

***Haliotis arabiensis* Owen *et al.*, 2016 specimens from Oman in the Naturalis Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands, Incorrectly Identified as *H. varia* Linnaeus, 1758, and *H. pustulata* Reeve, 1846**

Buzz Owen¹ and Wilco Regter²

¹ P.O. Box 601, Gualala, California 95445

buzabman@mcn.org

² 1 Cleadon Gardens, Gateshead, NE9 7BA, United Kingdom

wilco-regter@hotmail.com

INTRODUCTION

This brief paper closely follows the publication of a *Haliotis* species new to science (*H. arabiensis* Owen, Regter, and Van Laethem, 2016), and presents the results of an examination of Omani *Haliotis* deposited in the Naturalis Museum of Leiden, Netherlands (NCB). Of the 35 total lots in this collection, 18 are catalogued as either *H. pustulata* Reeve, 1846 (now *H. rugosa pustulata*) or *H. varia* Linnaeus, 1758. The remaining 17 lots can clearly be attributed to *H. mariae* W. Wood, 1828, the common commercially taken *Haliotis* of Oman.

Regter visited the Museum in April, 2016, and photographed all specimens identified as *H. pustulata* or *H. varia*. Examination of this material clearly revealed the entire group of 27 shells were the newly described species (with the exception of one specimen of typical Philippine *H. varia* labeled as being from “Kuwait” – an obvious error).

Twenty five of the 27 specimens are illustrated on Figures 1 and 2, while Figure 3 (Tables 1 and 2) provides a key to the data for each lot when compared to the number accompanying each of the 25 specimens.

Remarks: The following background information provides details on how these specimens arrived into the Naturalis Museum collection: Robert G. Molenbeek and several other malacologists were involved with the publication of the book “Seashells of Eastern Arabia” (Bosch *et al.*, 1995) and shells collected in Oman by him and other malacologists were added to Zoological Museum Amsterdam

(ZMA), Netherlands. A few years ago this ZMA collection was consolidated into the Dutch National Biodiversity Collection (NBC) in Leiden. Information on the shell data tags in the NBC collection seems to indicate that the species can also be found intertidally. Perhaps due to increased collection pressures locally, or an increased human population, this might now be more difficult. Currently, it is against the law to collect any mollusks in Oman.

The type and two paratype specimens of *H. arabiensis* are illustrated on Figure 2, images 13-15, and three specimens from United Arab Emirates are on Figure 3, images 1-4. Figure 3 also has a map of the areas where specimens have been found. (Owen *et al.*, 2016)

Abbreviations of Collections: NMNZ: National Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand; WRC: Wilco Regter Collection, United Kingdom; BOC: Buzz Owen Collection; ARC: Arjay Raffety Collection.

REFERENCES

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- Owen, B., W. Regter & K. Van Laethem, 2016.** Review of the *Haliotis* of Yemen and Oman with Description of a New Species, *Haliotis arabiensis*, from Oman and United Arab Emirates. The Festivus 48(2):84-87, 5 figures.

