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Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834, Lettered Olive

Marlo
LTS Administrator

Group: Admin
Posts: 1,921
Member No.: 2
Joined: 12-November 05

Posted: Feb 27 2006, 09:17 PM

Recently I started to focus my presentations on the more common Florida shells. Last week I started to address O. sayana. Over the years I had accumulated quite a few. It was difficult to choose which ones to photograph. So, I solved my dilemma by deciding to present shells from the entire range in the USA. I certainly did not have complete coverage, but thanks to many generous collectors over the years I did have a lot.

The following initial 55 slides present photos of 62 specimens, probably more than you'll want to see. But, I've presented at least one shell from every county represented in my collection starting with North Carolina and working around Florida to Texas.

I'd like to consider this a work in progress in hopes that enough readers with first-hand collected material from states and counties not represented will be encouraged to provide specimens (loan for photo session) or good images (and data) so that we can create a complete tally of the distribution of O. sayana in the USA. I particularly would hope to hear from:

Texas - I was able to illustrate only two dead-collected specimens
Alabama - Douglas N. Shelton, Alabama Malacological Research Center, reports O. sayana "off the Coast of Alabama."
Louisiana - Emiko Garcia and Harry Lee have created a Louisiana checklist and report O. sayana "in the offshore waters of Louisiana."
Mississippi - Never have found a list or paper for Mississippi seashells.

If you would like to contribute specimens (I'll be happy to photograph and return) or images, contact me using the email icon below or at marlo@flor.com. I'll create slides with your material and insert it appropriately into the geographic series. And, if you have some great samples from areas already covered that you'd like to share, feel free to contact me about them too.
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Text and photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

Long, fusiform (tapering toward each end) to cylindrical body whorl with a telescoping spire sharply indented at the shoulder of the body whorl. Profile of spire straight or slightly concave. Aperture narrow slightly flaring at anterior end.

Background color off-white to cream overlaid with reddish-brown tent-like, chevron and zigzag markings usually with two darker spiral bands, one just above the center of the body whorl and another below. Just below the shoulder are bundles of dark opisthoclinc lines.

Interior of aperture white or lilac. Columnella, columellar pleats, thin parietal callus and plications plate white.

By scallop trawlers in 150 feet of water off Port Canaveral, FL. 80 mm (rarely over 75 mm)

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Text and photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

Columella white with pleats over almost entire length strengthening toward anterior end. Thin, narrow parietal callus thickening and widening toward anterior end culminating in a white plications plate that is slightly swollen in appearance.

By scallop trawlers in 150 feet of water off Port Canaveral, FL. 80 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Text and photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

O. sayana displays a consistent pattern character that helps distinguish it from the very similar O. fulgurator (Röding, 1798) found in many of the same Florida locales. The angle and height of the tent-like, chevron and zigzag markings are much smaller at the beginning of the body whorl adjacent to the columella, become larger around the whorl, and with the markings on the last 1/3 – ½ often strikingly higher and more widely angled. In O. fulgurator the size and angle remain nearly constant over the entire body whorl.

By scallop trawlers in 150 feet of water off Port Canaveral, FL. 80 mm

Anatomy of the Oliva Body Whorl

For purposes of description I partly follow Tursch and Greifeneder* and divide the body whorl into three parts:

1. Posterior portion
2. Plications plate or band
3. Anterior band

Posterior portion (1) – approximately 2/3’s of the body whorl (on ventral side) from edge of shoulder to the oblique spiral edge marking the boundary with the slightly elevated and swollen anterior 1/3 referred to as the fasciole. I call this edge the fasciole posterior edge. The fasciole posterior edge spirals obliquely around the entire whorl but does not extend into the aperture (it becomes covered by the parietal callus).

1. An O. sayana is used for illustration, but the anatomy descriptions apply to all Oliva.

Anatomy of the *Oliva* Body Whorl

**Fasciole** – approximately the 1/3 of the body whorl (on the ventral side) anterior to the fasciole posterior edge. The word “edge” is used because the fasciole is slightly elevated above the surface of the posterior portion and the edge is an elevated lip and not a line or groove in the shell. The fasciole usually displays a similar, but “distorted” color pattern as the posterior portion, often is subdivided into spiral color/pattern bands, and extends to the anterior edge of the shell as can be seen on the dorsal side of the shell. However, on the ventral side, the anterior portion of the fasciole is overlaid by a severely downward sloping extension of the parietal callus that extends only about half way around the whorl and is not visible on the dorsal side. This overlay of shell enamel usually completely obscures the color pattern of the fasciole underneath it.

