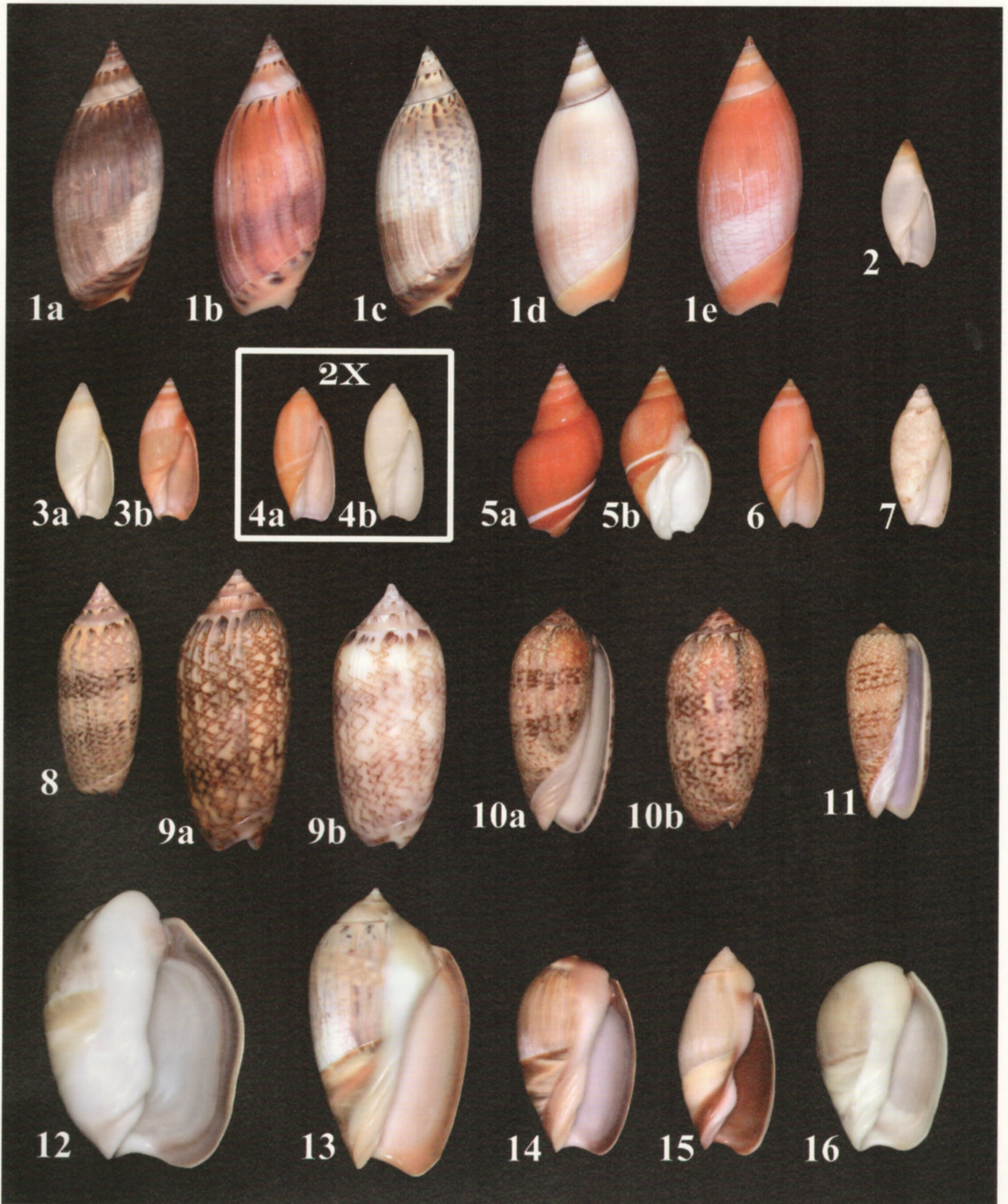


# Brazilian Olividae



Caption for this plate is at the bottom of page 28. The article is on page 30. Plate 2 is on the back cover.

# Brazilian Olividae

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The color plates that accompany this article are located on page 29 and back cover.

I was five years old when I found a nice shell on the beach during my vacation in Santos, just 50 miles from São Paulo. It was my first self-collected shell – an *Olivancillaria vesica* (Gmelin, 1791). Finding that shell with its large white animal was a fantastic experience for me! I asked to my father to clean my prize and I have always kept this very special shell. Afterwards, I began to collect other shells, but the *Olivancillaria* continued to fascinate me.

The Brazilian coast boasts about 33 described Olividae and some other poorly studied species. Many of them are endemic; some belong to the Caribbean fauna and others to the Patagonian fauna. The main genera are: *Oliva* (2 species and 1 subspecies), *Olivancillaria* (9 species), *Ancilla* (5 species), *Agaronia* (1 species), *Jaspidella* (1 species), and *Olivella* (15 very confused species!). Most of the species occur in the intertidal zone, especially the *Olivancillaria* and *Olivella* groups, and the shells are normally found in clusters.

