

Contributions to the knowledge of Strombacea. 3. ¹
Some notes on the range of *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus pulchellus*
Reeve, 1851 (Gastropoda, Prosobranchia Strombidae)

G. J. VISSER

Rotterdam Zoological & Botanical Gardens, P.O. Box 532, 3000 AM Rotterdam, The Netherlands

L. A. MAN IN 't VELD

Natuurmuseum, Westzeedijk 345, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

& R. P. A. VOSKUIL

Houthaak 2-B, 2611 LE Delft, The Netherlands

An extension of the range of *Strombus plicatus pulchellus* is herein documented and the subspecific status of *S. p. plicatus* is confirmed.

Key words: Gastropoda, Prosobranchia, Strombidae, *Strombus*, range, Indo-Pacific.

The Indo-Pacific *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus* sensu lato consists of four subspecies (figs. 1-4):

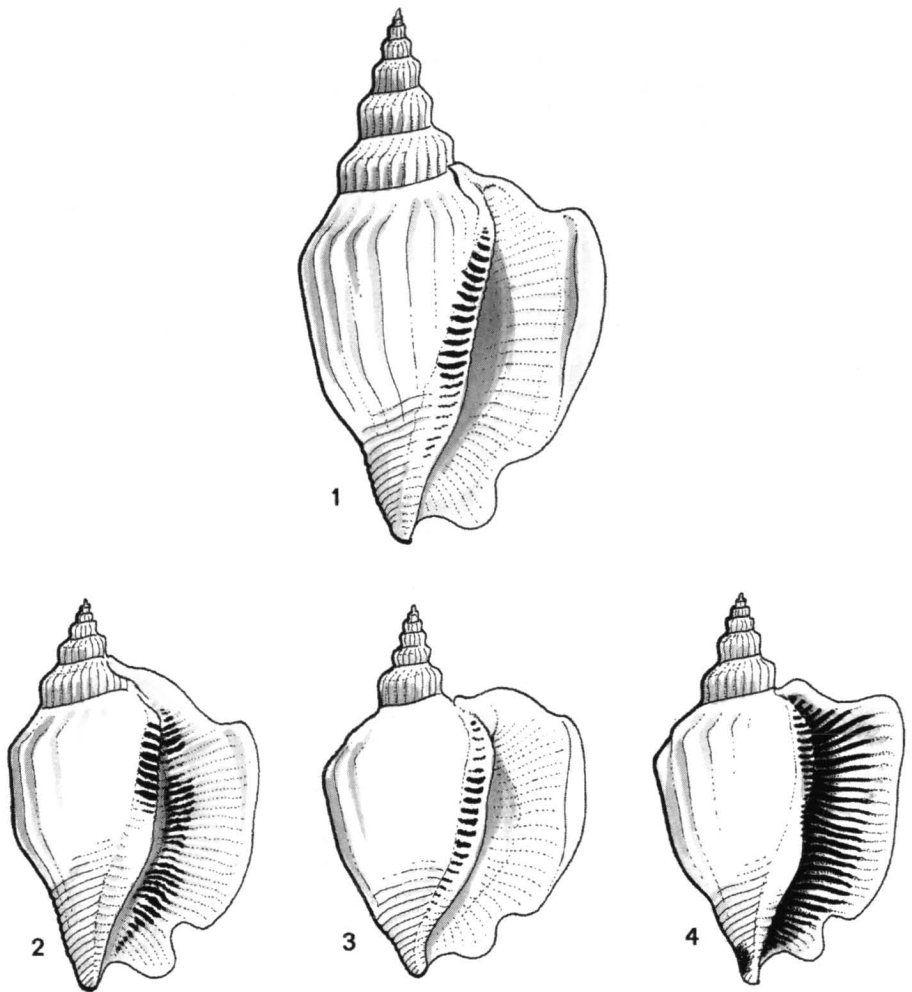
- the nominate *S. (D.) p. plicatus* (Röding, 1798) from the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf,
- *S. (D.) p. columba* Lamarck, 1822, from East Africa,
- *S. (D.) p. siboldi* Sowerby, 1842, from the north-western Indian Ocean, and
- *S. (D.) p. pulchellus* Reeve, 1851, from the western and central Pacific.

