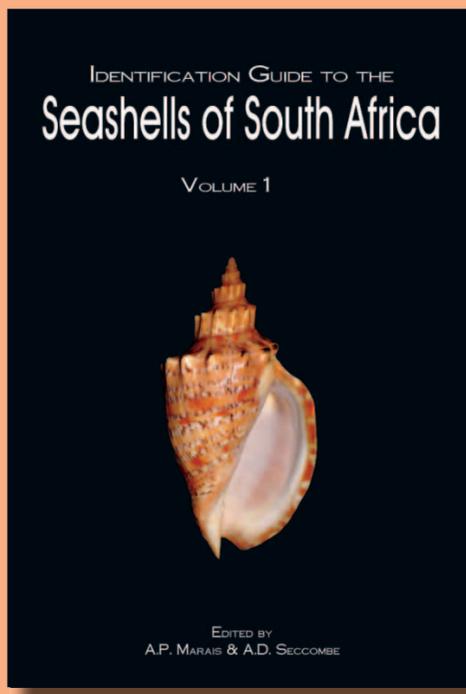


New Release

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE Seashells of South Africa

VOLUME 1

EDITORS: AP MARAIS & AD SECCOMBE



Live *Babylonica papillaris*.

Molluscs inhabiting the east coast of South Africa are largely of Indo-Pacific origin, while a small proportion of species of West African origin occur along the Cape west coast. A high concentration of endemic species is found in the south of the country where the warm Agulhas Current from the east meets the cold Benguela Current from the west.



Bullia rhodostoma feeding on an insect.

This Identification Guide includes practically all described species (in the families discussed here) known from the intertidal zone and the continental shelf and its slope, within the boundaries of the country.

THE BOOK INCLUDES

- Discussions of the 11 neogastropod families, Buccinidae, Colubrariidae, Columbellidae, Fascioliariidae, Nasariidae, Melongenidae, Muricidae, Babyloniidae, Turbinellidae, Ptychactridae and Volutidae.
- A short description of 485 species (including micro-molluscs).
- Highlights of distinguishing features.
- Colour photographs of each shell (front & back view).
- Morphological variation within species, if significant.
- Illustrations of 155 type specimens.
- Data on distribution and habitat.
- Type data of each species.
- A restricted bibliography of relevant scientific journals.
- A classification of South African molluscs.
- A checklist of species and variations discussed.
- A glossary of scientific terms used in the text.
- A comprehensive cross-reference index of species.

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EXAMPLE OF PAGES

Dermomurex (Takia) africanus
Vokes, 1978

Varies 6 per whorl, strap-like, spirally arranged, sometimes with broad intervarical node. Intraverticals with widely spaced, shallow spiral grooves, shell underneath with fine, close-set scaly or bead-like spiral threads. Inner lip erect. Outer lip finely scalloped, with 5 faint denticles within. Siphonal canal strongly recurved forming an umbilicus. Chalaz, creamy/white intraverticals, light brown underneath. 15 mm.

Distribution and habitat: Zululand to southern Natal, in 100 m, on muddy, coral rubble bottom.

Note: Closely related to *Dermomurex infrons* (Vokes, 1964), but less elongated, with a much shorter and more recurved siphonal canal. Sometimes found on pines. Rare.

Types: Holotype NMSA A246; type loc. off Zululand, ex place.

Dermomurex africanus with intraverticals intact.

Bottom left: Holotype in NMSA.
Bottom right: Radula of *Dermomurex africanus* (SEM A. Warren).

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Mitrella cuspidata
Lussi, 2009

Glossy, cream colour with yellowish-brown axial rectangles or spiral brown lines, subaxial area and protoconch white. Spire and spire whorls flat-sided, suture scarcely indented; protoconch conical, acute, smooth, broadly 1.79 mm. Aperture slightly shorter than spire, siphonal canal constricted. Smooth, except for ca 9 rounded spiral ridges on base of last whorl. Outer lip thick, interior with about 5 denticles. Attains 8 mm.

Distribution and habitat: off central Natal, 150 m, on rubble and sponge bottom; known only from type locality.

Note: Differs from *M. epizota* in its smaller size, conical protoconch and different colour pattern.

