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Colinatys Ortea, Moro et Espinosa, 2013 from Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Opisthobranchia Haminoeidae)

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ABSTRACT Two shells of the genus *Colinatys* Ortea, Moro et Espinosa, 2013 (Opistobranchia Haminoeidae), similar to *Colinatys alayoi* (Espinosa et Ortea, 2004), type species of the genus, are reported from Larnaca, Cyprus. The presence of the species in the Mediterranean Sea is discussed.

KEY WORDS *Colinatys*; Haminoeidae; new records; Mediterranean Sea.

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Colinatys sp.

EXAMINED MATERIAL. 2 shells from Larnaca, Cyprus, depth 43 m, May, 2011, picked from bioclastic bottom samples collected by SCUBA near wreck of ferry MS Zenobia, 34°53'52"N 33°39'25"E. Specimen 1, H = 1.35 mm, W = 0.85 mm. (Figs. 1–4), in Alessandro Raveggi collection; specimen 2, H = 1.60 mm, W = 1.20 (Figs. 1–6), in Stefano Bartolini collection.

DESCRIPTION. Shell small, translucent, colorless, involutely coiled, subcylindrical-pyriform, truncated, periphery below center of the smoothly rounded body whorl. Aperture longer than spire, narrow posteriorly, widening anteriorly. Umbilicus narrow, partially obscured by the slightly flared columellar lip. Spire concave, nearly covered by final whorl, leaving a narrow opening through which the protoconch can be seen. Outer lip sharp, straight to slightly concave above periphery, convex below. Sculpture of weakly encised, whitish spiral bands of irregular widths, interrupted by stronger closely packed orthocline axial growth lines, dividing the bands into of rows of squared to elongated pits. Within the apical depression only axial sculpture is evident. The shell surface has a wrinkled, weakly reticulated appearance. The whitish appearing spiral bands are visible within the aperture through the translucent shell (Figs. 1–6).

