

THE COWRIES OF THE EAST AFRICAN COASTS

SUPPLEMENT 1

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Since the publication of my paper of this title (1954) two further species have been recorded and sufficient data are given here for them to be identified. Reprints of this note will be available for pasting into the back of the original pamphlet. Certain correspondents have intimated that they have data on the habits, animals and eggs of our species, subjects on which the author is woefully ignorant, and it is hoped that some of these people may be induced to publish their observations either in this journal or elsewhere.

Palmadusta gracilis (Gaskoin) subsp. *notata* (Gill).

Graceful Cowry. (Fig. 1, c and d.)

Description :— Shell pyriform or ovoid 1.6 cm. long and 0.9 cm. broad, back blue-green with very numerous pale brown dots and traces of two transverse bands reduced to some obscure grey-brown curved streaks. Margins cream, the right hand one suffused grey-brown with scattered dark-brown spots. Terminal spots purple-brown and ends blotched purple-brown below, base cream or yellowish. The animal is scarlet, matching the substratum on which it was found.

Kenya, Ras Ngomeni (S. Rawlins). Mr. Rawlins writes as follows: "Five or six specimens have been found . . . all at depths of about a foot below chart datum on the seaward side of the barrier reef which extends in a southerly direction for about 1,500 yards, commencing at the extremity of Ras Ngomeni. The molluscs were on a red coralline growth on the underside of coral boulders. The area is open to the full strength of the S. W. Monsoon and intercepts the permanent northerly coastal currents. It occurs together with *Mauritia mauritana* and *Thais* spp."

This race is recorded by the Schilders from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Suez and Djibuti, the Persian Gulf and Mekran Coast.

Using the key and calling the base 'coloured' although it is only slightly tinged, it would key to couplet 32, *felina* and *kieneri*, both of which it resembles slightly. It differs from both in having the ends blotched purple-brown *beneath*. If the base was considered white, then it would key to 42 or 43, *felina* and *fimbriata*. *P. fimbriata* is its closest ally and has the purple blotching beneath the ends but *P. fimbriata* is a much narrower species, 1.25-1.4 cm. by 0.7-0.8 cm., with very much smaller and more obscure marginal spots. The two species were once rather confused.

Palmadusta punctata (LINN.)

Brown-spotted Cowry. (Fig. 1, a and b.)

Description :— Shell ovoid-pyriform 1.7 cm. long and 0.95 cm. wide, the lower end rather projecting. Back tinged with flesh colour, vaguely banded as in *P. clandestina*, covered with distinct fairly numerous brown spots. Terminal spots at each end rather larger and darker brown. The projecting lower end is margined and slightly orange-tinged. The base of the shell is whitish or faintly tinged, with the teeth and lower end very pale orange. Animal red.

Kenya, Malindi, on deep new reef in five feet of water at very low tide (J. M. Nightingale). Mombasa, Florida reef, opposite the golf course (R. S. Benton).

The nominate race is recorded by the Schilders from Mauritius to Natal, Seychelles, Chagos Archipelago and Gulf of Aden and is everywhere rare.

Using the key and assuming the base to be coloured, the teeth are very slightly darker than the rest of the base and it would key to couplet 24 but is very much smaller than any of the four succeeding species. If the base was considered white or tinged it would key to couplet 40, but differs from *E. turdus* in being a very much smaller shell with different coloration.

Cribraria teres and *C. chinensis*.

Both these species have red animals.

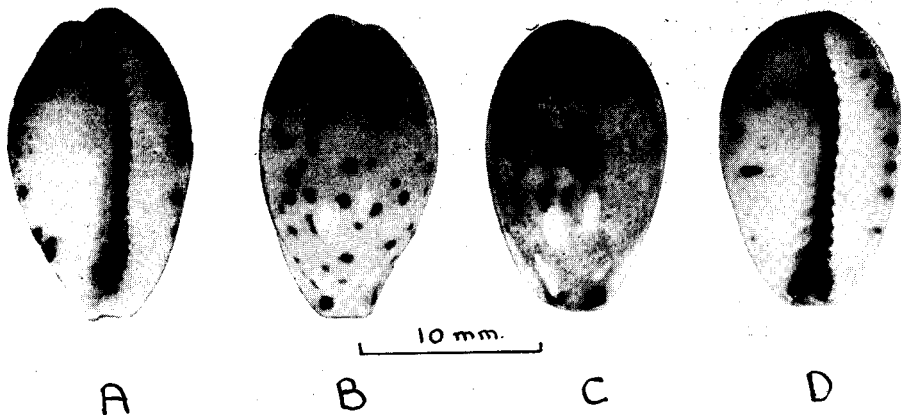


Fig. 1. (a) under side of *Palmadusta punctata*.
 (b) upper side of ditto.
 (c) upper side of *Palmadusta gracilis*.
 (d) under side of ditto.