

Plate 173. *Columbarium brayi* Clench. Fig. 1. Holotype. Fig. 2. Paratype. 150 fathoms off Cabo Codera, Venezuela (2.8x).

## THE GENUS MUREX IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC

BY

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### *Murex (Murex) finlayi* Clench

Plate 174, figs. 1-3

*Murex (Murex) finlayi* Clench 1955, *Breviora*, Museum of Comparative Zoology, no. 44, pp. 1-3, text figs. 1-3 (Matanzas Bay, Cuba).

**Description.** Shell reaching 93 mm. ( $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches) in length, rather solid in structure and moderately spinose. Whorls 10 and moderately convex. Nuclear whorls glass-like and smooth. Color brownish yellow to brownish cream with a few spiral threads of a darker



brown which follow the crests of the cords. Spire moderately extended. Suture irregular and deeply indented. Aperture subcircular and slightly oblique. Parietal lip glazed, adherent to the body whorl and fairly thick. Palatal lip crenulated and slightly thickened. Siphonal canal greatly extended, sometimes nearly half the length of the shell, usually curved upward and to the left when viewed dorsally. Two or three previously formed stages of the siphonal canal remain as scale-like spines. The sculpture consists of three equidistant varices, each supporting a rather large shoulder spine and maybe two or three smaller spines between the shoulder and the base of the shell. The varices on each whorl are more or less aligned with the varices on the whorl above. Between the varices there are two to four axial ridges which are strongly nodulose. Spiral sculpture consisting of numerous thread-like cords. The varices are formed by two arched plates, the plates on the aperture side being somewhat smaller, the outer (first formed) leaving a flange or web-like ridge as a crest on the varix. This is usually broken away on the early varices or remains as a series of small blade-like spines.

length	width	whorls	
87	30	10	Holotype
93	31	10	Paratype
85	33	10	Paratype
82.5	34	10	Paratype

*Types.* Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology, no. 189939 from shell trap, Matanzas Bay, Cuba, in 100 fathoms. Paratypes from the same locality in the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the collections of C. J. Finlay and E. H. Monroe.

