

**A sinistral specimen of *Melanoides tuberculata* (Müll.) from Israel  
(Gastropoda Prosobranchia: Thiaridae)**

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A juvenile, sinistral shell of *Melanoides tuberculata* is recorded from a fossil bearing layer in the Nahal Poleg basin in Israel. It seems to represent the first case of a sinistral specimen of this species.

Key words: Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Thiaridae, *Melanoides tuberculata*, sinistrality. Israel.

During fieldwork in the westernmost part of the Nahal Poleg basin, just north of the Wingate Institute, some 6 km south of Netanya (Israel) several fossil bearing outcrops were sampled on 8 June 1995. These layers are very rich in land and freshwater molluscs. Some contain numerous freshwater species of Nilotic origin: *Bulinus truncatus* (Audouin, 1826), *Gyraulus ehrenbergi* (Beck, 1837), *Biomphalaria alexandrina* (Ehrenberg, 1831), *Radix natalensis* (Krauss, 1848), *Cleopatra bulimoides syriaca* Pallary, 1929, and so on. Others are characterized by the presence of more northern species like the land snails *Truncatellina cylindrica* (Férussac, 1807), *Vertigo antivertigo* (Draparnaud, 1801) and *Vallonia enniensis* (Gredler, 1856). A thorough study of this material and especially an exact dating of the various layers may provide new insights into the evolution of the mollusc fauna of inland aquatic habitats in the Mediterranean plains of Israel (Mienis & Ortal, in preparation).

One of the layers characterized by a peat formation and the presence of many Nilotic elements contained a perfect, but still juvenile, sinistral shell of *Melanoides tuberculata* (Müller, 1774). The shell measures  $2.8 \times 1.2$  mm. All other specimens of this species were of the normal dextral form. As far as we could check, this seems to be the very first record of sinistrality in *Melanoides tuberculata*. The specimen in question is preserved in the National Mollusc Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem under no. HUJ 12662.