

The bivalve *Spondylus* as a *Nautilus* shell epibiota

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The first record of a *Spondylus* species as an attachment on a *Nautilus* shell is reported as an unidentifiable species on a mature shell of *Nautilus macromphalus*.

Key words: Cephalopoda, *Nautilus*, Bivalvia, Spondylidae, *Spondylus*, epibiota, Pacific, New Caledonia.

Bivalves as *Nautilus* shell epibiota are reported as a rare occurrence (Landman et al., 1987). While organisms such as bryozoans, barnacles, and serpulids have been recorded as more common occurrences on shells of *Nautilus pompilius* L., 1758, *N. scrobiculatus* Lightfoot, 1786 (Landman et al., 1987), and *N. macromphalus* Sowerby, 1849 (Hamada, 1983), the occurrence of bivalves including ostreids and venerids on *Nautilus* shells is a more unlikely scenario. This note reports a *Spondylus* species (Spondylidae) as epibiota on a *Nautilus* shell.

Recently the author obtained a mature shell of *N. macromphalus* which had been collected alive in a trap off the coast of New Caledonia in the Pacific. The specimen had not been cleaned before it was in the possession of the author; therefore its condition had not been altered before examination. The shell is shown in fig. 1. Attached to one of the umbilical areas is a small specimen of the bivalve genus *Spondylus*, which is shown in fig. 2. Species identification of the *Spondylus* is extremely difficult because of its small size, leaving it unidentified for the present.

The umbilical areas of *Nautilus* shells are preferred locations for epibiota encrustation (Hamad, 1983; Landman et al., 1987). The occurrence of the *Spondylus* in this very region of the *N. macromphalus* shell may be considered possible further evidence of this preferred encrustation region in the *Nautilus* shell.

REFERENCES

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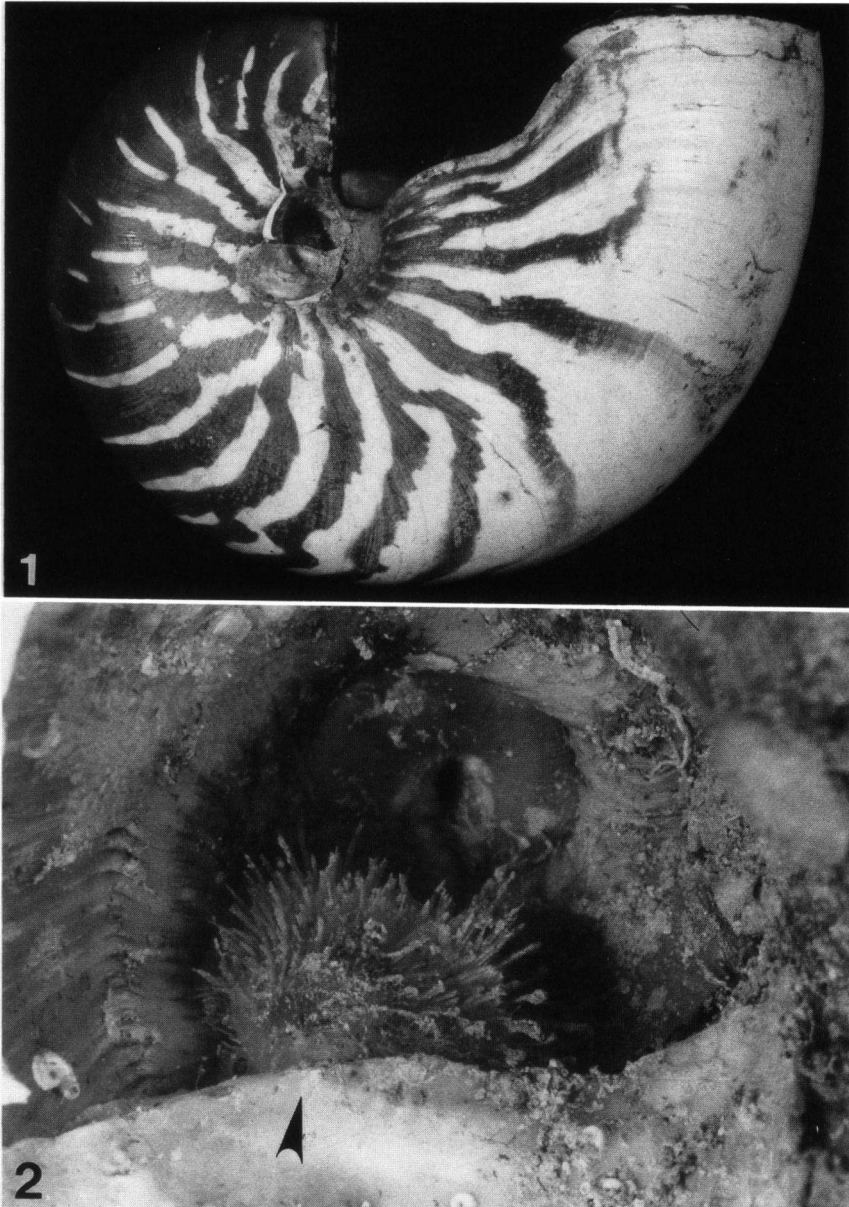


Fig. 1-2. *Nautilus macromphalus* Sow., shell from live-taken specimen from off New Caledonia (167 mm diameter, author's collection). 1, shell; 2, umbilical area of this shell showing location of *Spondylus* specimen as indicated by arrow (6 mm width).