, protoconch; 4, radula.

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SAMENVATTING

De identiteit van *Nassarius vaucheri* (Pallary)

Een weinig bekende soort, *Nassarius vaucheri* (Pallary, 1906), is in de Algarve (Portugal) levend verzameld. In tegenstelling tot de opvatting van Cernohorsky (1975, 1984) blijkt uit radula-onderzoek dat de soort niet tot het geslacht *Chauvetia* behoort, maar tot *Nassarius*. Een lectotype wordt aangewezen en afgebeeld; de typelocaliteit wordt nu Rabat (Marokko). Enkele conchologische verschillen met *Nassarius incrassatus* (Ström, 1786) worden aangegeven.