

# Additions to the Molluscan Fauna of Clipperton Island

BY

LEO G. HERTLEIN

Department of Geology, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California 94118

AND

EDWIN C. ALLISON

Department of Geology, San Diego State College, San Diego, California 92115

MOLLUSKS COLLECTED by the junior author and his colleagues during two cruises of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Research Vessel *Spencer F. Baird* to Clipperton Island (1956 and 1958) have been reported in preliminary form in three previous notes in *The Veliger* (ALLISON, 1959; HERTLEIN & ALLISON, 1960a; HERTLEIN & ALLISON, 1960b). Species identified in the collections of earlier expeditions and a review of pertinent literature concerning that island are discussed by the senior author in collaboration with William K. Emerson (HERTLEIN & EMERSON, 1958). More comprehensive discussions of Clipperton Island natural history appear in the works of SACHET (1960, 1962a, 1962b, 1962c, 1963). The species reported in the present paper represent all other mollusks recognized in currently available Clipperton Island collections, including those recently dredged from the *Baird* during the expedition CARROUSEL (11 August, 1964).

The unique combination of Eastern Pacific and Indo-Pacific elements in the Clipperton Island biota has required the aid of authorities and collections other than those immediately available to the authors. We gratefully acknowledge aid received from Dr. E. Alison Kay, General Science Department, University of Hawaii, who generously gave of her time to check the identifications of several specimens with similar ones in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Dr. A. Myra Keen, Department of Geology, Stanford University, furnished information concerning the vermetid forms in Clipperton Island collections; Dr. Ruth Turner, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, furnished identifications of species of *Lithophaga* and *Martesia*; and Dr. Hendryk Stenzel, Shell Development Corporation, Houston, Texas, contributed useful comments concerning the species of *Ostrea*; as did A. G. Smith, California Academy of Sciences, concerning the species of *Ischnochiton*.

## PELECYPODA

### ARCIDAE

#### *Arca mutabilis* (SOWERBY, 1833)

One left valve from beach drift; 23 mm long; one juvenile valve comparable to this species was dredged at depth of 92 m off southeastern side of island.

#### *Barbatia reeveana* (D'ORBIGNY, 1846)

One specimen, 24.4 mm long, from beach drift.

#### *Barbatia reeveana* (D'ORBIGNY, 1846) (form *velataformis* SHELDON & MAURY, 1922)

Two somewhat worn valves, both about 41 mm long, from beach drift.

#### *Acar* cf. *A. laysana* DALL, BARTSCH & REHDER, 1938

One small specimen, about 5 mm long, found living in live colony of coral *Pocillopora* at about 15 m depth on north side of island.

### MYTILIDAE

#### *Lithophaga hancocki* SOOT-RYEN, 1955

Living in coral along outer edge of "10 fathom" terrace (depth 10 to 16 m).

#### *Lithophaga plumula* HANLEY, 1843

Commonly living in coral rock along outer part of reef flat.

#### *Lithophaga* (*Stumpiella*) *calyculata* (CARPENTER, 1856)

One well preserved specimen dredged at depth of 92 m off southeastern side of island.

### PINNIDAE

#### *Pinna* species

Dead specimens seen *in situ* in sediment patches in lagoon at depth of 8 to 10 m.



## PTERIIDAE

*Pinctada mazatlanica* (HANLEY, 1856)

Living specimens immediately below outer edge of "10 fathom terrace," at depths of 30 to 35 m, on north side of island; dead specimens with ligament in place collected in 1958 on northern portion of island surface which was then strewn with shells and coral debris deposited by recent storm waves; dead specimens in lagoon and on beaches of island.

## ISOGNOMONIDAE

*Isognomon chemnitzianum* (D'ORBIGNY, 1853)

Dead valves from beach.

*Isognomon janus* CARPENTER, 1856

Living specimens commonly attached to dead coral blocks on reef flat; dead specimens on beaches around island.