The westernmost limit of the range of *S. p. pulchellus* is generally considered to be an imaginary line running from southern Japan, via Taiwan and East-Borneo, to Cape York, Australia. The eastern border of the range of *S. p. siboldi* is either believed to be formed by the west coasts of Thailand, Malaysia and Sumatra (Walls, 1980: 162), or by the seas around Sri Lanka (Abbott, 1960: 91; Kronenberg & Berkhout, 1981). In both instances there is a considerable distance between the ranges of these two taxa, which makes it unclear whether they are reproductively isolated or not. The former case would imply a full species status for *S. pulchellus* next to *S. plicatus* s. l. (fig. 5).

However, Kronenberg & Berkhout (1986: 364) were the first to report specimens of *S. p. pulchellus* caught by Madras fishermen, as well as a beached shell from the Andaman Islands. A Madras specimen is figured here (figs. 6-7).

Ma Siu-tung (1976: 371, pl. 4 fig. 6) reports *S. p. pulchellus* from the island of Hainan, a first record for this subspecies from the Chinese coast.

¹ Contributions to the knowledge of Strombidae. 2. See: Corresp.blad Ned. Malac. Ver. 283 (maart 1995): 52-53.



Figs. 1-4. Shells of the four subspecies of *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus* (Röding, 1798). 1, *S. (D.) p. plicatus*; 2, *S. (D.) p. columba* Lamarck, 1822; 3, *S. (D.) p. sibbaldi* Sowerby, 1842; 4, *S. (D.) p. pulchellus* Reeve, 1851.
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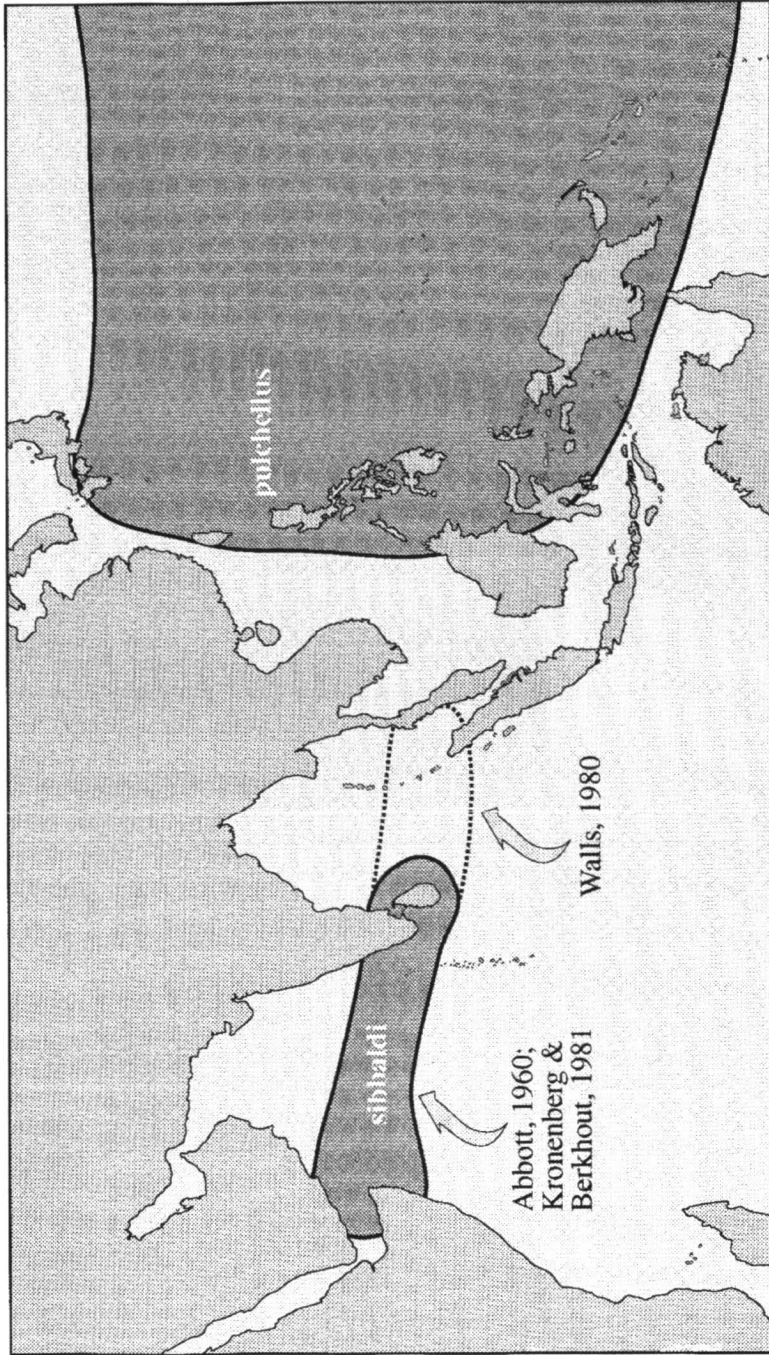
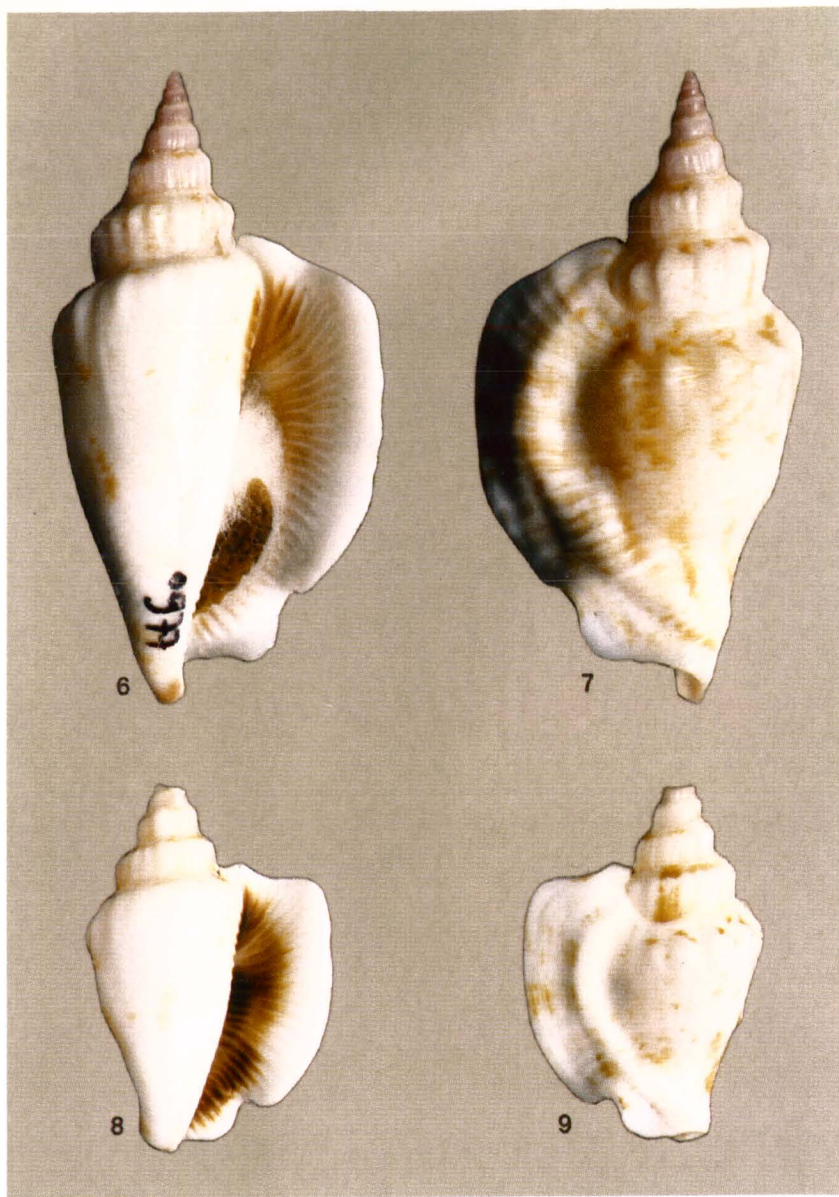


Fig. 5. The range of *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus sibbaldi* Sowerby, 1842, as given in the literature (see text) and the range of *S. (D.) p. pulchellus* Reeve, 1851, as it was formerly known. R.P.A. Voskuil del.



