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On the occurence of *Monacha (Ashfordia) granulata* (ALDER) in Spain.

By

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With 5 figures.

Monacha (Ashfordia) granulata (ALDER, 1830) was first described from Stella and Walbottle Deans, north-east England. The species occurs throughout the British Isles including England, Scotland, Ireland and the Scilly Isles. It is also found in the Channel Isles. The occurrence of the species outside the British Isles has long been doubted. This is because of confusion of the shell with those of members of the taxonomically complicated *Trichia hispida* (LINNAEUS) group. For example JAECKEL (1962) list the species as exclusively British. There is however French material from Morlaix, Finistére described as *Helix psaturochoeta* (BOURGUIGNAT, 1860) and GERMAIN (1929) has accepted the identity of this species with *M. granulata*. No other reliable continental records are known to me.

It was therefore of great interest to find in the R. MACANDREW Collection of the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge eight shells of *M. granulata* labelled '*Helix Serica* MÜLL Gijon RM' Gijon is on the north coast of Spain in the Province of Asturias. From the 'RM' on the label we are able to deduce that MACANDREW collected the material himself during a period ashore from one of his marine dredging trips in the north-west Atlantic, so it is unlikely that there is a mistake in the locality information. This record represents a large extension in the known range of *M. granulata*. Malacologists working along the Atlantic coasts of France, Spain and perhaps northern Portugal should be alert to the possibility that *M. granulata* may be present.

Monacha granulata has been adequately described by TAYLOR (1917). Some additional information is provided here, based on material from Audley End, Essex, England.

The shell is globose with 5-6 whorls and is of diameter 6-8 mm and height 4-5 mm. It is covered with persistent white periostracal hairs which arise from an elongate base set in a pit (Fig. 3).

The genitalia (Fig. 1) lack dart-sacs or mucus glands. An easy distinction can therefore be made from species with a similar shell form. The penis-sheath is swollen and translucent and may be split to reveal a penial organ, which in turn may be split to show the presence of 6-7 longitudinal crests which continue into

the epiphallus (Fig. 2). Such crests may be found in other species of the genus *Monacha* (and indeed in other Helicidae). The penis of *M. cantiana* (MONTAGU) contains 8-9 crinkled crests (material examined from Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England and Finale Ligure, Liguria, Italy). The penis of *M. cartusiana* (MÜLLER) is rather different with a curious bend internally and about 20 crests which tend to run into and out of each other (material examined from Siena, Tuscany, Italy).

The radula of *M. granulata* is unspecialised with many teeth. The lateral teeth are highly asymmetrical with 2 cusps (Fig. 4) while the marginals are widely spaced and 4 cusped (Fig. 5).

Summary

Monacha granulata (ALDER) is reported from Spain on the basis of material collected in the last century. Details of shell, genitalia and radula of English specimens are given.

