

On a new *Montenegrina* species from Greece
(Gastropoda Pulmonata: Clausiliidae)

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Montenegrina thysi spec. nov. is described from the NE. Epirus in Greece, close to the Greek-Albanian border. Only three shells are known; these are relatively large and provided with widely spaced, prominent, white ribs.

Key words: Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Clausiliidae, *Montenegrina*, taxonomy, Greece.

On a journey to Jugoslavia and Greece in 1964 our nephew Dr. M. Loosjes, collected a number of Clausiliidae, which he kindly presented to us for our collection. Among this material we noticed one specimen and two fragments of a new species. As in our opinion it is in general not advisable to base a description on only one undamaged specimen, we passed the most important characters and a drawing on to the German malacologist H. Nordsieck, who tried to collect more specimens at the same locality, but without success as it was not open to the public. He advised us to describe it and already mentioned the species (or subspecies) in a publication (Nordsieck, 1974: 155). A short time ago Prof. Dr. E. Gittenberger of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, gave us the same advice and therefore we now describe the new species.

As only shells are available the animals themselves could not be studied.

Montenegrina thysi spec. nov. (fig. 1)

Diagnosis. — A species of the genus *Montenegrina* O. Boettger, 1877 (see Nordsieck, 1972: 26; 1974: 151) of which the violet-yellowish coloured shell is about 22.5 x 6.1 mm with about 10½ whorls; it is provided with white ribs that are widely spaced (c. 1 per mm on the whorl above the aperture, 20-21 on the penultimate whorl) on the whorls below the smooth embryonic ones. Aperture wide, quadrangular with the peristomal margin not thickened, the upper part a callous patch on the previous whorl. Lunella connected with the plica palatalis basalis.

Description. — Shell sinistral, rather large and wide, turreted-fusiform, solid; the upper four to seven whorls yellowish, the lower ones more or less violet. Whorls 10½; the embryonic whorls are smooth and have a broad apex, the lower more or less shouldered ones are sculptured with rather strong, widely spaced white ribs, one per mm on the whorl above the aperture, 20-21 on the penultimate whorl. A white thread, formed by the curved upper ends of the ribs, runs along the suture of the lower whorls. The base of the last whorl, the neck, is rounded, a basal crest is not present.

Aperture broad, almost quadrangular, inside whitish; the sinulus is only formed by the lamella superior. The peristomal margin is broadly reflexed and glossy, not

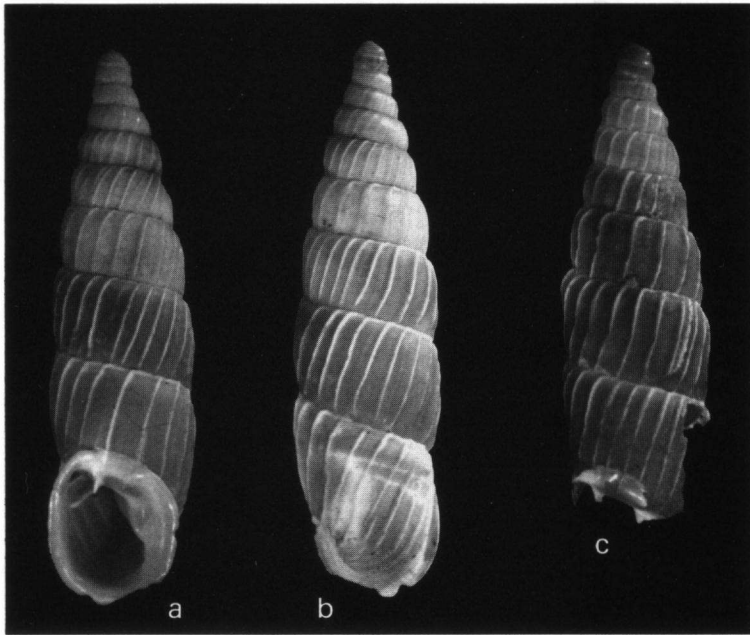


Fig. 1. *Montenegrina thysi* spec. nov.; a. ventral side of holotype; b. dorsal side of holotype; c. ventral side of paratype. Photographs by E. Gittenberger.

thickened, the upper margin is only a callous patch on the whorl above, it is straight, not curved near the outer end of the lamella superior. The parietal and axial margin of the peristome are almost straight.

Lamella superior of medium height, reaching the apertural margin; its inner end is widely separated from the outer end of the much more marginally situated lamella spiralis, which is of medium height and which slightly overlaps the inner end of the lamella superior; it ends rather abruptly inward at the right side. Lamella inferior rather steeply ascending into the aperture, it ends inward, past the end of the lamella spiralis at an almost ventral position; the outer end of the lamella inferior lies far from the peristome on the axis of the shell. The end of the subcolumellar lamella can just be seen in frontal view when looking into the aperture, below the knob-like lower end of the axis.

The plica palatalis principalis runs from slightly inward of the upper end of the lunella at the dorsal side of the last whorl almost to the peristomal margin. Below it runs an equally high plica palatalis superior, diverging from it to the peristome; at the inner side it (almost) touches the upper end of the lunella. The lunella lies at the dorsal side, it is a broad almost straight white callous patch, visible on the outside of the shell by transparency. At its lower end the lunella is connected with a more or less distinct plica palatalis basalis.

The clausilium is saddle-shaped, moderately curved, apex a bit thickened, the plate measures 3.7 x 1.4 mm.

The dimensions and number of whorls are:

	shell length × diameter	aperture height × width	number of whorls
holotype:	22.7 × 6.0 mm	6.2 × 5.2 mm	10½
paratype:	— 6.2 mm	—	10½

The new species differs from other *Montenegrina* species most clearly by the widely separated and rather prominent white ribs.

A holotype and two paratypes are available (material to be deposited in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden); the holotype is the only undamaged specimen, one paratype has the last whorl severely damaged, the other paratype consists only of three central whorls. The specimens were collected by Dr. Thys Loosjes (to whom we dedicate this species) in Greece, NE. Epirus, near the village Ay. Paraskevi, NW. of Mount Smolikas on a cliff, 26-27 June 1964.

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