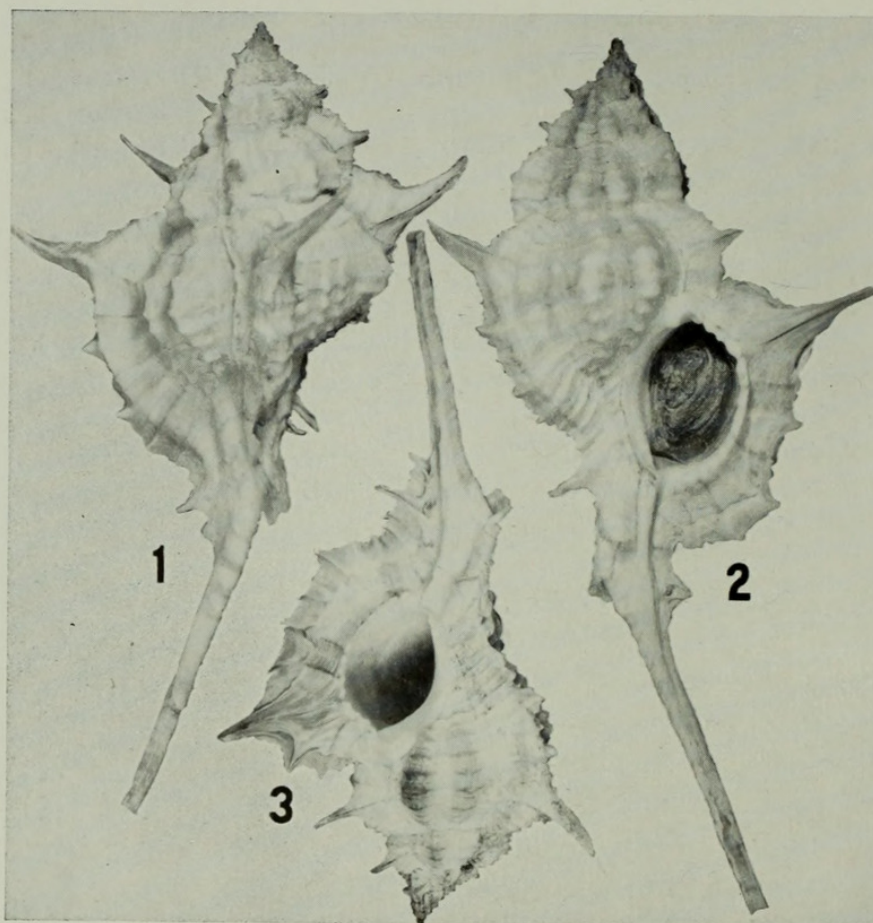


Plate 174. *Murex (Murex) finlayi* Clench. Figs. 1 and 3. Paratypes. Fig. 2. Holotype. 100 fathoms, Matanzas Bay, Cuba (all slightly enlarged).



*Remarks.* This species appears to be rather closely related to both *Murex antillarum* Hinds and *Murex beaulti* Fischer and Bernardi. From *M. antillarum* it differs by having fewer and much larger axial costae, having fewer spines, and in possessing a webbing along the varices and greatly extended siphonal canal. From *M. beaulti* it differs by having fewer and much larger axial costae, shorter spines, and not having the extensive webbing which characterizes *M. beaulti*. This present species may also be related to *M. aguayoi* Clench and Farfante but it differs from *aguayoi* by being larger, having the diffused brownish yellow coloration, fewer spines, larger axial costae and by having the webbing on the varices.

The development of the webbing and the greatly extended siphonal canal probably allows these mollusks to exist on a rather soft muddy bottom.

The subgenus *Murex* in which this species is included is a very complex group and of very wide distribution in nearly all tropical and south temperate seas.

### ***Murex (Murex) pulcher* A. Adams**

*Murex (Murex) pulcher* A. Adams. Clench and Farfante 1945, *Johnsonia* 1, no. 17, p. 23, pl. 12, figs. 1-4.

*Specimens examined.* BRASIL: *Hassler* Voyage off Salvador (Bahia) in 40 fathoms (S. Lat. 11°49'; W. Long. 37°20') (MCZ).

This record extends the range of this rare species from the Lesser Antilles to the coast of north central Brasil.

### ***Murex (Phyllonotus) pomum* Gmelin**

*Murex (Phyllonotus) pomum* Gmelin. Clench and Farfante 1945, *Johnsonia* 1, no. 17, p. 26, pl. 14, figs. 1-3.

*Specimens examined.* FLORIDA: St. Andrews Bay, Panama City (R. Work). TEXAS: 5 miles W of Rockport (MCZ), Port Aransas (T. Pulley).

### ***Murex (Phyllonotus) pomum margaritensis* Abbott**

Plate 175, figs. 1-2

*Murex imperialis* Swainson 1831, *Zoological Illustrations* (2) 2, pl. 67 (Island of Margarita [Venezuela]). Non *Murex imperialis* Fischer 1807.

*Murex (Phyllonotus) pomum* Gmelin. Clench and Farfante 1945 [in part] *Johnsonia* 1, no. 17, p. 26.

*Murex margaritensis* Abbott 1958, *Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, Monograph* no. 11, p. 61, pl. 1, figs. n and o. [New name for *Murex imperialis* Swainson, non Fischer].

In our *Johnsonia* number on *Murex* (1945, 1, no. 17, p. 26) we considered *Murex imperialis* to be a synonym of *Murex pomum* Gmelin. At that time we had seen no specimens so our judgment was based only upon descriptions and figures in Swainson, Reeve and Kiener, all of whom failed to show the deep pink coloration of the aperture. Abbott has mentioned several characters which distinguish this form from *pomum*. When a series of this form is examined, all of these characters, other than the pink coloration, are found in both *pomum* and *imperialis*. The number of varices on the body whorl vary in both forms, but the variation appears to be similar in both *pomum* and *imperialis*. There are two rows of spines on most specimens of *imperialis* we have seen, not one row as stated by Abbott.



Clench, William James. 1959. "The Genus Murex in the Western Atlantic."  
*Johnsonia* 3(39), 331–334.

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