

New data on gastropods of Paros Island (Cyclades, Greece)

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Abstract: The present report provides an updated checklist of land and freshwater molluscs from Paros Island (Cyclades, Greece). Altogether, 54 species were recorded, among them ten freshwater, three brackish and 41 terrestrial subspecies/species. Altogether, sixteen taxa are reported for the first time for Paros (nine freshwater species, two brackish and five terrestrial species).

Keywords: Aegean archipelago, Cyclades, land gastropods, fresh water gastropods, Paros, Greece

Zusammenfassung: Der vorliegende Bericht enthält eine aktualisierte Liste der Land- und Süßwassermollusken der Insel Paros (Kykladen, Griechenland). Insgesamt wurden 54 Arten gefunden. Davon sind zehn Süßwasserarten, drei Brackwasserarten und 41 terrestrische Unterarten/Arten. Insgesamt wurden 16 Taxa das erste Mal für Paros nachgewiesen (neun Süßwasser-, zwei Brackwasser- und fünf Landschnecken-Arten/Unterarten).

Schlüsselwörter: Ägäisches Archipel, Landgastropoden, Süßwassergastropoden, Paros, Griechenland

Introduction

The island of Paros is located in the centre of the Cyclades and has an area of 196 km². The highest point of the island is Agioi Pandes, 724 m above sea level (a.s.l.). The environment has areas of low scrub vegetation and limestone rocks. The Petaloudes area, located about seven kilometres southwest of Parikia near the Monastery of Moni Christou Dasous, is a Natura 2000 protected area under the name Nisos Paros Petaloudes GR4220016. There are few publications on the freshwater mollusc fauna of the Cyclades. Schütt (1982) reported on *Ancylus fluviatilis*. This is the only freshwater species from Paros that can be found in the literature. In addition, freshwater faunas from the Cyclades have been studied recently for Andros (Georgopoulou et al. 2016), for Kos (Avrithis & Fischer 2022) and for Sifnos Island and Kitriani Islet (Liberto et al. 2024). The terrestrial gastropods of Paros were studied by Mylonas (1982) on the basis of material collected by himself. He listed 37 species and subspecies of land gastropods for Paros.

For more recent works on the Aegean molluscan fauna see Cameron et al. (2000), Triantis et al. (2008), Vardinoyannis et al. (2015), Mylonas & Vardinoyannis (2022), Maroulis et al. (2022a, b). Paros is only referenced in the publication by Maroulis et al. 2022a.

Material and Methods

Our survey was conducted at irregular intervals from May 2014 to August 2024. Terrestrial gastropod samples were collected from 22 points/areas (Fig. 1) (ranging from sea level to 700 m a.s.l.) either by in-situ surveys or by soil sampling for the small-sized gastropods. Freshwater samples were collected from six freshwater streams and two water collection tanks.

We had to adapt the names of the older literature, especially Mylonas (1982), to recent nomenclature in order to compile a new list of terrestrial molluscs of Paros. Scientific species names are based on MolluscaBase (www.molluscabase.org/; August 2024). All samples are deposited in the collection of Christos Zeimbekis, who provides access to the biological material for inspection by appointment.

Results and discussion

A total of 43 gastropods were found in the present study on Paros, among them eleven freshwater, three brackish and 30 terrestrial (sub)species (Table 1). Sixteen taxa were reported for the first time for Paros in the present study, among them nine freshwater species, two brackish and five terrestrial species (Table 1). Eleven taxa reported from former studies could not be found (Mylonas 1982; Maroulis 2022a): *Pyramidula chorismenostoma*, *Pyramidula*

