

NOTES AND NEWS

A NOTE ON *LAMELLARIA PERSPICUA* (MESOGASTROPODA, GASTROPODA) COLLECTED FROM KARACHI COAST

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The genus *Lamellaria* Montagu, 1815 belongs to the molluscan family of Lamellariidae (Orbigny, 1841). The family "has been in taxonomic disarray" since its creation (Behrens, 1980). This genus can be identified by the absence of marginal teeth on the radula and by an entirely enveloped shell in a nonretractive mantle (Behrens, 1980). Since the present specimen is the ever first lamellarid collected (MRC Newsletter Vol.4 No.2) from Pakistan is seemed necessary to report it. A more systematic search for more individuals will hopefully reveal other species.

A single male *Lamellaria* was collected from Bulleji (24°50'N, 66°53'E) on 5 December 1994 from a rock pool in the intertidal region. The substrata was not noted down. It measured 22x25mm. The largest specimen, Behrens (1980) examined was 20x20mm. Since the specimen was live a motion picture was recorded. It is provisionally identified as *Lamellaria perspicua* (Linnaeus) and deposited in Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre (MRC) Cat No.GAST-197. The specimen was killed by chilling for further study and illustration. It was left unattended for 4 or 5 days, the chilled specimen became flat and as such height was not measured, the cutaneous bosses (Fig.1A) also became flatter. The brown mottling on the dorsal surface also disappeared, however black pigment spots still stand from white ground colour. A dorsal fissure in the mantle is absent. The ventral surface (Fig.1B), sole of the foot, head and penis are white, a large black spot is present on the head.

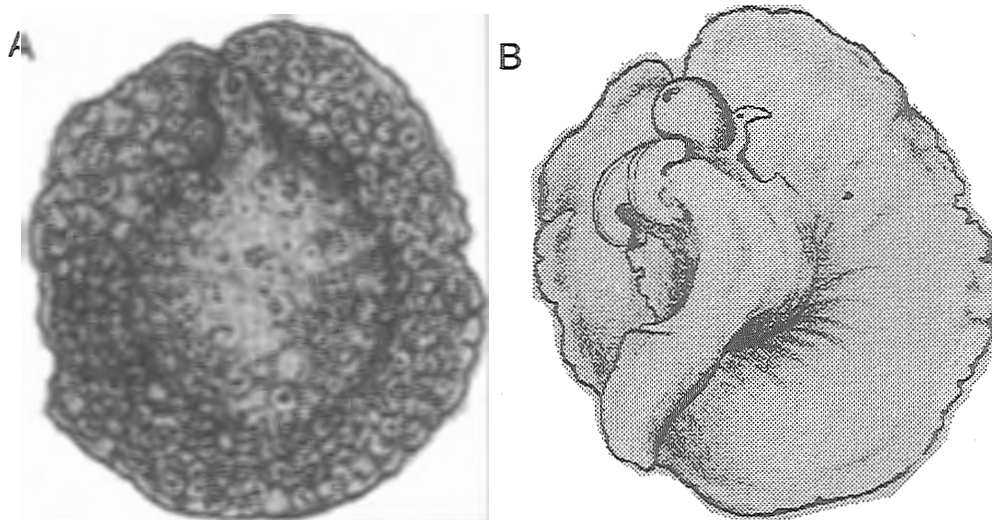


Fig.1. *Lamellaria perspicua* A. dorsal aspect, B. ventral aspect.

The shell which measures 11x13mm is white, with distinct growth lines (Fig.2A,B).

