

EDITORIAL NOTE

It is not normal practice for *Journal of Conchology* to publish new records beyond the British fauna unless they are of more than distributional significance. The Malacological Society of India has recently been established and this communication is published here to highlight this new society and to encourage the study of Indian molluscs.

With more surveys and studies it is likely that many more new records will be forthcoming and that a regional publication is needed to cater for these. The Malacological Society of India has a Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1777673599144113/>.

FIRST REPORT OF *ANTIGONA SOMWANGI* HUBER, 2010 (MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA: VENERIDAE) FROM INDIA

Antigona somwangi Huber, 2010, is newly reported from Indian waters. This extends the distributional range for this species to the west coast of the Bay of Bengal, previously it had been known only from Andaman Sea.

Huber¹ noted that the genus *Antigona* Schumacher, 1817 is a taxonomically challenging group into which he included the genera *Proxichione* Iredale, 1929 and *Periglypta* Jukes-Browne, 1914.

Consequently, the genus *Antigona* now comprises 20 described species worldwide¹, with two species so far known from Indian waters, i.e. *Antigona lamellaris* Schumacher, 1817 and *Antigona chemnitzii* (Hanley, 1845).²⁻⁸ *A.somwangi* is the third species of this genus known from the Indian coast and is recorded here by a single right valve collected from Chennai coast.

Material studied Right valve, Length 96.8mm, Width 68.9mm, Height 26.6mm; Locality: Kasimedu fish landing centre, Chennai coast, 13°7'24.97" N; 80°17' 50.55" E; Coll. Rocktim R. Das, Goutham S, and Kantharajan G); Reg No. ZSI/MBRC/M-1722 (Deposited at the National Zoological Collections (NZC) repository in Marine Biological Research Centre (MBRC), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

Description Right valve only, large, robust and inflated with 35, thin, uneven commarginal lamellae covering the surface. The posterior dorsal margin is initially fairly convex, the posterior becoming sub-truncate with the ventral margin gently curved. The anterior side is bluntly pointed giving an oval appearance. Numerous closely arranged radial riblets are present over the

entire surface, including the primary concentric structure, thus giving a frilled appearance (Fig. 1). Last line of radial riblets end in crenulations in the ventral margin of the shell. The exterior is white to creamish in colour, irregularly streaked in shades of brown. The lunule is prominent, off white with brown freckles and radial ribs. The interior is white in colour. The trigonal pallial sinus is more than one third of the shell length.

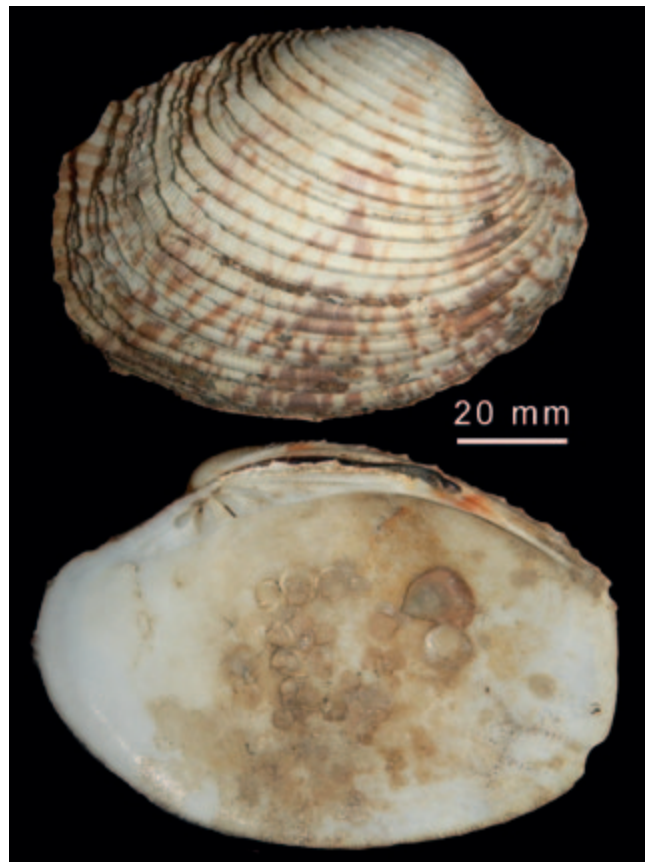


Figure 1 *Antigona somwangi* from Chennai coast.

Affinities *A. somwangi* is similar to the type specimen *A. lamellaris* but the latter differs morphologically in terms of having somewhat pointed anterior and posterior ends, is smaller, is more boldly coloured (the exterior is more darkish and the interior in faded pinkish-orange) and pallial sinus is relatively shorter about a quarter of shell length.

Distribution Continental shelf of the Chennai coast, Bay of Bengal, India.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to Dr. Henk Dekker and Mr. Jean-François Lesport (Independent Malacologists) for their assistance in identification of the specimen and sharing relevant literature;. The assistance provided by Shri. Rajender Kumar, Junior Zoological Assistant of Marine Biology Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai in preparing the manuscript is acknowledged. The authors are grateful to the editor for the critical review and useful comments.

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R.D. Rocktim¹, G. Kantharajan², S. Goutham¹,
 V. Deepak Samuel^{1*}, P. Krishnan¹, R. Rajkumar³,
 R. Purvaja¹

¹National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, MoEF&CC, Anna University Campus, Chennai – 600025, India.

²Central Institute of Fisheries Education, ICAR, Panch Marg, Versova, Andheri (W), Mumbai – 400061, India.

³Marine Biology Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai – 600028, India.

Contact author: deepakocean@gmail.com