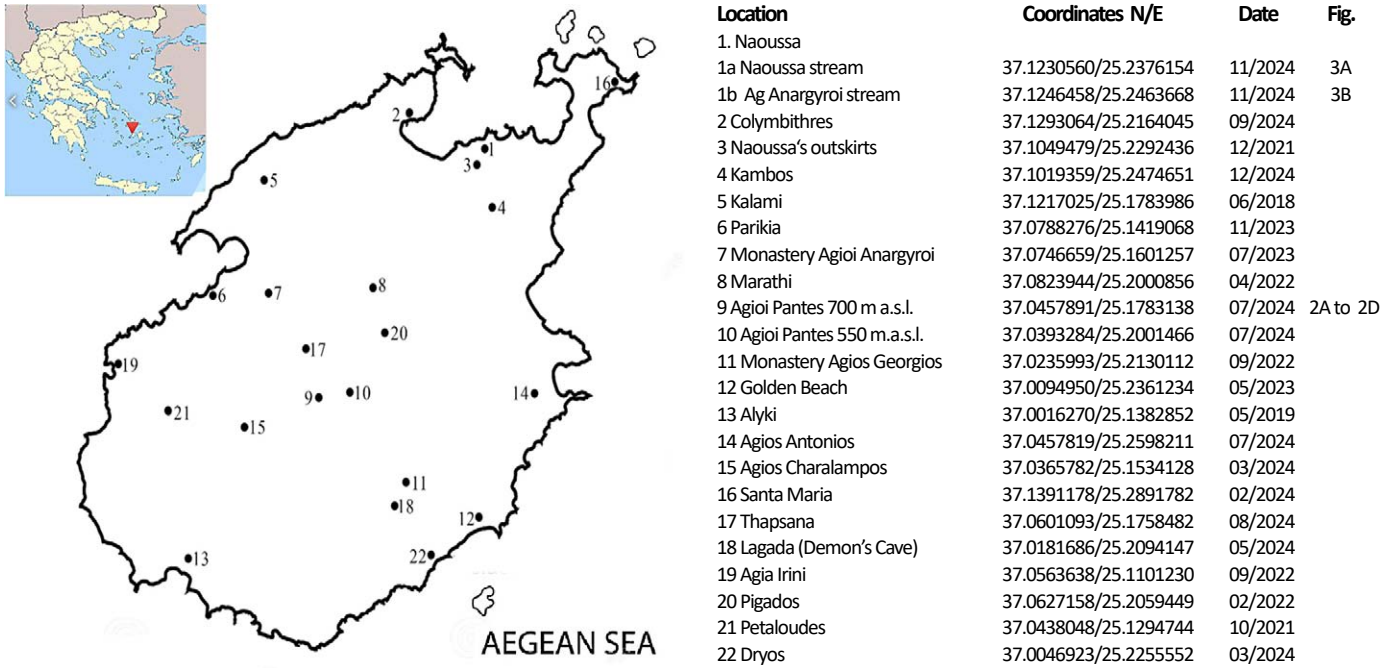


Fig. 1: Map of Paros with 22 sampling areas

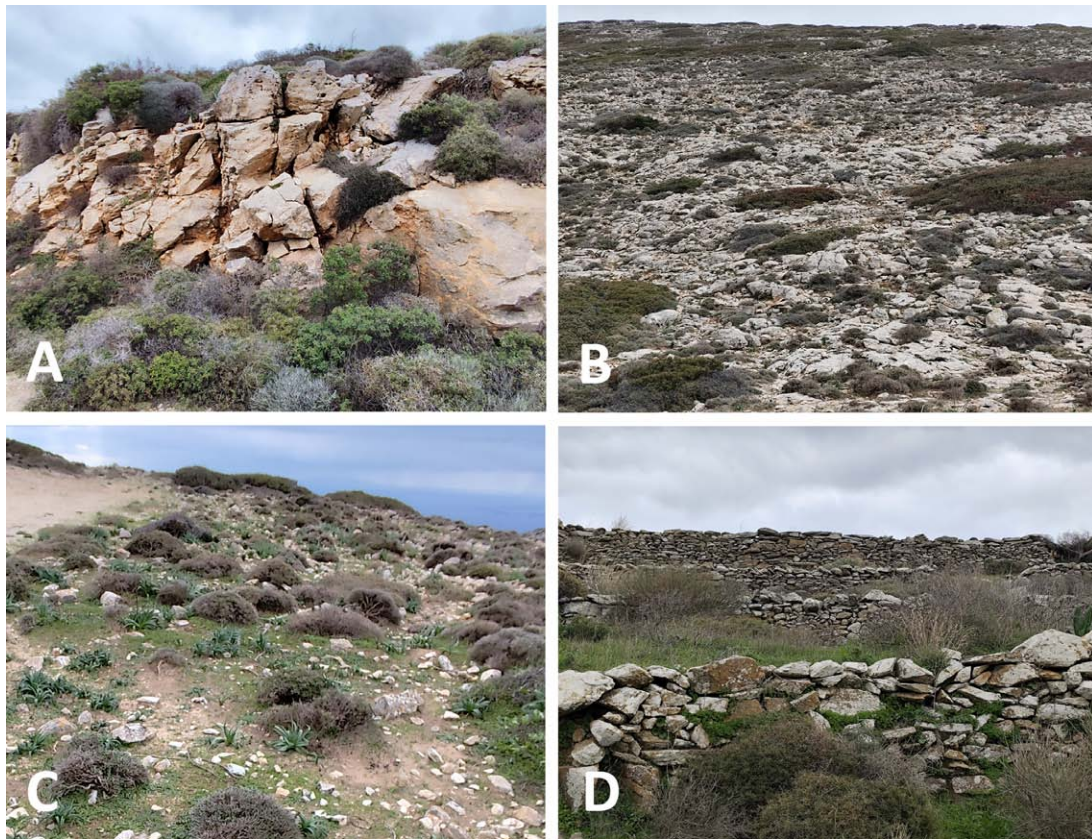


Fig. 2: Highlands of Paros, Agioi Pantes (750 m asl)(Location 9). **A:** Habitat of *Albinaria caerulea caerulea*; **B:** Habitat of *Xerocrassa cretica*; **C:** Habitat of *Helix figulina*. Always in sandy soil; **D:** Habitat of *Thiessea bacchica*, in stonewalls. Photos : C. Zeimbekis

rupestris, *Rupestris philippii*, *Schistophallus samius*, *Tandonia cretica*, *Zonites pergranulatus pergranulatus*, *Limax conemenosi*, *Deroceras parium*, *Xeropicta krynickii*, *Xerolenta obvia obvia*. Maroulis (2022a) already remarked

in his publication: "Since only one subfossil shell of *Z. pergranulatus* was found after extensive sampling, there is a considerable possibility that this species is now extinct on the island."

Freshwater snails

From *Pseudorientalia* sp., *Physella acuta* and *Planorbis atticus* only empty shells were found. It remains to be investigated in the future to find out whether they are extinct. All other freshwater-species were found alive. There were two living populations of *Melanopsis astropaliae* (Fig. 5Aa, 5Ab) in the stream of Naoussa (Fig. 3A) and in a small stream at Petaloudes. In the last five years, only remains of dead shells have been found in the water tanks of Drios. Large populations of *Theodoxus fluviatilis*, *Pseudamnicola* sp. (Fig. 4A) and *Hydrobia glyca* (Fig. 4E) were also found in the Naoussa stream. Living populations of *Galba truncatula* were found in small streams at Pigados and Lagada. Of *Planorbis atticus* (Fig. 5B), *Melanopsis astropaliae*, and *Physella acuta* only dead specimens were found, namely in the Drios water tanks.

For *Ancylus fluviatilis* three localities from Paros were mentioned by Schütt (1982) (Bach NW Petaludes, Rinn-sal W Lefka, Moni Thapsanon, Quellüberlaufbecken). In the present study, living populations were found in small streams at Pigados and Lagada.

In recent years, several new species of *Pseudamnicola* Paulucchi, 1878 have been described from the Aegean Islands (Glöer 2018; Glöer & Reuselaars 2020; Glöer & Fischer 2022). For the *Pseudamnicola* sp. recorded from Paros in the present study, we likewise consider to describe a possible new taxon, if living adult specimens can still be found. Only when a dissection of the genital tract confirms the new species, it will be done in a separate publication.