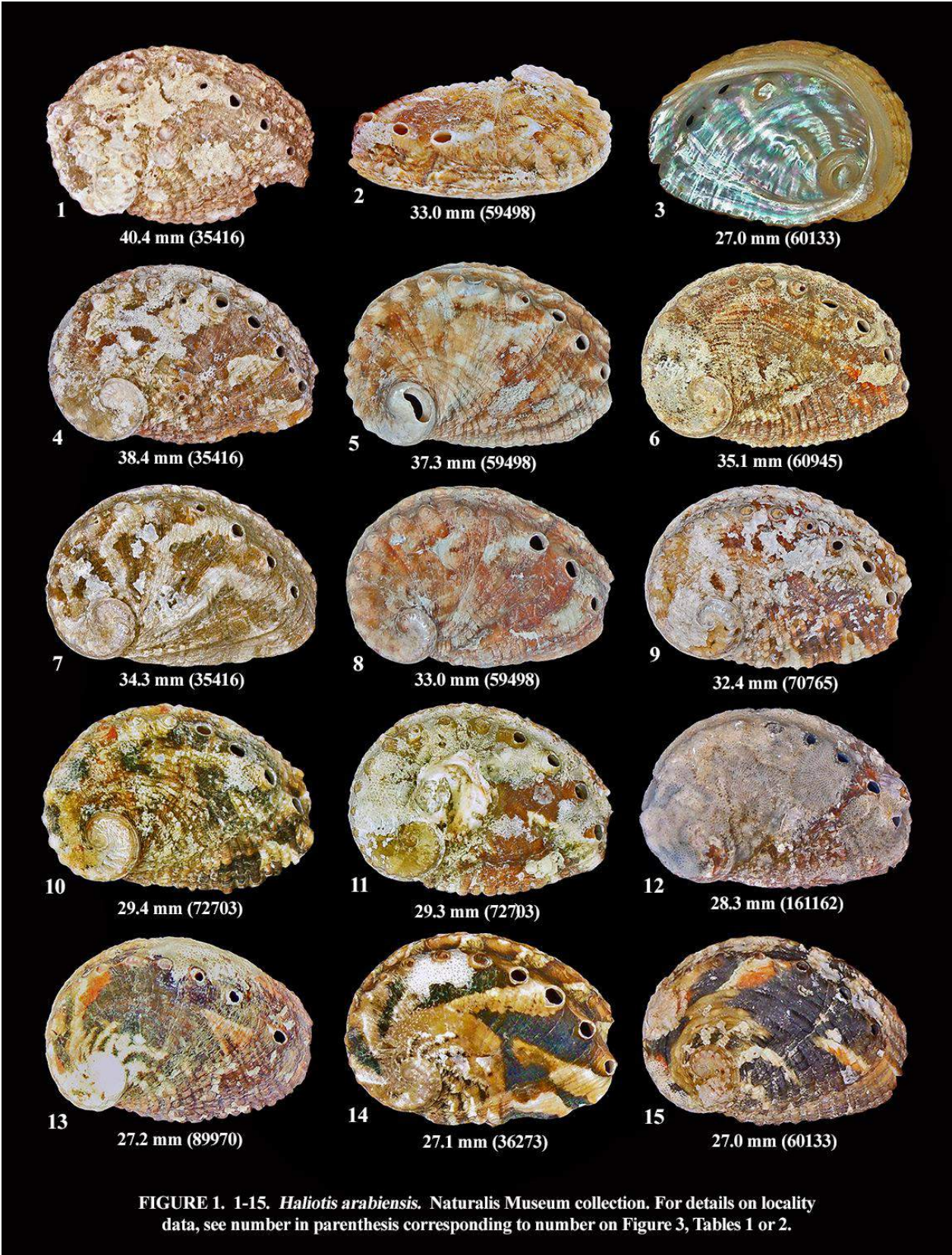


FIGURE 1. 1-15. *Haliotis arabiensis*. Naturalis Museum collection. For details on locality data, see number in parenthesis corresponding to number on Figure 3, Tables 1 or 2.