**Plications plate or band (2)** – an extension of the parietal callus sloping dramatically down and overlapping the anterior portion of the fasciole predominantly on the ventral side of the body whorl. The plate wraps quite obliquely around about 1/2 of the whorl and does not extend to the dorsal side. It is often heavily sculptured with plaits extending into the aperture. The posterior margin of the plate is marked by a plait extending into the aperture. Color usually white or contrasting sharply with color of body whorl.

**Anterior band (3)** – the band between the plications plate and the fasciole posterior edge. Usually smooth, but may be somewhat wrinkled or textured and usually displays 2-3 differing spiral bands of color/pattern (not on the *O. sayana* used for this illustration).
Oliva sayana  
Ravenel, 1834

Text and photo by Marlo F. Krisberg  
Dec 2010

A notable character of *O. sayana* is the smoky blotch of color on the plications plate just above where the plate ends at the anterior edge.

Another notable character is that the anterior band is not subdivided into spiral zones of differing color/pattern.

By scallop trawlers in 150 feet of water off Port Canaveral, FL. 80 mm

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Oliva sayana  
Ravenel, 1834

Text and photo by Marlo F. Krisberg  
Dec 2010

Spiral whorls smooth, flaring out at bottom to a sharp spiral ridge bordering a narrow, deep, channeled suture. The upper portions of the bundles of dark lines just below the shoulder of each whorl are clearly visible on each whorl of the spire.

By scallop trawlers in 150 feet of water off Port Canaveral, FL. 80 mm
**Oliva sayana** Ravenel, 1834

Text and photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

*O. sayana* is quite common on both sides of Florida offshore and in bays and lagoons. Not normally found south of Palm Beach County in SE Florida and not documented as present in the Florida Keys.

Rarely over 75 mm

By scallop trawlers in 150 feet of water off Port Canaveral, FL. 80 mm

*O. sayana* is quite consistent in color and pattern. Lavender, golden and gray/white forms with little or no pattern do occur. Following are numerous slides illustrating color forms and shells from its North American range (North Carolina to Palm Beach County, FL, and around the perimeter of the Gulf of Mexico from Collier County, FL, to Texas.)

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**Oliva sayana** Ravenel, 1834

Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co., North Carolina. 66.3 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photo by Jo O'Keefe
Sunset Beach, North Carolina. Jan 2010

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Jo O'Keefe

A Lettered Olive surfaces and goes walking
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834 color form citrina Johnson, 1911
Photo by Bill Frank

For many more photos of O. sayana see Bill's presentation on jaxshells.com

Mayport Naval Station Beach, Duval Co., FL.

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg
Nov 2011
Shells provided by Sabrina Krisberg

Hanna Park, Atlantic Beach, Duval Co., FL.

64.1 mm  63.8 mm  32.1 mm  29.8 mm
Oliva sayana
Ravenel, 1834

Photos by
Marlo F. Krisberg 2010

Taken by scallop trawlers off Port Canaveral, FL. in 1982 in 150 feet of water. 55.8 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834 color form citrina
Johnson, 1911

Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

Taken by scallop trawlers off Port Canaveral, Florida in 1982 in 150 feet of water. 73.2 mm
*Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834 color form *citrina* Johnson, 1911
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg  Dec 2010

Taken by scallop trawlers off Port Canaveral, Florida in 1982 in 150 feet of water.  73.2 mm

*Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834 color form *citrina* Johnson, 1911
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg  Dec 2010

Taken by scallop trawlers off Port Canaveral, FL in 150 feet of water.  66.6 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834 – Cored (probably from injury to mantle)
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg  Dec 2010

Taken by scallop trawlers off Port Canaveral, FL.  62.6 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834 – An injured survivor
Photo by Marlo F. Krisberg  Dec 2010

Taken by scallop trawlers off Port Canaveral, FL.  72.4 mm
*Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834 – An injured survivor
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg  Dec 2010

Taken by scallop trawlers off Port Canaveral, FL. 72.4 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834

Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

62.4 mm On sand Inside Sebastian Inlet, Indian River Co., FL. 59.3 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

This specimen was dredged off a shallow shelf of sand and shell hash off of Fort Pierce Inlet, St. Lucie Co., FL. Collected and photographed by Joyce Gross, March 5, 2008.
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010
On sand North Sound, Jupiter Inlet, Palm Beach Co., FL. 50.6 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photo by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

On sand North Sound, Jupiter Inlet, Palm Beach Co., FL. Just emerging from sand.

