

**On the occurrence of *Coralliophila schioettei* Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000, in the Canary Islands (Gastropoda, Caenogastropoda, Muricidae)**

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*Coralliophila schioettei* Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000, is here reported for the first time from the Canary Islands. The protoconch is figured by scanning electron microscope (SEM) and described. The two shells that are known are illustrated. New data on the morphological characters of this species are given.

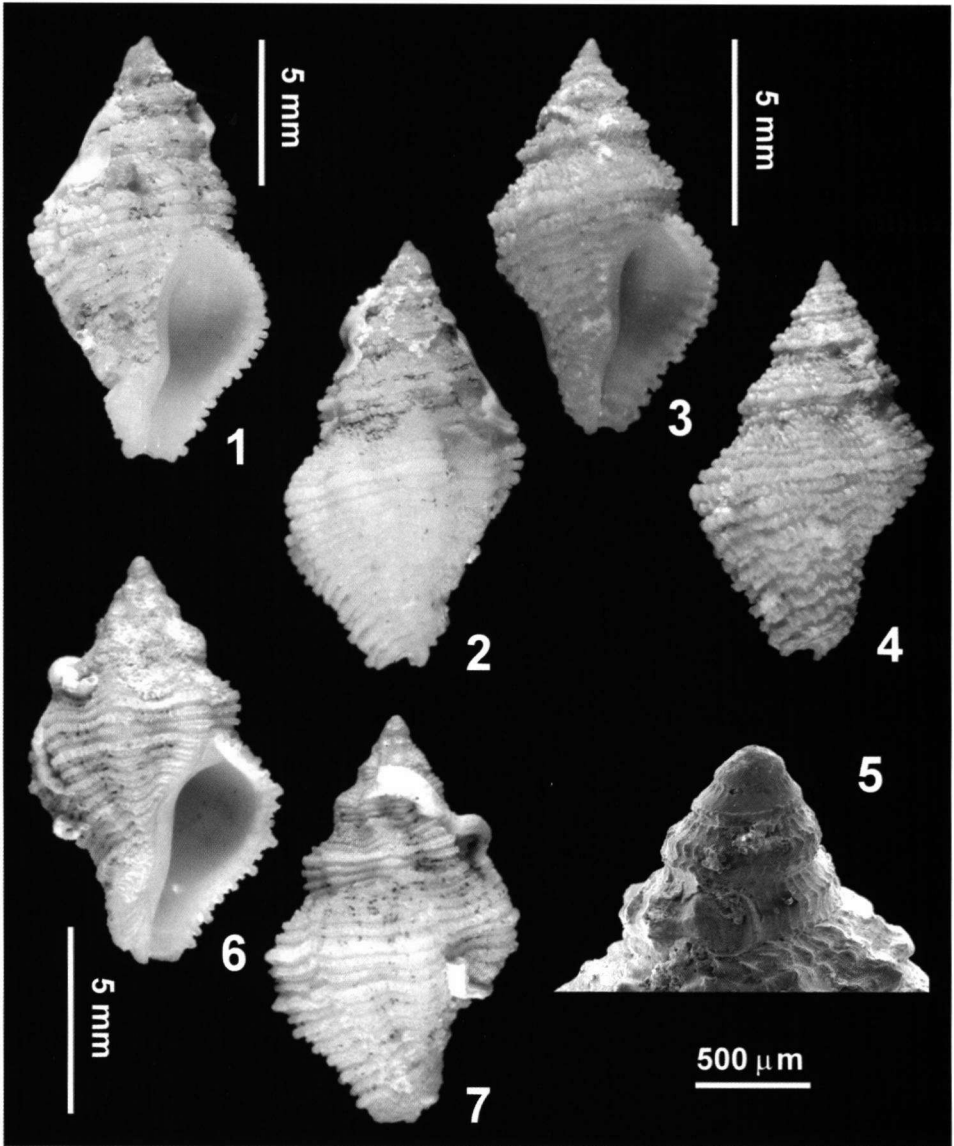
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## INTRODUCTION

*Coralliophila schioettei* Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000, is a circalittoral species that has been described only from the holotype, collected during the survey "Atlantide", from Sierra Leone, eastern Atlantic Ocean (Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000). During the screening of dredged material collected on bottoms off La Palma Island (Canary Islands), two specimens of this rare species of Coralliophilinae have been identified.

## MATERIAL

Two specimens of *C. schioettei*, in the private collection of Frank Swinnen (Lommel, Belgium), both lacking soft parts, collected offshore St Cruz, La Palma Island (Canary Islands, Atlantic Ocean), at a depth of 90 m. Specimen A, 14.8 x 8.1 mm; specimen B, 11.4 x 6.6 mm.



Figs 1-7. Shells of *Coralliophila schioettei* Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000. Specimens A and B, both off St Cruz, La Palma Island, Canary Islands, 90 m depth (colln F. Swinnen, Lommel, Belgium). 1-2, specimen A, 14.8 x 8.1 mm; 3-5, specimen B, 11.4 x 6.6 mm. 6-7, Holotype, Sierra Leone, 11.4 x 6.8 mm (Zoologisk Museum Copenhagen, Denmark).

## SYSTEMATICS

Family Muricidae Rafinesque, 1815

Subfamily Coralliophilinae Chenu, 1859

Genus *Coralliophila* H. & A. Adams, 1853.

Type species: *Fusus neritoideus* Lamarck, 1816, Ency. Meth., pl. 435 figs 2a-b (= *Purpura violacea* Kiener, 1836), by subsequent designation (Iredale, 1912). Recent, Indo-Pacific.

*Coralliophila schioettei* Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000 (figs 1-7)

*Coralliophila schioettei* Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000: 16, figs 13-14.

## DISCUSSION

The West African species *Coralliophila schioettei* was not recorded in the literature since its description based on the holotype only, collected off Sierra Leone. During analysis of dredged material from La Palma Island (Canary Islands), we identified two specimens (figs 1-5) of this elusive species. The teleoconch shape and sculpture of these two shells are identical to that of the holotype (Smriglio & Mariottini, 2000) (figs 6-7), as well as the colour of specimen A (creamy white). Interestingly, the smaller specimen B (figs 3-5) shows both teleoconch whorls and still intact protoconch whorls of a brownish colour. Although the protoconch is slightly worn, it is evident that the multispiral larval shell is composed of protoconch I and II (fig. 5). Protoconch I has about 1½ whorls and is dome-shaped, with a diameter of about 300 µm; tiny, scattered pustules are barely visible, but this is due to the condition of the protoconch surface. Protoconch II is composed of 2½ whorls, with a diameter of about 800 µm, showing two spiral keels, of which only one is visible above the suture of the initial whorl. The keels are crossed by interrupted axial ribs which are forming knobs at the intersections. The protoconch-teleoconch demarcation is well marked by a varix, corresponding to the sinuous lip of the larval shell. The discovery of two specimens of *C. schioettei* from the Canary Islands, implies a widening of the known distribution of this species and the collecting depth confirms it to be circalittoral.

## REFERENCE

SMRIGLIO, C., & P. MARIOTTINI, 2000. Description of three new Coralliophilidae Chenu, 1859 from the Eastern Atlantic Ocean: *Coralliophila fontanangioyi* sp. nov. *Coralliophila knudseni* sp. nov., and *Coralliophila schioettei* sp. nov. – La Conchiglia 296: 11-18.