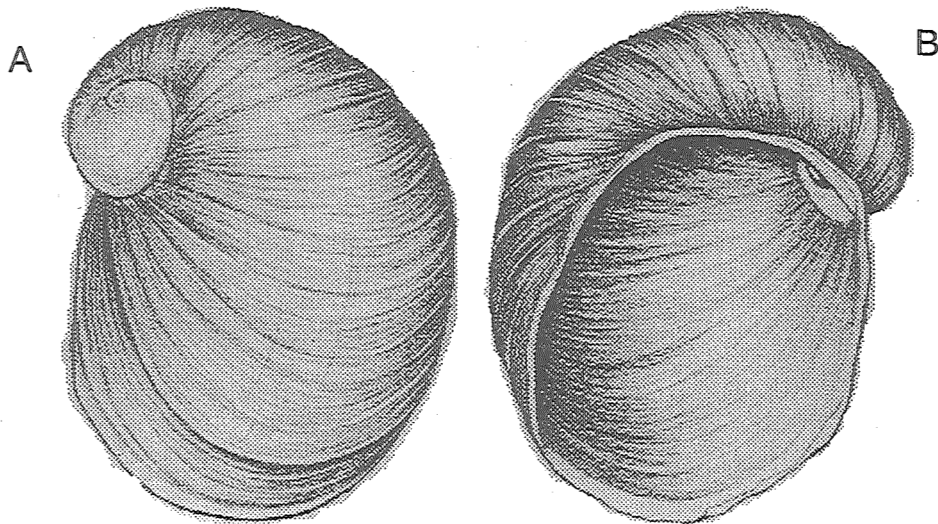


Fig.2. *Lamellaria perspicua* A. shell, dorsal aspect, B. shell, ventral aspect.

The radula has 67 rows of teeth, of which 4-5 distal most rows are not brown, they are whitish.

The two legs of the rachidean (Fig.3A) are almost equal. The rachidian has 3(5) denticles on the right and 2(3) on the left leg differing from "4-5 strong denticles on right, 6-7 finer on the left" given by Behrens, (1980:327). The lateral tooth (Fig.3B) has 4-5 strong inner and 15 outer denticles, gradually decreasing in size towards apex. The number of rows of teeth and their denticles is subject to variation (Behrens, 1980).

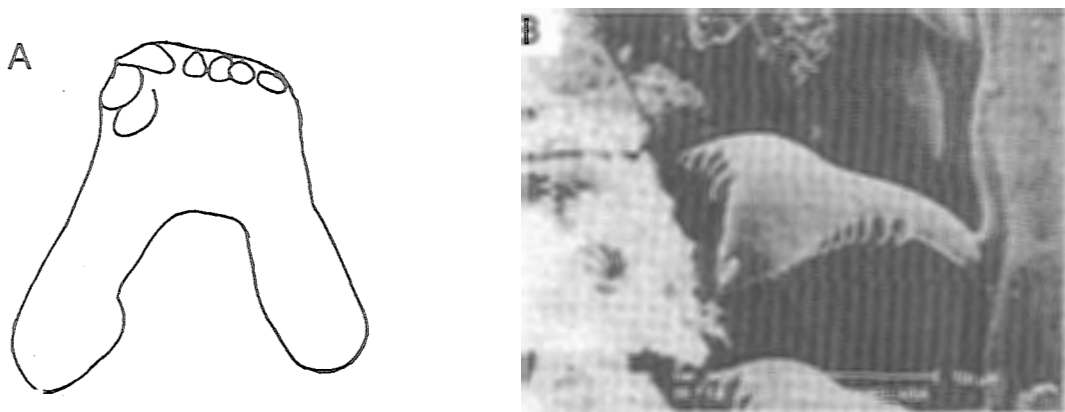


Fig. 3. *Lamellaria perspicua* A. rachidian, B. lateral tooth, SEM micrograph (through Philips XL 20).

Thompson (1960) was first to study *Lamellaria perspicua* as one of the lamellarids which possess "a predator deterrent in the form of acid secretions from glands in the mantle" (Behrens, 1984). However, these glands were not studied in Pakistani specimens.

The species is said to be worldwide distributed (Behrens, 1980), though it is collected from Pakistan waters of the North Arabian Sea for the first time.

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