Types: Holotype, NMSA W6848. Paratypes in private hands; type loc. off Umhlabo Canal, Durban, in ca 150 m.

Mitrella dupreezei
Lussi, 2002

A slender species with a long aperture (nearly equal to the spire) and tapering base, whorls only slightly convex. Pale orange or flesh-colour with paler base, patterned by spiral rows of darker orange spots and dots. Sculptured by minute, rounded, close-set spiral threads, developing most strongly on back of last whorl. Axial sculpture variable; ranging from smooth shells to ones with low axial folds, strongest on last whorl above the base. Columella smooth. Outer lip slightly thickened, smooth inside. Length ca 7 mm.

Distribution and habitat: Natal to southern Mozambique, in 60–80 m.

Note: Similar in shape to *Mitrella jacoti*, but differs in colour pattern and in having microscopic spiral striae. Usually found when gutting slinger fish (*Chrysoblephus puniceus*). Uncommon.

Types: Holotype, NMSA V9945; paratypes in NMSA and private hands; type loc. off Richards Bay, Zululand, from gut of fish caught in about 70 m.

Specimen showing distinct axial sculpture.

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Afr. africanus
Lussi, 2009

Subspherical to low, rounded shell shape, low protoconch and shallow suture. Shell surface with numerous spiral and axial nodules. Suture with numerous small, rounded nodules. Outer lip with numerous small, rounded nodules. Length 54 mm.

Distribution and habitat: Offshore of St. Lucia, Natal, in 100 m, on muddy, coral rubble bottom.

Note: Distinctly different from *Afr. africanus* (Lussi, 2009) in its smaller size, more rounded shell shape and more numerous spiral and axial nodules. Rare.

Types: Holotype, NMSA W6848; paratypes in private hands; type loc. off Richards Bay, Zululand, in ca 150 m.

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Africomurex capensis capensis
(Parker & Hodge, 1958)

Varies 6 per whorl, strap-like, spirally arranged, sometimes with broad intervarical node. Intraverticals with widely spaced, shallow spiral grooves, shell underneath with fine, close-set scaly or bead-like spiral threads. Inner lip erect. Outer lip finely scalloped, with 5 faint denticles within. Siphonal canal strongly recurved forming an umbilicus. Chalaz, creamy/white intraverticals, light brown underneath. 15 mm.

Distribution and habitat: Zululand to southern Natal, in 100 m, on muddy, coral rubble bottom.

Note: Closely related to *Dermomurex infrons* (Vokes, 1964), but less elongated, with a much shorter and more recurved siphonal canal. Sometimes found on pines. Rare.

Types: Holotype, NMSA A246; type loc. off Zululand, ex place.

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Fatolofus lamarum
Lussi, 2009

Slender, spindle-shaped, conical shell with a long aperture. Spire and spire whorls flat-sided, suture scarcely indented; protoconch conical, acute, smooth, broadly 1.79 mm. Aperture slightly shorter than spire, siphonal canal constricted. Smooth, except for ca 9 rounded spiral ridges on base of last whorl. Outer lip thick, interior with about 5 denticles. Attains 8 mm.

Distribution and habitat: off central Natal, 150 m, on rubble and sponge bottom; known only from type locality.

Note: Differs from *M. epizota* in its smaller size, conical protoconch and different colour pattern.

Types: Holotype, NMSA W6848. Paratypes in private hands; type loc. off Umhlabo Canal, Durban, in ca 150 m.

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Fenestrifera africana
(Lussi, 2002)

Slender, spindle-shaped, conical shell with a long aperture. Spire and spire whorls flat-sided, suture scarcely indented; protoconch conical, acute, smooth, broadly 1.79 mm. Aperture slightly shorter than spire, siphonal canal constricted. Smooth, except for ca 9 rounded spiral ridges on base of last whorl. Outer lip thick, interior with about 5 denticles. Attains 8 mm.

Distribution and habitat: off central Natal, 150 m, on rubble and sponge bottom; known only from type locality.

Note: Differs from *M. epizota* in its smaller size, conical protoconch and different colour pattern.

Types: Holotype, NMSA W6848. Paratypes in private hands; type loc. off Umhlabo Canal, Durban, in ca 150 m.

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