The first OLIVID from the Canary Islands

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Introduction:

Among material collected during various excursions along the southern coasts of Gran Canaria (Canary Islands) a pair of specimens of **Olividae** in bad condition were found: in such bad condition that I throught they were fossil species, also because no citing regarding this family has ever been noted in the Canary Islands.

Afterwards, I found a certain number of shells in perfect state, even if they did not have the animal or were crabbed. These shells were under rocks or just in the sand at low tide. The fact that all the surrounding zone is sandy makes one think that that is the natural habitat of the species, which is in agreement with the habits of the family.

Description:

The form of the shell is inequivocally conic in the posterior half, till the shoulder of the last whorl of the spire. The maximum width is at about half of the height. From this point on the shell changes shape because the lip opens at the beginning and then in the last fifth of the total height bends towards the inside till the siphonal canal.

The spire is clearly acuminate. Five whorls are formed with a barely marked suture and with subsutural bands that are dark with intervals of blotches or dots that are cream or white. The well developed spire measures from a fourth to one third of the total height of the shell. The attachment of the lip to the shoulder of the body whorl forms a very acute angle. Fine striae, about ten, are barely marked, they pass from the columella to the fasciole without forming real folds. The siphonal canal is ample, about on third of the maximum width of the shell.

The color of the last whorl of the spire varies from cream to brown or tan. There are sometimes darker zigzag lines of various numbers longitudinally arranged. Anteriorly, the dorsum of the last whorl has a light line slightly marked with a subsutural darker band: the line and the band start about third way on the columella then turn with about a 45° angle till the edge of the siphonal canal. The sharp apex is colorless like all the protoconch. The barely noticeable fasciole is white, like the columella and the inside of the aperture except for the edge that is so delicate that due to transparency one can see the external design inside.

Ecology:

As we already mentioned at the beginning, we still have not been able to find live specimens, but the zone is sandy, with a tranquil sea, an average of over 240 sunny days per year, the temperature of the water is almost always above 21° centigrade.

Statistics:

Including both the specimens in good and deteriated state, we were able to collect 155, whose average height is 11,96 mm. taken from the following table:

Height in millimeters	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Number of specimens	26	22	53	31	14	2	1	1

The width varies from 3 to 7 mm. and represents between 41 to 42% of the height.

Remarks:

We are not absolutely sure if this is a new species, but it is definetely new to the Canary Islands. It could be a variation of **Olivella pulchella** Duclos, 1835, which I don't have on hand to be able to make a comparison study. With this reserve, we name it **Olivella oteroi,** in honor of our malacologist friend Don José María Hernández Otero, pharmacist in Gáldar, Gran Canaria.

(See illustration at p. 16)

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Enzo Villoresi - Via Eutropio 28 - 00136 Roma wishes to buy or trade **Patellidae** and **Olividae** from all over the world.

M.me A. Kermarrec-Labisse désire faire connaitre sa nouvelle adresse à partir du 1er Avril 1979: 9 Oosthelling - B - 8400 Oostende (Belgique) et que pendant le déménagement elle ne pourra répondre aux demandes d'échanges et de renseignement qui lui seront adressées.

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Fancesco Ferrozzi - Via S. Eufemia 15 - 29100 Piacenza (Italy) scambierebbe Volute, Murici, Cipree (anche rare) in cambio esclusivamente di Zoile australiane. Prega inviare dettagliate liste di scambio.

Olivella oteroi: olotype.