## Oliva

The two *Oliva* occur in tropical areas. *Oliva scripta* Lamarck, 1810, previously known as *O. caribaeensis* Dall & Simpson, 1901, is found only in the north of Brasil, from Ceará to Amapá States. In some small villages in Pará State, fishermen consider this species a good luck and love charm! The other *Oliva* species is *O. circinata* Marrat, 1870. Recently Bernard Tursch and Dietmar Greifeneder, in their *Oliva Shells, The genus Oliva and the Species problem*, considered this species just a form of *O. fulgurator* (Röding, 1798), but no anatomical studies were done; consequently, I still consider *O. circinata* a valid species. Dr. Petuch (1987) described a subspecies for southern Brasil: *O. circinata totesii*, a very heavy, low-spined shell.

## Olivancillaria

The *Olivancillaria* are found from middle Argentina to Southeast Brasil – as far north as Vitória, Espírito Santo State. Of the nine species known, there are two that are endemic: my first shell, *Olivancillaria vesica*, and *Olivancillaria steeriae* (Reeve, 1850), a mysterious and very poorly studied species. The other species are found in almost all southern Brazilian states. They are: *O. auricularia* (Lamarck, 1810); *O. carcellesi* Klappenbach, 1965; *O. conturaduplicata* (Reeve, 1850); *O. desbayesiana* (Duclos, 1857); the rare *O. teaguei* Klappenbach, 1964; *O. uretai* Klappenbach, 1965; and the fantastic *O. urceus* (Röding, 1798). *O. urceus* has a variant population that may deserve a specific study – *Olivancillaria brasiliensis* (Lamarck, 1810), considered by E. C. Rios (1970, 1975, 1984, 1994) as synonym, but again no anatomic studies were made.

## Ancilla

The *Ancilla* group occurs along the entire Brazilian coast. One species is found in southeast and southern Brasil and the other four occur in the northeast and north ranges.

The species found in southern Brasil are two: *Ancilla dimidiata*

(Sowerby, 1850) and a probable new one. *A. dimidiata* was described as a fragile, transparent, white shell, but a population of different shells, large and orange in color, is found between Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo State. The species are easily distinguished from each other.

The north range has some of the most beautiful Brazilian Olividae: *A. faustoi* Matthews & Matthews, 1978, with orange, white, or yellow populations; *A. lienardi* (Bernardi, 1821), a solid and very bright orange shell; sometimes albino specimens are found; *A. matthewsi* Burch & Burch, 1967, more solid than *A. faustoi*, with color variation; and *A. tankervillei* (Swainson, 1825), a dubious species on the Brazilian coast – probably found only offshore from Amapá State.

## Agaronia and Jaspidella

*Agaronia travassosi* Morretes, 1938 and *Jaspidella jaspidea* (Gmelin, 1791) are the sole members of their genera. *A. travassosi* is an endemic species, very elegant and colorful. It is found from Espírito Santo State to Santa Catarina State. Recently we got some great orange and salmon color specimens from the Rio de Janeiro area.

The *Jaspidella* olive is found most commonly on Fernando de Noronha Island and Rocas Atoll. Very few Brazilian specimens are in collections.

## Olivella

The genus *Olivella* is well represented along the entire Brazilian coast. And it is a huge mess! Rios listed 15 species, but probably some of them are not well identified and others are undescribed. The well-known species are *Olivella defiorei* Klappenbach, 1984, a very elegant and ornamented shell; *O. plata* (Ihering, 1909); *O. puelcha* (Duclos, 1840); *O. orejasmirandae* Klappenbach, 1986; *O. formicacorsii* Klappenbach, 1962; *O. olssoni* Altena, 1971; *O. tebuelcha* (Duclos, 1840); *O. nivea* (Gmelin, 1791); and *O. riosi* Klappenbach, 1991. Some other species need revision: *O. ephamilla* and *O. ambliia* Watson, 1882 are two very similar deep water species; *O. floralia* (Duclos, 1853) is frequently confused with *O. defiorei*; *O. petiolita* (Duclos, 1835), *O. mutica* (Say, 1822); *O. watermani* McGinty, 1940 and *O. minuta* (Link, 1807) are dubious Caribbean species of the Brazilian coast.

*Olivella nivea* has two different population: the one in north and northeast Brasil is very close to the Caribbean population, but the specimens found from Rio de Janeiro to Bahia are quite distinct: the shell is bigger, heavier and more colorful. Some other *Olivella* are found along the coast and probably the large majority are new species.

Like other families, the Brazilian Olividae needs to be studied better. I believe that many new species will be found!

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## Some Useful Literature on Olividae:

- Petuch, E.J. 1987. *New Caribbean Molluscan Faunas*. Coastal Education and Research Foundation, Charlottesville, VA  
 E. C. Rios, E. C. 1994. *Seashells of Brazil*.  
 Tursch, B. and D. Greifeneder, 2001. *Oliva Shells, The genus Oliva and the Species problem*. L'Informatore Piceno, Italy and Bosque BMT, S.A., Costa Rica.

