

MIENIS H. K. :

On the identity of *Rapana pontica* NORDSIECK,
1969 - A *Rapana pontica* NORDSIECK, 1969, meg-
határozásáról

In an appendix to his second book on the marine molluscs of Europe, NORDSIECK /1969:256/ mentioned a new species from the Black Sea: *Rapana pontica*. It was described as follows:

"*Rapana pontica* nov.spec. - 100/85 mm. Schwarzes Meer, Bulgarische Küste. 5½ Umgänge, wesentlich grösser als *Rapana bezoar* /LINNÉ/ u. *Rapana thomasiana*/CROSSE/, in der Form zwischen beiden stehend. Obsolete Rippen, auf der Schulter ohrförmige Knoten bildend /13-14 auf dem letzten Umgang/, Feine, dichte Spiralstreifen, am letzten Umgang ca. 55, oft noch einige Zwischenreifen. Sehr konvex, schon in der Mitte eng zusammengezogen, mit langem, tief genabeltem Stiel, dieser nach innen gebogen. Nabel mit schlanker Wulstkante. Mündung 83/53 mm, innen orangerot und mit zahlreichen weissen Zähnen. Schale grau."

It was not the first record of a *Rapana*-species from the Black Sea. STARK mentioned already in 1950 the presence of a *Rapana* on the oysterbeds of the Gudaut Bank. According to DRAPKIN /1953/ the first specimens were already collected in 1947 near Novorossiysk. He identified it as *Rapana bezoar* /LINNÉ, 1758/, a well-known species from the Pacific Ocean. His identification was accepted and followed by CHUKCHIN /1957, 1960, 1961a, 1961b, and 1961c/, DRAPKIN /1964/, GROSSU & LUPU /1964/, ILIESCU & RADULESCU /1968/, IVANOV /1961a, 1961b/, MIRNOV /1963/ and ZENKEVITCH /1963/.

Black Sea specimens from the shore of Turkey were identified by FISCER-PIETTE /1961/ as belonging to *Rapana bezoar* var. *marginata* /VALENCIENNES, 1846/.

However, in 1964 GOLIKOV & STAROBOGATOV pointed

out that the Black Sea Rapana did not belong to R. bezoar but to another related but different species from the Pacific Ocean: Rapana thomasi CROSSE, 1861 s. str.. This view was accepted recently by GROSSU /1970/, IVANOV /1964, 1965 and 1968/, KRAKATITZA /1970/ and GHISOTTI /1971/.

A comparative study of the shellcharacters of both Black Sea and Pacific Ocean material revealed that they belong indeed to one and the same species: R. thomasi. NORDSIECK's statement that his Rapana pontica is much larger than R. thomasi can not stand any longer. His specimen measured 100x85 mm. According to GROSSU & LUPU /1964: 217/ occasionally even specimens of up to 150 mm are found in the Black Sea. In the mollusc collection of the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam are three specimens of R. thomasi from the Pacific Ocean measuring respectively 125, 150 and 175 mm /COOMANS, in litt./. The specimen on which CROSSE based his R. thomasi had even a size of 200 mm!

Yet we can not use the name Rapana thomasi for the species living in the Black Sea. HABE /1969/ has recently pointed out that the latter name is a junior synonym of Rapana venosa/VALENCIENNES, 1846/. This name was also recently adopted by GHISOTTI /1974/.

The following primary synonymy is now known.

Rapana venosa /VALENCIENNES, 1846/

- 1846 Purpura venosa VALENCIENNES, Voy. Venus, Zool. Moll., pl. 7, fig. 1.
1846 Purpura marginata VALENCIENNES, Voy. Venus, Zool. Moll., pl. 7, fig. 3.
1861 Rapana thomasi CROSSE, J. de Conchyl., 9: 176, 268, pls. 9-10.
1882 Rapana bezoar japonica DUNKER, Index. Moll. Mar. Jap., p. 42.
1969 Rapana pontica NORDSIECK, Europ. Meeresmuscheln, Appendix, p. 256.

Rapana venosa is confined in its distribution to the Northwestern part of the Pacific Ocean. It was in-

roduces into the Black Sea probably between 1940 and 1947 in the form of eggcapsules adhering to the bottom of a ship /ZENKEVITCH,1963:444/. At this moment it is living in the entire Black Sea.

GROSSU /1970/ mentioned this species also from the Mediterranean coast of Israel referring to VAN REGTEREN ALTENA /in litt./. This record could not be confirmed. VAN REGTEREN ALTENA /in litt./ has never seen specimens of R. venosa from the coast of Israel, while it is not mentioned too in the up-to-date list Indo-Pacific immigrants living in the Mediterranean by BARASH & DANIN /1973/.

A single specimen has been found however recently in the Adriatic Sea about 15 miles off Ravenna/GHISOTTI, 1974/.

If Rapana venosa really succeeds in settling into the Mediterranean then it may endanger the native fauna. In the Black Sea it is already considered a major pest of the oyster and mussel beds.

SUMMARY

Rapana pontica NORDSIECK, 1969 is a junior synonym of Rapana venosa /VALENCIENNES, 1846/. It is an introduction from the N.W.Pacific, which reached the Black Sea before 1947. Ever since it has spread throughout the whole Black Sea. Recently it has also been reported from the Adriatic Sea.

ÖSSZEFOGLALÁS

Rapana pontica NORDSIECK, 1969 egy fiatal szinonimája a Rapana venosa /VALENCIENNES, 1846/-nak. A Csendes-Óceánból hurcolták be a fajt, még 1947 előtt, a Fekete-tengerbe ahol igen elterjedt. Jelzések érkeztek az Adriai-tengeri előfordulásáról is.

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