Above: 2 sp. of **O. oteroi.**
Below: 2 sp. of. **O. pulchella.**

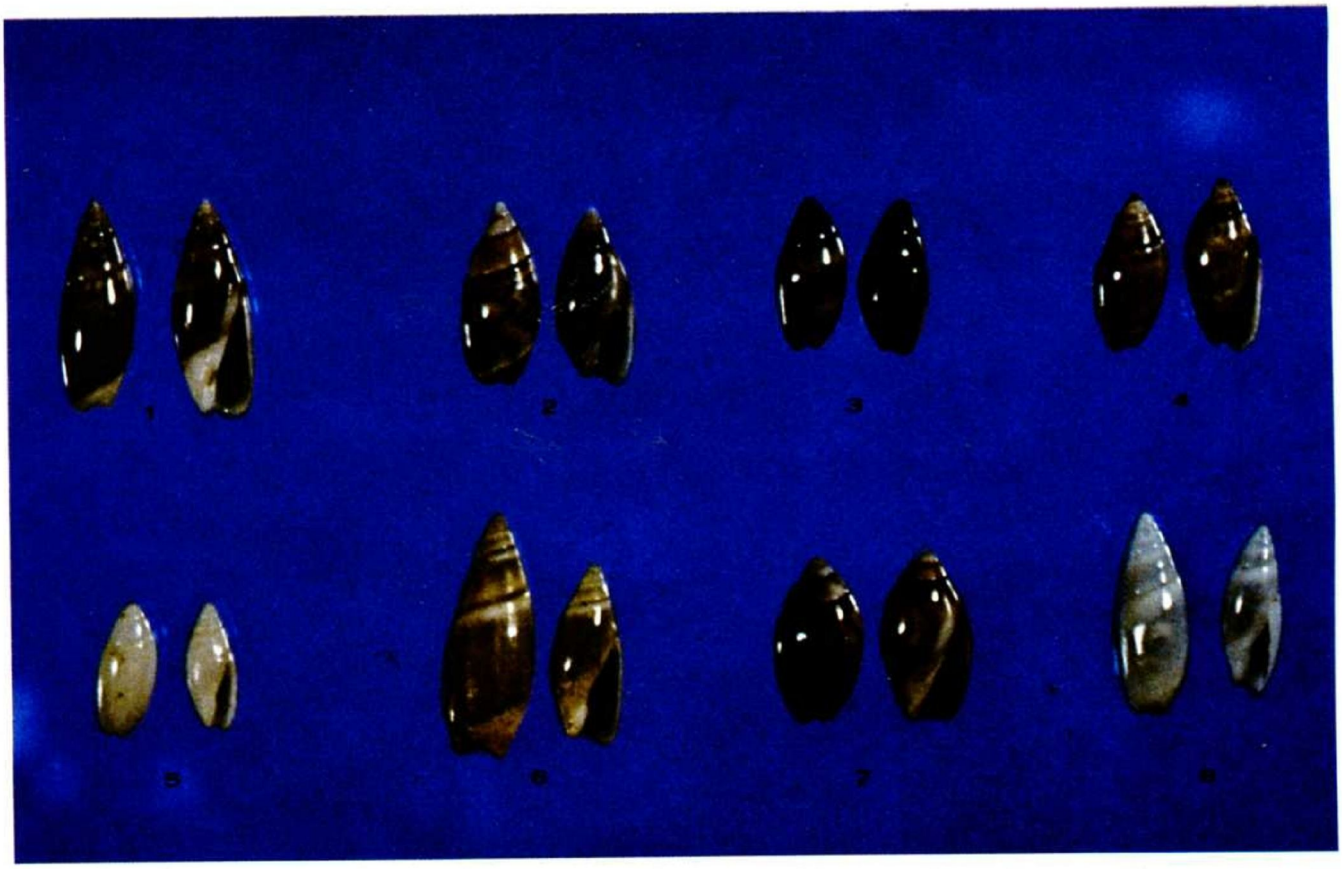
Olivella oteroi: paratype.

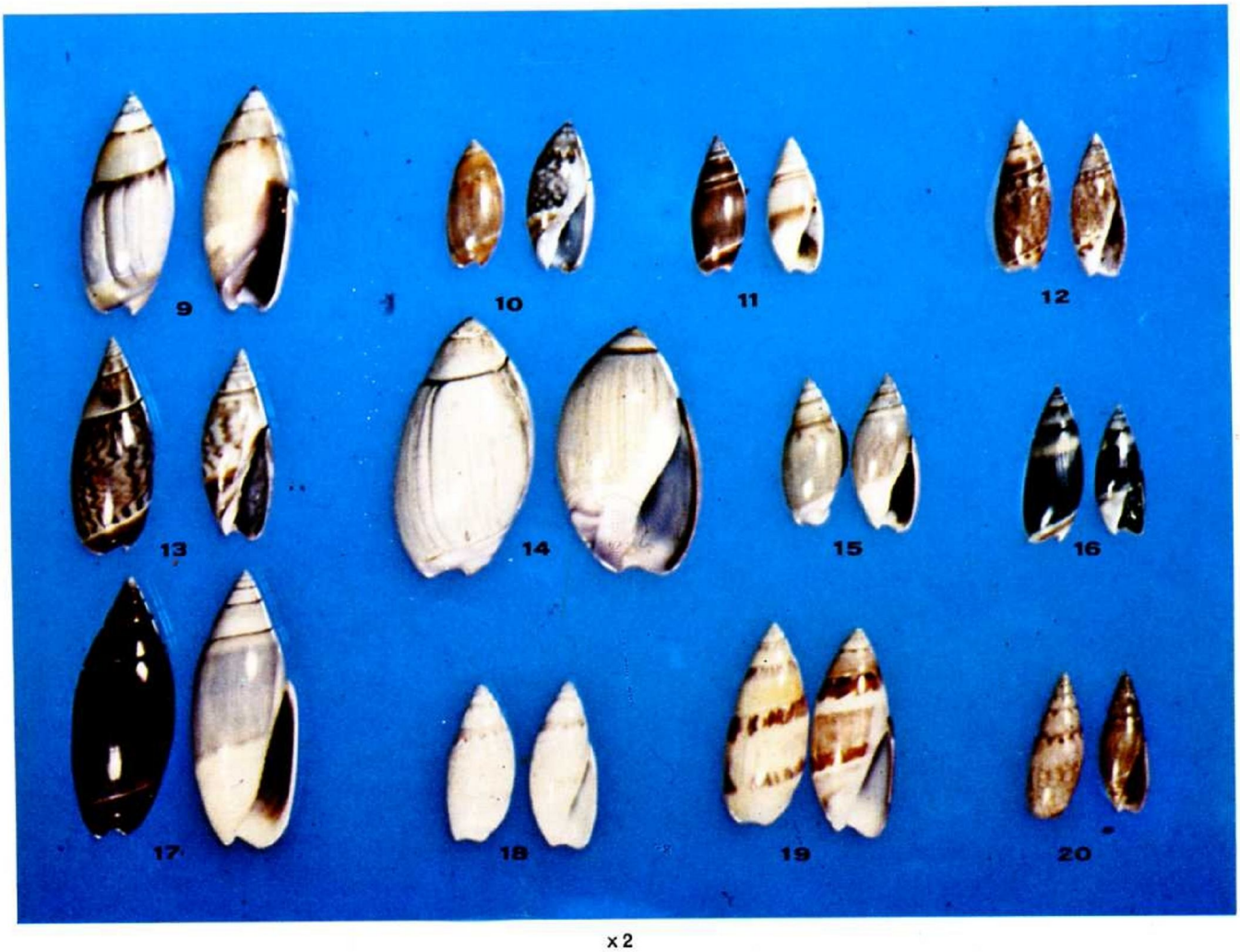
Note from G .Biraghi: For the genus **Olivella** in Western Africa the documentation is unfortunately very scarse and it could be that new **oteroi** exists not just in the Canary Islands, but also along the continental coasts. It does not seem to be the same as **pulchella**, even though some common traits do exist in the description (but not in the drawing!) in « Mollusques testacés marins de la Cote Occidentale d'Afrique » by Maurice Nickles, 1950. In fact, compared to **pulchella**, **oteroi** is much slimmer, especially in the spire, that in the specimens sent us isn't roundeb by a white callosity like in those of the **pulchella** that we already have.