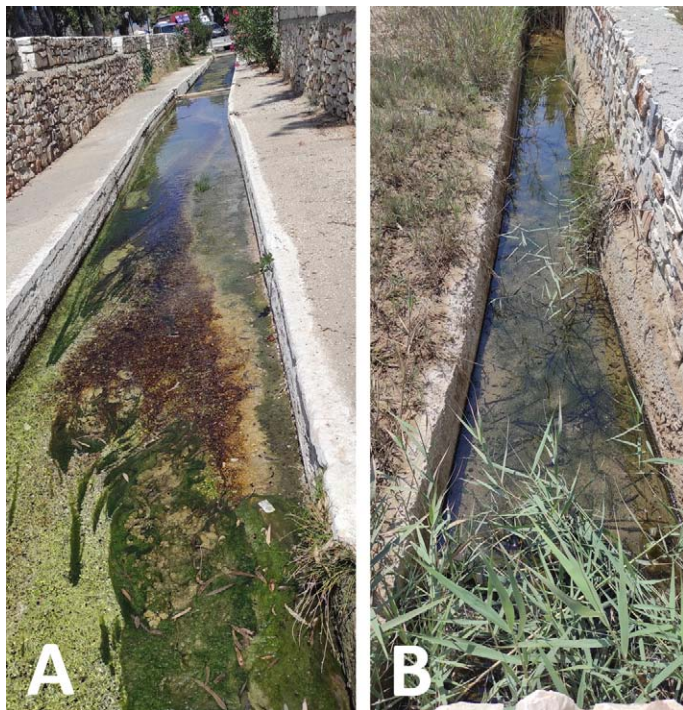


Fig. 3: **A:** Naoussa's stream; **B:** Agioi Anargyroi stream with a considerable number of *Ecrobia maritima*. Photos : C. Zeimbekis

Brackish water snails

Three species of brackish water snails were recorded: which one (*Myosotella myosotis*) was covered already by Mylonas (1982) as *Ovatella biasoletiana* (Küster, 1844) and two are recorded for the first time for Paros: *Truncatella subcylindrica*, *Ovatella firminii*.

Terrestrial snails

Six of the taxa recorded are endemic to the Cyclades: *Albinaria caerulea milleri*, *Zonites pergranulatus pergranulatus*, *Monacha rothii*, *Thiessa bacchica*, *Candidula syrensis* and *Deroceras parium*. Five species were recorded for the first time for Paros (*Pleurodiscus balmei*, *Oxychilus cyprius*, *Lindholmia lens*, *Xerotracha conspurcata*, *Microxeromagna lowei*).

Rumina saharica was named *R. decollata truncata* (Kobelt) by Mylonas (1982) which is now considered a synonym. The author of *R. decollata truncata* (Kobelt) is not Kobelt but Mousson (*Bulimus truncata* Mousson, 1854).

Mylonas (1982) mentioned *Orculella* sp. (*doliolum*), although it should be mentioned that, according to Gittenberger & Hausdorf (2004) *O. doliolum* does not occur in Greece. Since there are no illustrations in Mylonas' work, the assignment to *O. doliolum* it is still not clear. It could be *O. critica*, but there is no certainty for this, as several *Orculella* species occur in the Aegean region (Pieper 1970).

Pleurodiscus balmei (Fig. 9) is perhaps one of the rarest snails on the island. A living population in the garden of a house with stone wall and plants for the necessary humidity in Naoussa are the only proof.

Albinaria caerulea caerulea was found only in the highlands and some limestone areas in the central-southern part of the island (Fig. 2A).

Albinaria caerulea milleri lives in many of the limestone areas. To our knowledge this species is not recorded on islands outside Cyclades and thus might be endemic there.

