

A New Volute from the Western Pacific

BY

PHILIPPE BOUCHET

Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre-Mer, Centre de Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie¹

(1 Plate)

DURING A CRUISE of the R. V. "Vauban" on the deep continental shelf of New Caledonia, a new gastropod of the family Volutidae has been dredged. A single, live-taken specimen is present but its characteristics are so different from the other known species of the family that a description is presented herein.

Lyria kuniene Bouchet, spec. nov.

Type Material: Holotype in MNHN^{*}

Type Locality: 22°49'S, 167°12'E (west of Isle of Pines, southern New Caledonia), in 390-395 m; 10 April, 1978

Description: Shell solid, ovate fusiform in outline, composed of 8.5 whorls; the protoconch is bulbous and has 2.5 smooth whorls, thus indicating direct development (Figure 3); the postlarval shell has 6 shouldered whorls with a moderately deep suture. The postlarval sculpture consists of a few distant axial ribs of which there are 9 on the body and penultimate whorls; these ribs are a little more closely spaced on the first 2 postlarval whorls, on which 10 ribs can be counted. Growth lines are very apparent but no spiral sculpture is present. The aperture is rather narrow, semioval, and roughly occupies a little less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the shell height. The columella is straight with 4 strong anterior plaits followed by 5 minor ones and a tooth-like projection appearing on the parietal wall below the suture. The siphonal canal is short. The basic color of the shell is a creamy yellow with spiral

chestnut lines present on the axial ribs but not visible in between. The aperture is dirty white.

Dimensions of the Shell: height, 64.0 mm; breadth, 25.5 mm; height of the aperture, 39.0 mm; breadth, 11.5 mm.

The animal has not been observed alive. Preserved in alcohol, the foot, snout and tentacles are yellowish with numerous fine, pink to red radiating lines. The sole is a uniform dirty white. Eyes are present.

Remarks: Since the monograph by WEAVER & DUPONT (1970), the descriptions of 4 more Indo-West Pacific *Lyria* have appeared:

- *Lyria taiwanica* Lan, 1975, from Taiwan, = *L. kawamurai* Habe, 1975, from Japan (WEAVER, 1977)
- *Lyria mallicki* Ladd, 1975
- *Lyria santoensis* Ladd, 1975, both from the New Hebrides Pleistocene
- *Lyria tulearensis* von Cosel & Blöcher, 1977, from Madagascar, which is apparently a local form or at most a subspecies of *L. delessertiana* (Petit de la Saussaye, 1842)

There are now 5 species of Volutidae known from the waters around New Caledonia:

- Cymbiola deshayesi* (Reeve, 1855)
- Cymbiola rossiniana* (Bernardi, 1859)
- Cymbiolacca thatcheri* (McCoy, 1868)
- Lyria deliciosa* (Montrouzier, 1859)
- Lyria kuniene* Bouchet, 1979

The name *kuniene* is derived from Kunié, the Kanak name for the Isle of Pines.

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¹ Permanent address: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, 55 rue Buffon, F 75005 Paris

^{*} We have been informed that the MNHN does not assign type numbers. Editor.

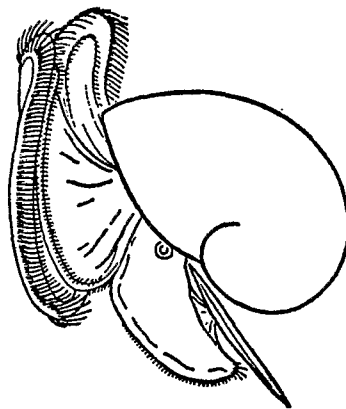
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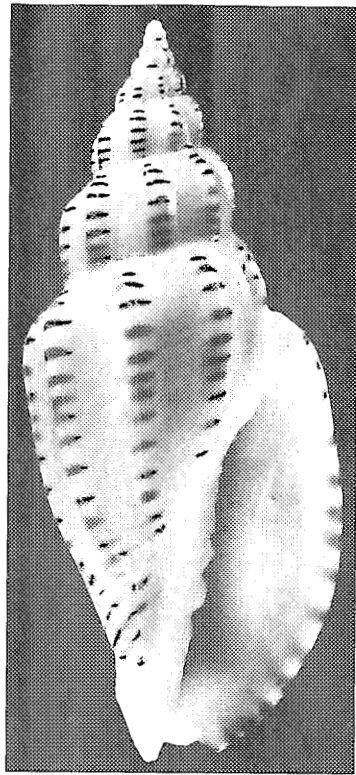


