



**Oliva rubrolabiata**

by A. G. HAMLYN-HARRIS

The two shells pictured are *Oliva rubrolabiata* Fischer 1902, which are possibly endemic to the New Hebrides. From Mr. and Mrs. Q. C. Burch's paper, "The Family Olividae" reprinted from Pacific Science Vol. XXI No. 4. I see that Dautzenbery 1927 reported the species from New Caledonia, but as yet I have not heard of any collected from that locality.

*O. rubrolabiata* seems to be quite uncommon, as I have been collecting olives in the New Hebrides for some years, during which time I have found only a dozen specimens. These came from three different localities, and at the same time I have seen many hundreds of *O. sericia*, *minacea*, etc.

There appears to be two different varieties of *O. rubrolabiata*, which the slides illustrate. The darker shell, measuring 41mm x 19mm, came from Havanah Harbour, Efate, collected at night in four feet of water, living in dark grey sand. Other specimens from Mele, South Efate found in black sand have the same colouration. The lighter shell, measuring 44mm x 21mm was collected in white sand in Undine Bay, North Efate in four feet of water.

The special characteristics of *O. rubrolabiata*, which make it so spectacular, are numerous folds on the columella which run the full length to the suture, and the columella and lip of the shell extending into the aperture are a bright orange red colour. The body whorl of the light colour shell is pinkish with dark grey ziczac markings, while the dark specimen is predominantly very dark brown, with darker concentric bands.



Animal of *A. rubrolabiato* almost covers shell. Large foot & shovel-shaped front of foot indicates rapid digging ability.

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**Marginella From West Africa**

by PHILLIP CLOVER

In recent years thousands of *Marginella* have been brought up in nets of Italian trawling boats and put on the shell market by various dealers. Unfortunately the data and identification of these shells are far from complete and no radula studies have been made that I know of. In hopes of improving at least the shell identification I am illustrating one of the most confusing groups to come in.

No. 1. *M. goodalli* Sowerby 1835, size 1", color: white spots on flesh colored body, spire short and folds of the columella teeth being much thinner than *M. glabella*, lack of white striations on whorls of spire as is typical of No. 3 and 8. This shell matches Sowerby's illustration in Thesaurus Conchyliarum. Loc: Senegal and has not been collected in recent years.

No. 2. *M. goodalli* form, size 1 1/2", color: dark red body and very large white spots all over. This form lacks the high shoulder ridge on spire whorls and body of the typical *M. goodalli*. Loc: dredged 20 fathoms off Guinea.

No. 3. *M. glabella* Linne 1758, size 1-1 1/2": Typical form, sprinkled profusely with roundish white spots on redish brown body color. Loc: from low tide to 100fms, Morocco, Canary Is. and Senegal.

No. 4. *M. glabella* form, size 1 1/4", color: a dark rose color form with orange colored lip. Loc: dredged off Senegal.

No. 5-7. *M. desjardini* forms, size 1 1/4-2": These forms are the link between *M. glabella* and *M. desjardini*, and vary widely as to size and shape. Generally in color pattern they have larger and less numerous white spots than *M. glabella*. They are more bulbous in shape with a more compressed spire than either No. 3, 4 or 8, with No. 7 being closest to *M. desjardini* but still lacking the pronounced ridge on spire whorls. Radula studies could prove that all these forms (5-7) are *M. desjardini*. Loc: Mauritania to Guinea.

No. 8. *M. desjardini* Marche-Marchaud 1957, size 2": Typical form and colored redish brown with large white spots. Body whorl is more elongated than No. 5-7. Also note pronounced ridge on spire whorls and larger teeth on inside of lip. Loc: 30-50 fathoms, Senegal to Ivory Coast.