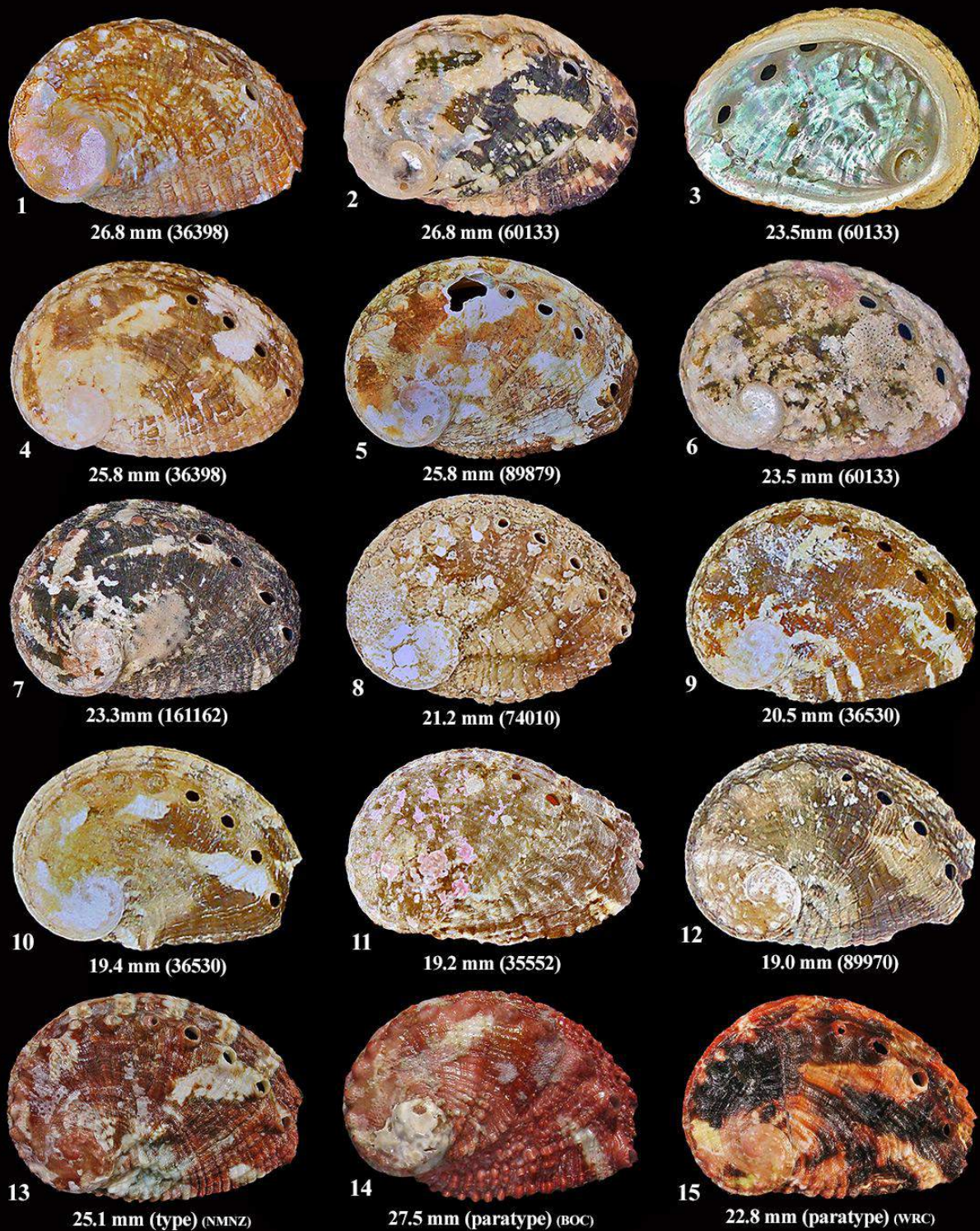


FIGURE 2. 1-12. *Haliotis arabiensis*. Naturalis Museum collection. 13-15 type and paratypes. For details on locality data, see number in parenthesis corresponding to number on Figure 3, Tables 1 or 2.

Table 1 - *Haliotis arabiensis* specimens in Naturalis Museum Collection

Registration Number:	Originally Identified As:	Locality (in Oman):	Plate & Fig. no:	Size (mm)
ZMA.MOLL.35416	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Masirah Is., E. coast	1-1	40.4
ZMA.MOLL.59498	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Masirah Is., Ras Radum, E. coast	1-2	33.0
ZMA.MOLL.60133	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Muscat, 1991	1-3	27.0
ZMA.MOLL.35416	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Masirah Is., E. coast	1-4	38.4
ZMA.MOLL.59498	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Masirah Is., Ras Radum, E. coast	1-5	37.3
ZMA.MOLL.60945	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Masirah Is., Ras Radum, E. coast	1-6	35.1
ZMA.MOLL.35416	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Masirah Is., E. coast	1-7	34.3
ZMA.MOLL.59498	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Masirah Is., Ras Radum, E. coast	1-8	33.0
ZMA.MOLL.70765	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Masirah Is., Ras Ad Dan	1-9	32.4
ZMA.MOLL.72703	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Masirah Is., Haql, beach. 1997	1-10	29.4
ZMA.MOLL.72703	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Masirah Is., Haql, beach. 1997	1-11	29.3
ZMA.MOLL.161162	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Al Bustan, Jan. 2003	1-12	28.3
ZMA.MOLL.89970	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Oman (only data)	1-13	27.2
ZMA.MOLL.36273	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Masirah Is., E. coast	1-14	27.1
ZMA.MOLL.60133	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Muscat, 1991	1-15	27.0

Table 2 - *Haliotis arabiensis* specimens in Naturalis Museum Collection

Registration Number:	Originally Identified As:	Locality (in Oman):	Plate & Fig. no:	Size (mm)
ZMA.MOLL.35416	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Haramal near Muscat, 1991	2-1	26.8
ZMA.MOLL.60133	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Muscat, 1991	2-2	26.8
ZMA.MOLL.60133	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Muscat, 1991	2-3	23.5
ZMA.MOLL.36398	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Haramal near Muscat, 1991	2-4	25.8
ZMA.MOLL.89879	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Oman	2-5	25.8
ZMA.MOLL.60133	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Muscat, 1991	2-6	23.5
ZMA.MOLL.161162	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Al Bustan, 1/2003	2-7	23.3
ZMA.MOLL.74010	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Dhofar Province, Hoon's Bay 11/2003	2-8	21.2
ZMA.MOLL.36530	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Haramal near Muscat 11/1991	2-9	20.5
ZMA.MOLL.36530	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Haramal near Muscat 11/1991	2-10	19.4
ZMA.MOLL.35552	<i>Haliotis varia</i>	Between Haramal and Al Bustan	2-11	19.2
ZMA.MOLL.89970	<i>Haliotis pustulata</i>	Oman	2-12	19.0



FIGURE 3 - Tables 1 & 2: *Haliotis arabiensis* specimens in Naturalis Museum with locality data corresponding to numbers appearing on Figs. 1 and 2. MAP: Red dots indicate localities specimens taken. 1-4: Specimens from Fujairah area of United Arab Emirates. 12-15 m.