Figure 1

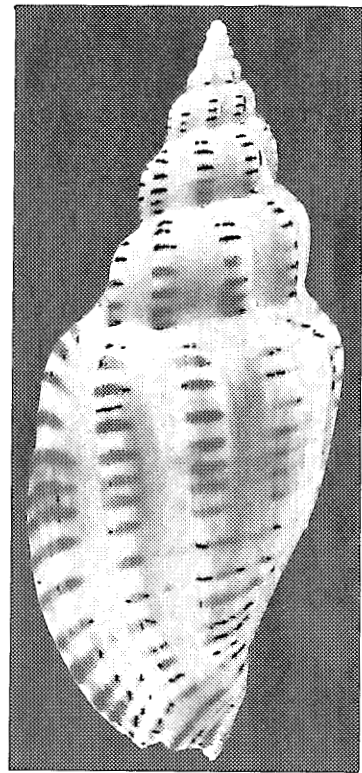


Figure 2

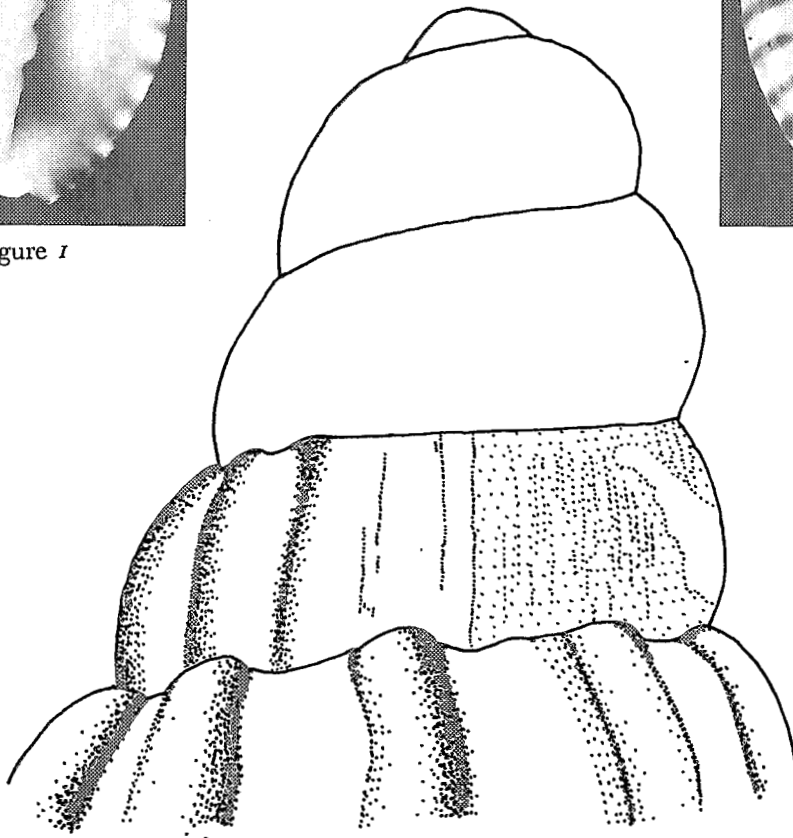


Figure 3

Lyria kuniene Bouchet, spec. nov.

Figure 1: ventral view Figure 2: dorsal view of holotype
(photographs by A. Foubert)

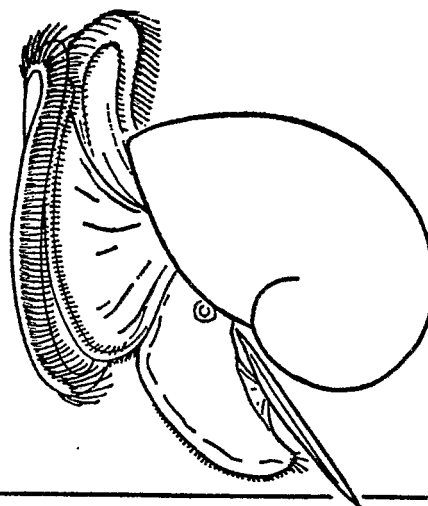
Figure 3: Protoconch of holotype

[scale line 1 mm]



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