## SPONDYLIDAE

*Spondylus gloriosus* DALL, BARTSCH & REHDER, 1938

Living near outer edge of "10 fathom terrace" at depths greater than 15 m and observed downward to about 45 m, the maximum depth reached during collecting dives; robust dead specimens occur commonly in coarse coral debris of beaches around island; specimens with delicate spines occur with fossil coral reef assemblages of shallow areas in lagoon.

Figures of specimens apparently identical with those from Clipperton Island appear in *Hawaiian Shell News* (Vol. 11, no. 5, new ser., no. 39, p. 1, figs. 1, 2) for March, 1963. The Hawaiian specimens were collected by SCUBA divers off Maui.

## OSTREIDAE

*Ostrea hyotis* LINNAEUS, 1758

Small specimens commonly living off shore near limit of deepest dives (40 to 45 m); large specimens found living only off outer edge of "10 fathom terrace;" large dead specimens found *in situ* among fossil coral reefs of lagoon, commonly at depths greater than 10 m below present water level of lagoon; isolated dead valves on beach but large examples common only among fresh debris deposited on north side of island by storm waves preceding 1958 expedition.

## LUCINIDAE

*Codakia distinguenda* (TRYON, 1872)

Several valves, reaching a maximum length of 91 mm, from fossil assemblages in lagoon and from beach drift around perimeter of island.

*Codakia thaanumi* PILSBRY, 1918

Valves, up to 64 mm long, common in sediment (containing fossils) in lagoon.

*Ctena clippertonensis* BARTSCH & REHDER, 1939

Living among sand and dead coral debris on reef flat and off shore to depths of about 15 m; largest specimen 15.6 mm long.

## CHAMIDAE

*Chama squamuligera rubropicta* BARTSCH & REHDER, 1939

Numerous isolated valves mostly about 16 mm long, from beach drift around island; living specimens from below "10 fathom terrace" to depths of deepest dives (40 to 45 m); one eroded lower valve attached to coral with specimen of *Codakia thaanumi* which evidently came from lagoon; several valves dredged at a depth of 92 m off southeastern side of island.

## GASTROCHAENIDAE

*Gastrochaena (Rocellaria) ovata* SOWERBY, 1834

A number of living specimens were dredged at a depth of 92 m off southeastern side of island.

## PHOLADIDAE

*Martesia striata* (LINNAEUS, 1758)

Dead specimens with valves together from coral debris at depth of 10 to 12 m off north side of island; valves common in beach debris.

## GASTROPODA

## FISSURELLIDAE

*Diodora granifera* (PEASE, 1861)

Commonly living under boulders on reef flat areas strewn with loose blocks of dead coral but free from exposed sand, particularly evident near middle of reef flat on north side of island; dead shells rare on beaches; juvenile shell, probably referable to this species, dredged at depth of 92 m off southeastern side of island.

## CYCLOSTREMATIDAE

*Cyclostrema cingulifera* A. ADAMS, 1850

Commonly living in protection of algae and tubeworms on outer edge of reef flat.

## EULIMIDAE

*Balcis* cf. *B. cumingi medipacifica* (PILSBRY, 1917)

Dead shell from reef flat on south side of island.

*Balcis thaanumi* (PILSBRY, 1917)

Common among boulders in reef flat tide pools on west side of island; none living, but many shells occupied by hermit crabs.

*Balcis vafra* (PILSBRY, 1917)

Dead specimen from tide pool near shore, on west side of island.



## ARCHITECTONICIDAE

*Heliacus infundibulum strigata* (HANLEY, 1863)

One dead specimen from beach drift on northeast side of island.

## VERMETIDAE

*Petalococonchus* (*Macrophragma*) species

Dead shells in beach drift.

*Spiroglyphus* cf. *S. platypus* (MÖRCH, 1861)

Dead shells in beach drift.

## CERITHIIDAE

*Cerithium nesioticum* PILSBRY & VANATTA, 1906

Dead shells from beach drift on all sides of island; particularly common (dead) in tide pools on west side of island.