Lindholmia lens (Fig. 6D) was found only in 2014 at one location (sampling area 4, Kambos), but not during any subsequent visits. Since there is a clear anthropophily (gardens, greenhouses), it could have been spread passively by humans (Frank 1997).

Monacha rothii is an abundant species on Paros, in uncultivated areas with low vegetation. It is also endemic to the Cyclades.

Candidula syrensis (Fig. 2D) is endemic to the Cyclades. The morphotype of *C. syrensis* found on Paros differed remarkably from the forms on Syros (two forms) and on Naxos. Despite their differences in shell size and form, their common characteristics are the peripheral keel, the shape of the umbilicus and the density of the ribs.

Gastropods of Paros Island

Table 1: List of species and subspecies reported for Paros. Ref = B = bibliographic reference for Paros, F = Frank 1997 M = Mylonas 1982, Ma = Maroulis et. al 2022a, S = Schütt 1982, Z = collected by Zeimbekis, Z = recorded for the first time.

| Species | B | Z | Location | Chorotype |
|---|----|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Theodoxus fluviatilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | | Z | 1 | European |
| <i>Melanopsis astropaliae</i> Gambetta, 1929 (Fig. 5 Aa, Ab) | | Z | 1, 21, 22 | Aegean |
| <i>Hydrobia glyca</i> (Servain, 1880), Fig.: 4D | | Z | 1 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Ecrobia maritima</i> (Milaschewitsch, 1916) (Fig. 4E) | | Z | 1 | Atlantic-Mediterranean |
| <i>Pseudamnicola</i> sp. (Fig. 4A, B) | | Z | 1 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Pseudorientalia</i> sp. (Fig. 4C) | | Z | 22 | East Med. |
| <i>Truncatella subcylindrica</i> (Linne 1758) (Fig. 5D) | | Z | 1, 13, 16, 19 | European |
| <i>Galba truncatula</i> (O. F. Müller, 1774) | | Z | 18, 20 | Palaeartic |
| <i>Physella acuta</i> (Draparnaud, 1805) | | Z | 22 | Cosmopolitan |
| <i>Planorbis atticus</i> Bourguignat, 1852 (Fig. 5B) | | Z | 22 | Greece |
| <i>Ancylus fluviatilis</i> O. F. Müller, 1774 | S | Z | 18, 20 | European |
| <i>Myosotella myosotis</i> (Draparnaud, 1801) (Fig. 5Ca) | | Z | 1 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Ovatella firminii</i> (Payraudeau, 1826) (Fig. 5Cb) | | Z | 19 | European |
| <i>Rumina saharica</i> Pallary, 1901 | M | Z | 1 – 7, 12, 13, 17 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (O. F. Müller, 1774) | M | Z | 9, 17 | Palaeartic |
| <i>Lauria cylindracea</i> (Da Costa, 1778) | M | | | Palaeartic |
| <i>Orculella critica</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1856) (Fig. 6F, J) | M | Z | 2, 3, 4, 10, 17 | Aegean |
| <i>Pyramidula chorismenostoma</i> (Westerlund & Blanc, 1879) | M | | | Aegean |
| <i>Pyramidula rupestris</i> (Draparnaud, 1801) | M | | | Mediterranean-Central Asian |
| <i>Pleurodiscus balmei</i> (Potiez & Michaud, 1838) | | Z | 1 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Granopupa granum</i> (Draparnaud, 1801) | M | Z | 10, 17 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Rupestrella philippii</i> (Cantraine, 1841) | M | | | Mediterranean |
| <i>Mastus etuberculatus</i> (Frauenfeld, 1867) | M | Z | 3, 4, 7 | Aegean |
| <i>Albinaria caerulea caerulea</i> (Deshayes, 1835) (Fig. 6G) | M | Z | 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 18 | Cycladic |
| <i>Albinaria caerulea milleri</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1850) (Fig. 6H) | M | Z | 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 14 | Aegean |
| <i>Vitrea clessini</i> (P. Hesse, 1882) (Fig. 6 C) | M | Z | 10, 17 | Aegean |
| <i>Vitrea contracta</i> (Westerlund, 1871) (Fig. 6E) | M | Z | 4, 10, 17 | Palaeartic |