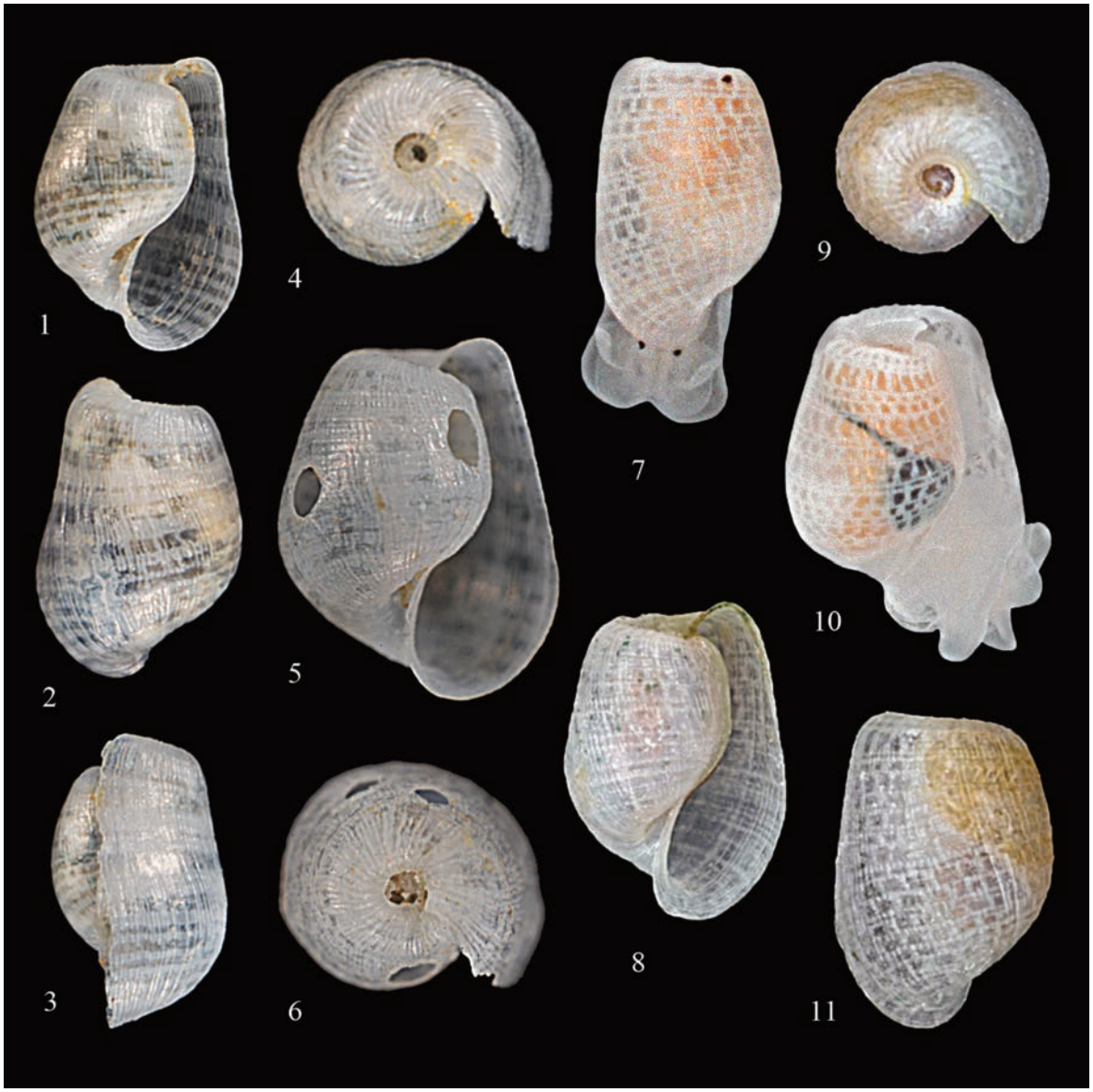
DISCUSSION

No European Opisthobranchs nor alien indo-pacific species recorded from Cyprus (Öztürk et al., 2004; Tsiakkiros & Zenetos, 2011) have similar shells.

Considering that many alien marine organisms have settled in the Eastern Mediterranean during recent years (Zenetos et al., 2010), an extensive bibliographic survey was carried out of shelled opisthobranchs of the Indo-Pacific and neighboring areas but was unsuccessful in finding similar species (Issel, 1869; Hedley, 1899a-c; Habe, 1964;

Maes, 1967; Keen, 1971; Kay, 1979; Powell, 1979; Kilburn & Rippey, 1982; Sharabati, 1984; Lin & Qi, 1985; Springsteen & Leobrera, 1986; Kay & Schoenberg-Dole, 1991; Higo et al., 1999, 2001; Jansen, 2000; Okutani, 2000; Hasegawa, 2001, 2005; Hasegawa et al., 2001a-b; Qi, 2004; Dharma, 2005; Thach, 2005; Poppe, 2008; Sasaki, 2008; Valdés, 2008; Yonow, 2008, 2012; Zenetos et al., 2010).

Surprisingly, we found that our shell most closely resemble *Colinatys alayoi* (Espinosa et Ortea, 2004) (Figs. 7–11), known from Cuba, Florida and Bahamas (Espinosa & Ortea, 2004; Ortea et al., 2013; Redfern, 2013). The genus *Colinatys* Ortea, Moro et Espinosa, 2013 was erected for this species on anatomical grounds, which was originally assigned to *Atys* Montfort, 1810, then transferred to *Retusa* T. Brown, 1827 (Valdés et al., 2006; Rosenberg et al., 2009). No other species have been assigned to the genus.



Figures 1–6. *Colinatys* sp., Larnaca (Cyprus), Figs. 1–4: 1.35 mm, Figs. 5, 6: 1.60 mm; Figs. 7–11. *Colinatys alayoi* (Espinosa et Ortea, 2004), Bahamas, Figs. 7, 8: 1.50 mm, Figs. 9, 10: 1.00 mm, Figs. 11: 2.00 mm (from Redfern, 2013, modified).

Our shells match agree with the conchological characters of *Colinatys*, but we prefer not to assign them to *alayoi* as doubts on conspecificity remain due to differencens of the shell colour pattern (*C. alayoi* has a more marked "checkerboard" pattern), absence of anatomical information and very long distance from typical range. Additional material, particularly live collected specimens for anatomical comparison, are needed to establish the presence of an established population and to clarify its status and relationships. Whether the present species is Mediterranean, Lessepsian, or of other origin is unknown, so we prefer to consider *Colinatys* sp. a cryptogenic species (Carlton, 1996).

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