

**On the identity of *Nassarius interliratus* (E.A. Smith, 1876)
(Gastropoda, Prosobranchia: Nassariidae)**

Hugo H. KOOL

Magnolialaan 21, 6951 NV Dieren, The Netherlands

A study of the Nassariidae in the collection of Mr. D. Smits, Woudenberg, The Netherlands, and of the holotype of *Nassarius interliratus* (E.A. Smith, 1876) has shown that this is a valid species. This contradicts the conclusion of Cernohorsky (1984: 145) that it is *N. concinnus* (Powys, 1835).

Key words: Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Nassariidae, *Nassarius*, taxonomy, Solomon Is., New Guinea, West Irian.

In the collection of Mr. D. Smits (Woudenberg, The Netherlands), I found a number of shells which could be identified as *Nassarius interliratus* (E.A. Smith, 1876). Kaicher (1982, card 3483) shows a photograph of the holotype, which is in the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH 1876.1.10.28) with type locality "Solomon Islands". The specimens from Mr. Smits are all from Manokwari, West Irian (New Guinea), Indonesia.

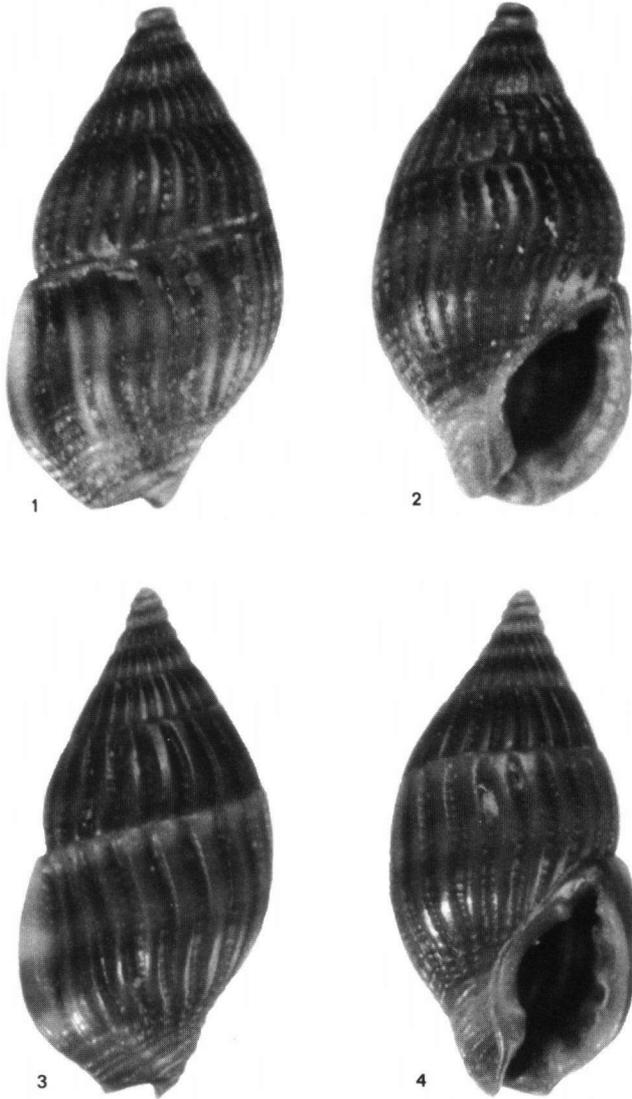
Cernohorsky (1984: 144) synonymized this species with *N. concinnus* (Powys, 1835). On page 145 he writes: "The holotype of *Nassa interlirata* E.A. Smith, although badly worn, is just recognizable as a minute individual of *Nassarius concinnus*". However, neither Cernohorsky's figure 9 on plate 28, nor Kaicher's card gives the impression of a badly worn specimen as compared to the specimens of the Smits collection.

A study of the holotype and of Mr. Smits' specimens of *N. interliratus* shows that they are indeed different from *N. concinnus*. All full-grown specimens are 6-9 mm long; the holotype measures 6.4 mm in length.

The most specific feature of *N. interliratus*, which is lacking in *N. concinnus*, is the really unnatural looking dent on the body whorl, located just behind the thick varix of the outer lip, restricted to the upper half of that whorl. This feature can be seen on the figure of the holotype (fig. 1) as well as on the figured specimen from the collection of Mr. Smits (fig. 3), which is deposited in the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam (ZMA).

Another characteristic, already mentioned on Kaicher's card, is the colour of the shell being "somewhat lighter on the dorsum towards the outer lip". This phenomenon is especially visible on the back of the varix of the outer lip. Finally, *N. interliratus* lacks the strong subsutural groove, which is responsible for the sutural denticles in *N. concinnus*.

As can be seen from the figures 1-2, the holotype is not badly worn, contrary to Cernohorsky's suggestion, although it is not a live-taken specimen and part of the protoconch is missing. Analysis of the protoconch of the specimens of *N. interliratus* in Mr. Smits' collection revealed similarity in number of nuclear whorls in both species (2½-3).



Figs. 1-4. *Nassarius interliratus* (E.A. Smith, 1876). 1-2, holotype (BMNH 1876.1.10.28), Solomon Islands, length 6.4 mm; 3-4, Indonesia, West Irian, Manokwari (ZMA, ex. coll. D. Smits), length 8.0 mm.

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