Figs. 6-9. *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus pulchellus* Reeve, 1851. 6-7, dredged off Madras, India, xii.1982; 39 mm (large); colln. G.J. Visser/0977. 8-9, found at high tide line on Mawun beach, southern Lombok, Indonesia, 29.x.1994; 22 mm (without apex and tip of anterior canal) (average); colln. G.J.Visser/0977b. Photographs by R.P.A. Voskuil.

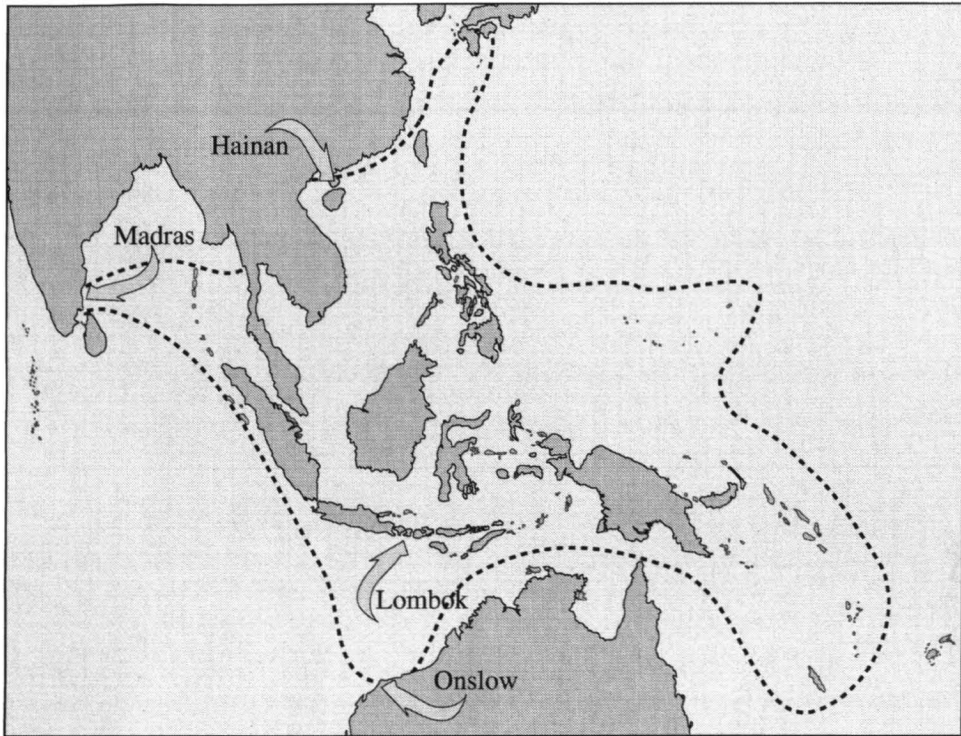


Fig. 10. The possible range of *Strombus (Dolomena) plicatus pulchellus* Reeve, 1851, based on recent records.
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Wilson & Gillet (1980: 26, pl. 26 figs. 6, 6a) report the subspecies to have been dredged between Onslow and the Dampier Archipelago, West Australia. A similar record is given by Wells & Bryce (1986: 64).

While on a collecting trip in Indonesia, we found a single worn, but unmistakable *S. p. pulchellus* in the high tide line of Mawun beach, South Lombok, approximately 5 km west of Kuta (figs. 8-9). To our knowledge this is the first record of this subspecies from the region, fossils from Java and Sumatra excepted (Abbott, 1960).

These additional records indicate a considerable extension west- and southward of the known range of *S. p. pulchellus* (fig. 10). The westward extension implies the possibility of a contact zone between the ranges of *S. p. pulchellus* and *S. p. siboldi*, and, consequently, either falsification or confirmation of the subspecific status for *S. p. pulchellus*.

The fact that *S. p. pulchellus* from the Madras area differs from the central Indo-Pacific specimens both in shape and in (greater) size, may be an indication that this area forms the transition zone between the subspecies, where intergrading shell-forms may be found.

We furthermore believe that the range of *S. p. siboldi* as shown by Walls (1980) is erroneous and we suggest that he may have included specimens of *S. p. pulchellus* within that range.

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