## COLUBRARIIDAE

*Colubraria* species

No living specimens found; dead shells fairly common in beach drift and in tide pools on west side of island; specimens occupied by hermit crabs found on north side of island at depths from 10 to 15 m.

## MURICIDAE

*Ocenebra* cf. *O. vittata* (BRODERIP, 1833)

Juvenile specimen comparable to BRODERIP's species dredged at depth of 92 m off southeastern side of island.

## GALEODIDAE [VOLEMIDAE]

*Pugilina lactea* (REEVE, 1847)

A single specimen in the University of California Museum of Paleontology collection, with the locality "No. 7191, Clipperton Island." It agrees well with REEVE's illustration of *Pyrula lactea* REEVE which was originally described from the Philippine Islands. No examples or fragments were recovered during recent expeditions to Clipperton Island. Confirmation of this record of occurrence is desirable.

## FASCIOLARIIDAE

*Fasciolaria princeps* SOWERBY, 1825

One dead specimen from beach drift on west side of island.

*Latirus* aff. *L. socorroensis* HERTLEIN & STRONG, 1951

Represented by a single dead specimen from beach drift on northwestern side of island; sculpture more rugose than on the typical form.

*Peristernia thaunumi* PILSBRY & BRYAN, 1918

Living specimens collected from north side of island near outer edge of "10 fathom terrace," at depths of

from 10 to 20 m; dead specimens common in beach drift of north and west sides of island.

## ACHATINIDAE

*Opeas opanum* (PFEIFFER, 1846)

Living commonly in protection of rock and plant debris on island.

## AMPHINEURA

## ISCHNOCHITONIDAE

*Ischnochiton* species

Specimens of small, as yet unidentified, *Ischnochiton* from beneath boulders on outer part of reef flat along north side of island.

## LITERATURE CITED

ALLISON, EDWIN C.

1959. Distribution of *Conus* on Clipperton Island. *The Veliger* 1 (4): 32-34 (1 April 1959)

HERTLEIN, LEO GEORGE

1937. A note of some species of marine mollusks occurring in both Polynesia and the western Americas. *Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* 78 (2): 303-312; 1 plt.; 1 map

HERTLEIN, LEO G. & EDWIN C. ALLISON

1960 a. Species of the genus *Cypraea* from Clipperton Island. *The Veliger* 2 (4): 94-95; plt. 22 (1 April 1960)

1960 b. Gastropods from Clipperton Island. *The Veliger* 3 (1): 13-16 (1 July 1960)

HERTLEIN, LEO GEORGE & WILLIAM K. EMERSON

1953. Mollusks from Clipperton Island (eastern Pacific) with the description of a new species of gastropod. *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.* 11 (13: 345-364; pls. 26, 26 (22 Jul. '53)

SACHET, MARIE-HÉLÈNE

1960. Histoire de l'île Clipperton. *Cahiers du Pacifique* 2: 1-32; 1 plt. [with bibliography]

1962 a. Flora and vegetation of Clipperton Island. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., Ser. 4*, 31 (10): 249-307; 12 text figs.; 1 map (7 March 1962)

1962 b. Geography and land ecology of Clipperton Island. *Atoll Res. Bull.* 86: i-iii + 1-115; 4 figs; 5 tables (Issued by the Pacific Science Board, National Academy of Sciences - Nat. Res. Council, Washington, D.C.) (28 Feb. '62)

1962 c. Monographie physique et biologique de l'île Clipperton. *Ann. Inst. Océanograph. (Paris)*, 40 (1): 1-107; pls. 1-12; 3 text figs.; 3 tables [Mollusca: 94-95]

1963. History of change in the biota of Clipperton Island. *Pacific Basin Biogeography. A Symposium*, ed. J. L. Gressitt. B. P. Bishop Mus. Press, pp. 525-534



Hertlein, Leo George. 1966. "Additions to the molluscan fauna of Clipperton Island." *The veliger* 9, 138–140.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/134958>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/97326>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: California Malacozoological Society

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.