

## ENSIS DIRECTUS (CONRAD 1843) (BIVALVIA: SOLENOIDEA) FOUND IN LIVERPOOL BAY (SEA AREA S24)

One fresh shell of the American razor clam, *Ensis directus* (Conrad 1843), also recorded as *Ensis americanus* (Gould 1870), was found during a search along the strandline on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Formby Point, Liverpool Bay: 53° 32.5' N, 3° 7' W (OS grid ref. SD 270084). A further search on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Formby confirmed the finding, as did a search of the strandline on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011 of Ainsdale Beach, 53° 36.3' N, 3° 3.3' W (OS grid ref. SD 297128), and Blundellsands, Crosby, 53° 29.5' N, 3° 3.5' W (OS grid ref. SD 301998) which yielded more fresh shell specimens. On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011 I found fresh dead shells on the sea wall near Prestatyn Golf Club, North Wales, 53° 20' N, 3° 24' W (OS grid ref. SJ 066839).

All the shells from examination of the growth rings on their exterior and their length of around 10 cm indicated that they had lived a least one year. I conclude that the likely anthropic introduction of this foreign razor clam to Liverpool Bay could have been during 2010. The first reported finding of *Ensis americanus* for the west coast of Britain was by Ian Killeen in April 2002 at Angle Bay on the western end of Milford Haven, South

Wales (Killeen, 2003). He found it there again and also on the north side of the Haven at Dale in April 2003. My identifications confirm its presence on the west coast. Identification was made using the description of Cosel (2009) who recommended that the species be named *Ensis directus* rather than *Ensis americanus*.

### REFERENCES

- COSEL R VON 2009 The razor shells of the eastern Atlantic, part 2. Pharidae II: the genus *Ensis* Schumacher, 1817 (Bivalvia, Solenoidea). *Basteria* **73**: 9–56.
- KILLEEN I *Ensis americanus* continues to spread. *Mollusc World* **2**: 16.

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