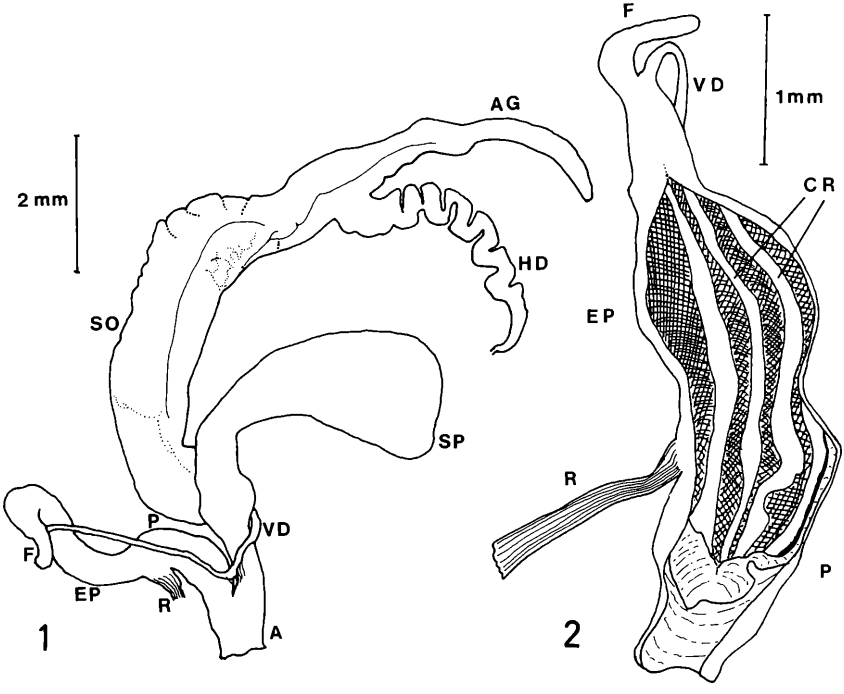

Fig. 1. *Monacha granulata* (ALDER). Genital system of an individual from Audley End, Essex, England. — A atrium, AG albumen gland, EP epiphallus, F flagellum, HD hermaphrodite duct, P penis, R retractor muscle, SO spermoviduct, SP spermatheca.

Fig. 2. *Monacha granulata* (ALDER). Penial complex of an individual from Audley End, Essex, England split to show the internal crests. — Lettering as in Fig. 1, CR crests.

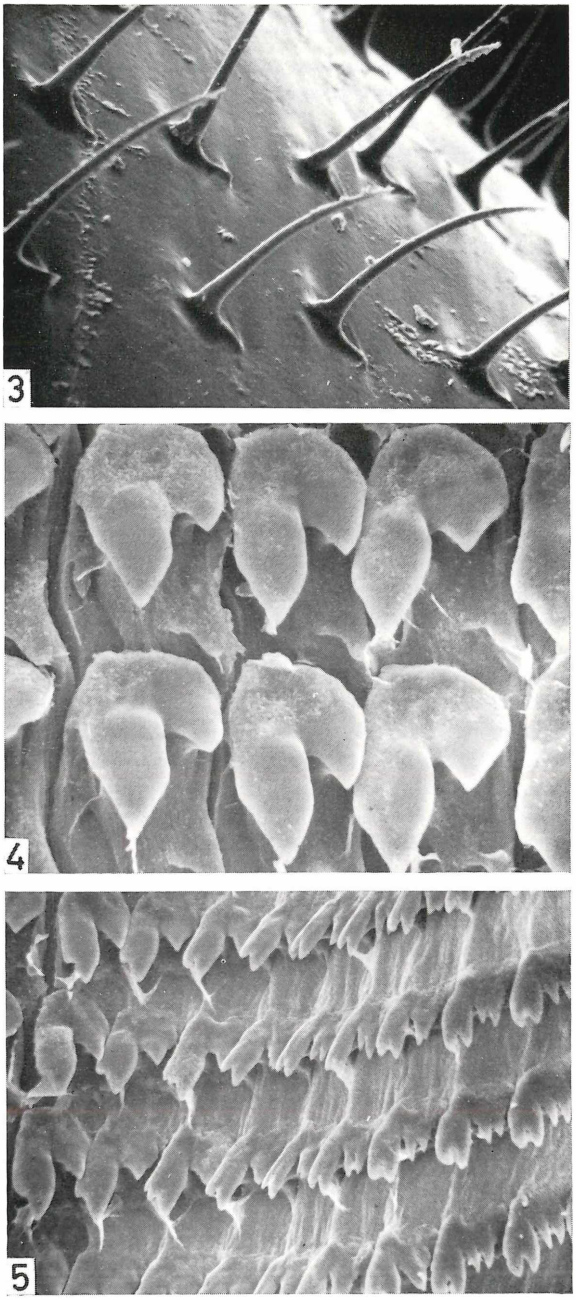

Fig. 3-5. *Monacha granulata* (ALDER). — 3) shell surface with periostracal hairs. × 200; 4) radula showing lateral teeth × 2000; 5) marginal teeth × 1000.

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