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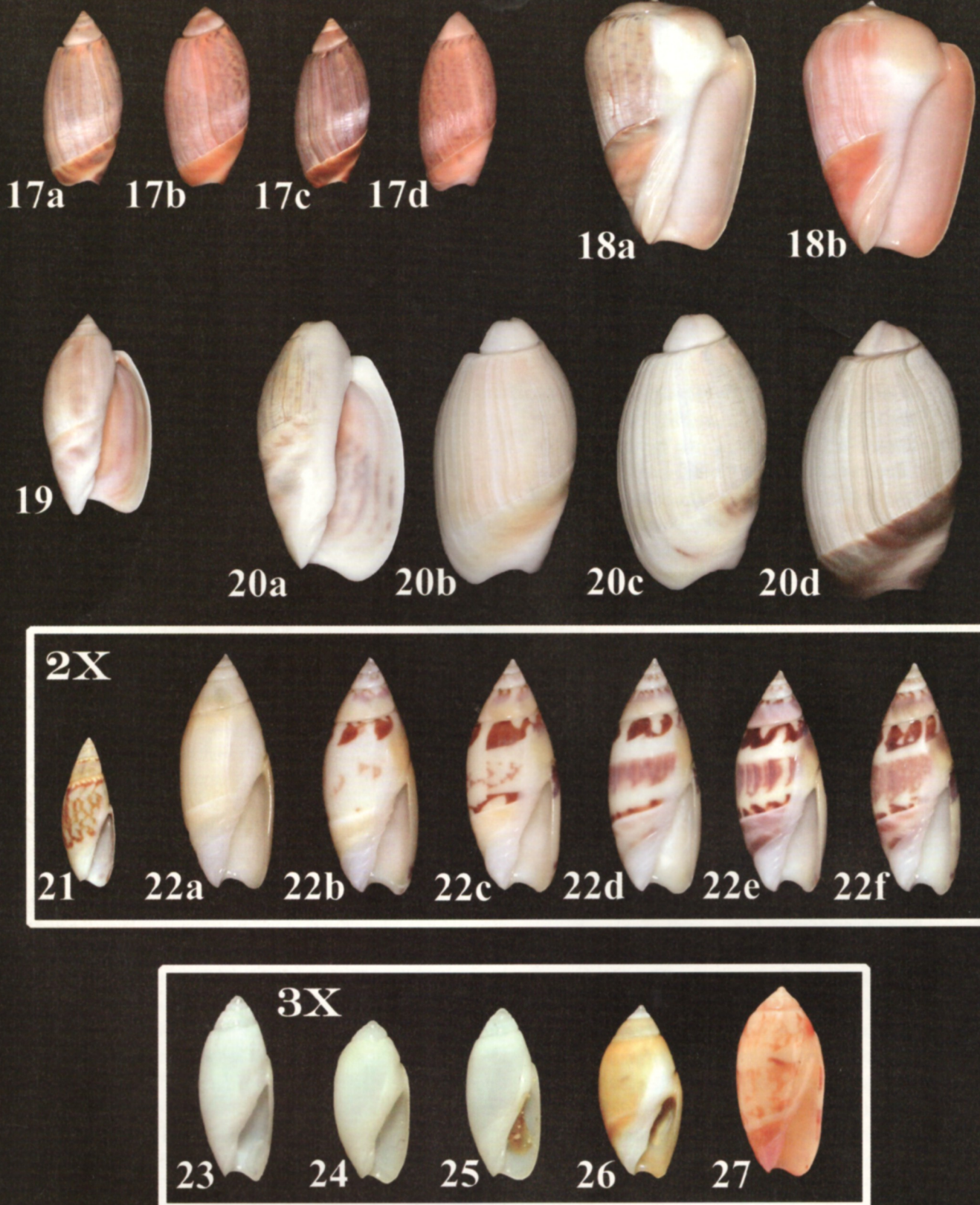


Plate 2 from Coltro article on pgs. 29 and 30. 17a-d. *Olivancillaria steeriae* (Reeve, 1850), off Cabo de São Tomé, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, 28mm. 18a-b. *Olivancillaria urceus* Röding, 1798), off Caraguatatuba, São Paulo State, Brazil, 43mm. 19. *Olivancillaria uretai* Klappenbach, 1964, Praia do Cassino, Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil, 27mm. 20a-b. *Olivancillaria vesica vesica* (Gmelin, 1791), Arraial do Cabo, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, 44mm. 21. *Olivella defiorei* Klappenbach, 1964, Guarapari, Espírito Santo State, Brazil, 10mm. 22a-f. *Olivella nivea* (Gmelin, 1791), Arraial dos Buzios, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, 16mm. 23. *Olivella orejasmirandai* Klappenbach, 1986, off Santos, São Paulo State, Brazil 6mm. 24. *Olivella riosi* Klappenbach, 1991, off Santos, São Paulo State, Brazil 5mm. 25. *Olivella tebuelcha* (Duclos, 1840), off Santos, São Paulo State, Brazil 6mm. 26. *Olivella verreauxii* (Duclos, 1857), São Sebastião, São Paulo State, Brazil 7mm. 27. *Olivella watermani* Macginty, 1940, 70km off Alcobaca, southern Bahia State, Brazil, 9mm.