Genus OLIVELLA Swainson, 1831

This genus is obviously included in the family **Olividae** (some Authors have proposed the subfamily **Olivellinae**) and the name given by SWAINSON justly emphasizes both the affinity with the Olives and the reduced size. Miniature olives: yes, but be careful, the molluscs that make these delightful minishells, differ from their larger relatives in many anatomical ways and, among other things they do have a small operculum, while they lack tentacles and eyes. The mantle has two big lobes that completely wrap around the shell, that for this reasons is smooth and shiny. The spire is proportionally taller and more pointed than in **Oliva**. They are rarely bigger than 20mm. Some species are able to swim. There are dozens of known species, all fairly common; they live at shallow depths on sandy bottoms, where they bury themselves. Most of the species are along the American coasts, both the Pacific and the Atlantic. The genus is not represented in the Mediterranean, Many subgenera have been instituted, not taken into account as far as the species here illustrated are concerned.

1) **Olivella fletcherae** BERRY, 1958 from the Gulf of California at Sonara, Mexico.
2) **Olivella morrisoni** OLSSON, 1956 Panama Bay.
3) **Olivella pusilla** (MARRAT, 1871) Florida.
4) **Olivella mutica** (SAY, 1822) from North Carolina to Florida, Bahamas.
5) **Olivella floralia** (DUCLOS, 1853) West Indies, Brazil.
6) **Olivella formicacorsii** KLAPPENBACH, 1962 Southern Brazil, Uruguay.
7) **Olivella verreauxi** (DUCLOS, 1857) West Indies, Brazil.
8) **Olivella nympha** (ADAMS & ANGAS, 1863) Victoria, Tasmania & New South Wales (Australia).
9) **Olivella dama** (WOOD, 1818) Mexico.
10) **Olivella tergina** (DUCLOS, 1835) from the California Bay to Peru.
11) **Olivella zanoeta** (DUCLOS, 1835) from the Gulf of California to Equador.
12) **Olivella sphoni** BURCH & CAPBELL, 1963 from Mexico to Nicaragua.
13) **Olivella amazora** (DUCLOS, 1835) form the Gulf of California to Peru.
14) **Olivella biplicata** (SOWERBY, 1925) Gulf of California.
15) **Olivella baetica** CARPENTER, 1864 from Alaska to the Gulf of California.
16) **Olivella semistriata** (GRAY, 1839) Costa Rica.
17) **Olivella volutella** (LAMARCK, 1811) Central America, Panama.
18) **Olivella jaspidea** (GMELIN, 1791) from southern Florida to the Bermudas and the Antilles.
19) **Olivella nivea** (GMELIN, 1791) Brazil.
20) **Olivella exquisita** (ANGAS) Southern Queensland (Australia).





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