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photo by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

On sand North Sound, Jupiter Inlet, Palm Beach Co., FL. Slowly making headway.
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photo by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

On sand inside Palm Beach Inlet, Palm Beach Co., FL. 14.3 mm to 58.9 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

On sand inside Palm Beach Inlet, Palm Beach Co., FL. 68 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

Another beautiful tent pattern

On sand inside Palm Beach Inlet, Palm Beach Co., FL. 55.2 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

41.9 mm On sand inside Palm Beach Inlet, Palm Beach Co., FL. 38.2 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

On sand inside Palm Beach Inlet,
Palm Beach Co., FL. 14.3 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Shell collected and photographed by Tom Honker

Via SCUBA at 30-40' offshore from Ocean Ridge to Boca Raton, south end Palm Beach Co., FL.
**Oliva sayana** Ravenel, 1834
Shells collected and photographed by Tom Honker

Via SCUBA at 30-40' offshore from Ocean Ridge to Boca Raton, south end Palm Beach Co., FL.

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**Oliva sayana** Ravenel, 1834
by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

Areas south of Palm Beach County and including the Florida Keys

I have never found *O. sayana* south of Palm Beach County or in the Florida Keys. So, I contacted several excellent field collectors to ascertain if they had. The results were:

**Andy Borgia** of Key West (collecting in the Keys since 2002) indicated, “I've never found *O. sayana* in the Keys only on the West Coast.”

**Bill Frank**, webmaster for jaxshells, “I never saw any there.”

**Phil Poland**, field worker extraordinaire, indicated that “I had an earlier collection that I gave to the USNM and it's possible that I had one from Palm Beach or Martin County.”

**Harry Lee**, author of *Marine Shells of Northeast Florida* 2009, responded, “I cannot vouch for any FL occurrence S of Palm Beach Co. or the Marco area.”

**Tom Honker**, long-time dealer and divercollector in SE Florida, reported “Sayana is not common in Palm Beach County. The few we find here offshore are big ones, and I have not found any south of Boca Raton.”
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

63.5 mm  North Beach, Mullet Key, Tampa Bay, Pinellas Co., FL.  58.9 mm

Golden form. Thanks to Marcie Silverstein for loaning one of her prized shells.

63.2 mm North Beach, Mullet Key, Tampa Bay, Pinellas Co., FL.
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

Off Tarpon Springs in 12' of water, Pinellas Co., FL. 7.3 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Dec 2010

St. George Island, Franklin Co., FL 42.7 mm
*Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Jul 2011
Thanks to Lucy Clampit for loan of these uniquely patterned shells apparently resulting from an injury to the animal.

Port St. Joe Bay, Gulf Co., FL.

46.7 mm

35.9 mm

*Oliva sayana* Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Jul 2011
Thanks to Lucy Clampit for loan of this shell with an unusually thickened anterior band on the dorsal side.

Port St. Joe Bay, Gulf Co., FL.

58.8 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Jul 2011
Thanks to Lucy Clampit for loan of her collection of Texas O. sayana.

48.2 mm  Morgan's Point, North Galveston Bay at La Porte, Galveston Co., TX.  56.6 mm

63 mm  Near Stewart Beach, Galveston Inlet, Galveston Co., TX.  37.8 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Jul 2011
Thanks to Lucy Clampit for loan of her collection of Texas O. sayana.
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834

Thanks to Lucy Clampp for loan of her collection of Texas O. sayana.

Photo by Marlo F. Krisberg
Jul 2011

San Luis Pass, Galveston Co., TX. 33.5 – 56.3 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834

Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg  Dec 2010

62.7 mm  San Luis Pass, Galveston Co., TX. 52.4 mm
Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg Jul 2011
Thanks to Lucy Clampit for loan of her collection of Texas *O. sayana.*

A corded specimen

San Luis Pass, Galveston Co., TX. 40.6 mm

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Photo by Marlo F. Krisberg Jul 2011
Thanks to Lucy Clampit for loan of her collection of Texas *O. sayana.*

Quintana, Freeport Inlet, Brazoria Co., TX. 53.9 – 30.5 mm
Oliva sayana  Ravenel, 1834
Photos by Marlo F. Krisberg  Jul  2011
Thanks to Lucy Clampit for loan of her
collection of Texas O. sayana.

Nueces County Park, Port
Aransas, TX.  48.1 mm