

PROCEEDINGS
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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW *THRACIA* FROM SOUTH CAROLINA
(MOLLUSCA: PELECYPODA)

BY RICHARD E. PETIT

Ocean Drive Beach, South Carolina

In January of 1958 this writer found three specimens of *Thracia* in beach drift at low tide at Ocean Drive Beach, South Carolina. The specimens were alive when found. Although this is a very distinct species, description has been delayed in hopes that additional specimens would be found. However, no more living specimens have been seen to date. It is probable that this species is a borer in some soft material.

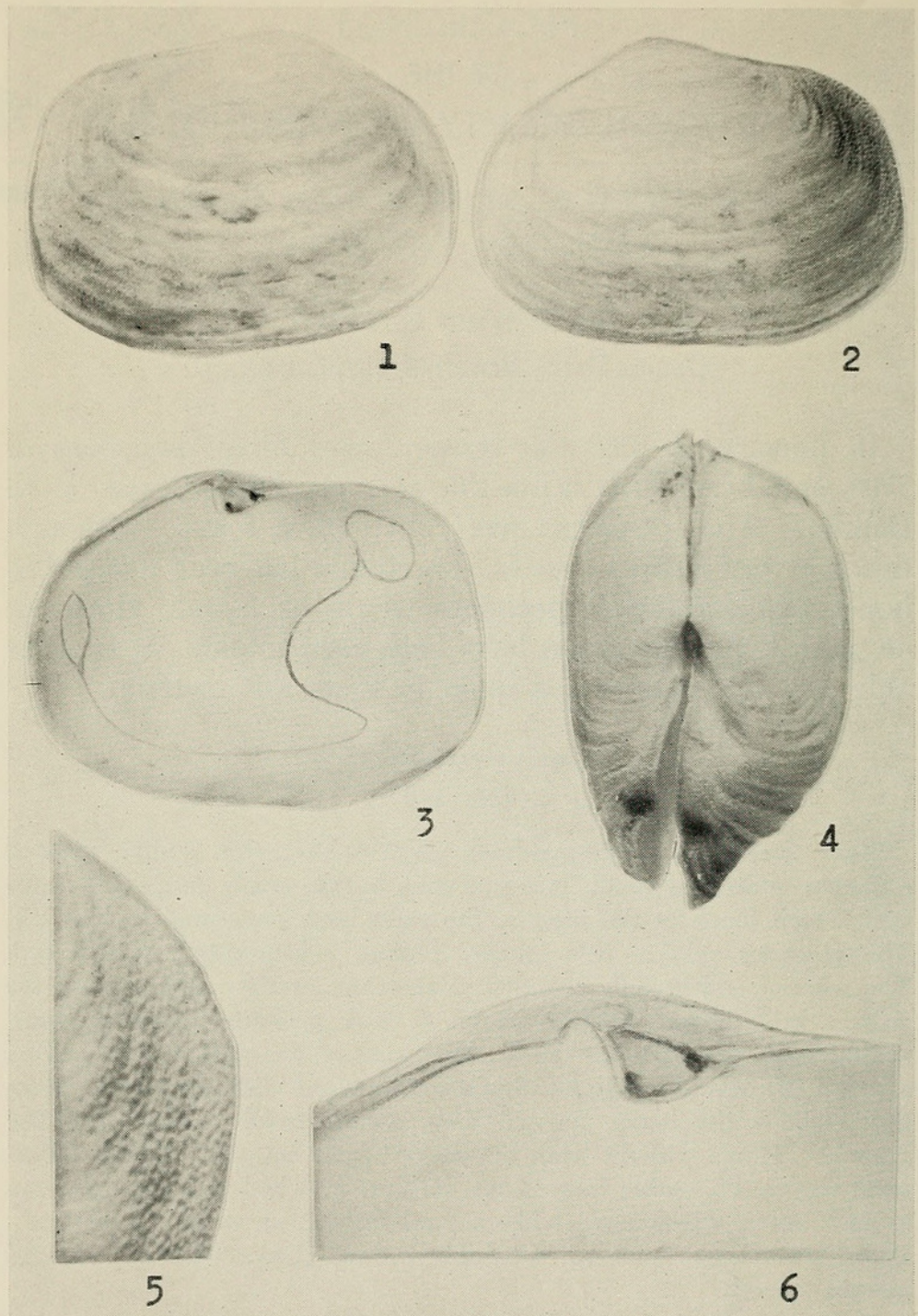
***Thracia morrisoni*, n. sp.**

(Figs. 1-6)

Shell irregularly ovate-quadrate, pure white, the undifferentiated umbones ending in small, inconspicuous beaks, nearly median in position, which touch at the margin, the right beak punctured by the left. The posterior side a little longer, gaping, subtruncated at the end. The anterior end broadly rounded. Valves are nearly equal, convex, the right a little larger. Surface shows a weak posterior umbonal angle, setting apart the posterior dorsal slope, that of the right valve carrying a radial rib near the margin. Surface sculptured with irregular concentric wrinkles, the whole covered with minute, hardly visible, sand-like granules. Hinge without teeth, ligament largely internal. External ligament very small, visible from above, resilium attached to a chondrophore in each valve, which project like a tooth behind an open cut or notch. Pallial sinus large, rounded, extending inward about one-third. Ventral margin smooth.

Holotype (Figs. 1-6), U. S. National Museum catalogue number 635218, measures 13 mm high \times 17.7 mm long. Diameter of both valves, 10.5 mm. One paratype (Fig. 4) measuring 11.2 mm high \times 15.6 mm long, diameter of both valves 9.3 mm, has been placed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, catalogue number 245145. Remaining paratype is in the Petit collection.

This species is respectfully named for Dr. Joseph P. E. Morrison, Associate Curator, Division of Mollusks, U.S. National Museum.



FIGS. 1-6. *Thracia morrisoni*, n. sp. All except Fig. 4 are of holotype. 1, right valve; 2, left valve; 3, interior of right valve, showing the pallial sinus faintly; 4, MCZ paratype, dorsal view; the small black space behind the beaks is the small external section of the ligament; 5, greatly enlarged portion of left valve to show fine granulation; 6, enlarged detail of hinge of right valve.

The Panopea-like shape of this species is characteristic. It, or a close relative, has been variously identified by Dall 1886, and Johnson 1934, as *Thracia corbuloidea* Blainville 1824, and *T. distorta* Montagu 1808. This new species from the Carolina coast differs from *T. corbuloidea* Blainville by its regular quadrate-elliptic profile, without sinuosity of the ventral margin. It differs from *T. distorta* Montagu of European waters and from *T. rugosa* Orbigny 1846, of Brazil, by its central umbones. In this new species, anterior and posterior regions of the shell are almost exactly equal in length.

It is proportionately shorter than *T. similis* Couthouy 1839 of Brazil. This species does not have the thinner shell and concentric ridges of *Thracia* (*Cyathodonta*) *cruziana* Dall. The surface is reminiscent of the rugosity (slight pock-marking) of *T. squamosa* Carpenter, from Baja California. I believe this species belongs to the subgenus or group named *Ixartia*.



Petit, Richard E. 1964. "A new *Thracia* from South Carolina (Mollusca: Pelecypoda)." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 77, 157–159.

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