| <i>Oxychilus cyprius</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1847) | | Z | 1, 4, 6 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Mediterranea hydatina hydatina</i> (Rossmässler, 1838) (Fig. 6B) | M | Z | 18 | Aegean |
| <i>Schistophallus samius</i> (E. von Martens, 1889) | M | | | Aegean |
| <i>Tandonia cretica</i> (Simroth, 1884) | M | | | Greece |
| <i>Zonites pergranulatus</i> Kobelt, 1878 | Ma | | | Cycladic |
| <i>Limax conemenosi</i> O. Boettger, 1882 | M | | | Balkan |
| <i>Deroceras parium</i> Wiktor & Mylonas, 1981 | M | | | Aegean |
| <i>Lindholmiola lens</i> (A. Férussac, 1832) | | Z | 4 | Balkan |
| <i>Caracollina lenticula</i> (Michaud, 1831) | M | Z | 1, 3, 13 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Monacha rothii</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1841) | M | Z | 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 14, 18 | Cycladic |
| <i>Cochlicella acuta</i> (O. F. Müller, 1774) | M | Z | 1 – 7, 12, 13, 14, 16 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Xerotricha conspurcata</i> (Draparnaud, 1801) | | Z | 1, 2, 6, 18 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Candidula syrensis</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1846) (Fig. 9) | M | Z | 9, 10, 14, 17 | Cycladic |
| <i>Cernuella cisalpina</i> (Rossmässler, 1837) (Fig. 6A) | M | Z | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 13, 16 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Cernuella virgata</i> (Da Costa, 1778) | F | Z | 1 | Palaeartic |
| <i>Microxeromagna lowei</i> (Potiez & Michaud, 1838) | | Z | 1 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Xeropicta krynickii</i> (Krynicky, 1833) | M | | | Mediterranean |
| <i>Xerolenta obvia obvia</i> (Menke, 1828) | M | | | Europe |
| <i>Xeromunda candiota</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1849) | M | Z | 3, 4, 7 | Aegean |
| <i>Trochoidea pyramidata</i> (Draparnaud, 1805) | M | Z | 3, 10 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Xerocrassa cretica</i> (L. Pfeiffer, 1841) | M | Z | 2, 3, 9, 10 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Thiessea bacchica</i> (E. von Martens, 1889) (Fig. 6I) | M | Z | 8, 9, 10, 11, 17 | Cycladic |
| <i>Theba pisana</i> (O. F. Müller, 1774) | M | Z | 1 – 4, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Eobania vermiculata</i> (O. F. Müller, 1774) | M | Z | 1 - 8, 11 - 17 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Cantareus apertus</i> (Born, 1778) | M | Z | 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 16 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Cornu aspersum</i> (O. F. Müller, 1774) | M | Z | 1 – 4, 6, 11, 13, 16 – 18 | Mediterranean |
| <i>Helix figulina</i> Rossmässler, 1839 (Fig. 8) | M | Z | 6, 10, 12 | Balkan |

Candidula syrensis could be a species complex rather than a single species (Liberto et al. 2024).

Cernuella cisalpina (Rossmässler, 1837) was classified as *C. profuga* which is now considered a synonym.

Frank (1997) discussed the distribution of *Xeropicta krynickii* (Dodecanese islands), *Xerolenta obvia* (for Rhodes and Kos) and the correct identification of these two species. *X. obvia* is known from the Skyros and Kalymnos

archipelagos and *X. krynickii* from the Kalmyros archipelago (Triantis et al. 2008). These two archipelagoes are located at the edge of the Aegean Sea. Occurrences of *X. obvia* are known from the entire mainland. The occurrence is either based on misinterpretations or both species are extinct.

Mylonas (1982) listed *Cernuella candiota* (Mouss.). Yet, the author is not Mousson but (L. Pfeiffer, 1849) (comp.

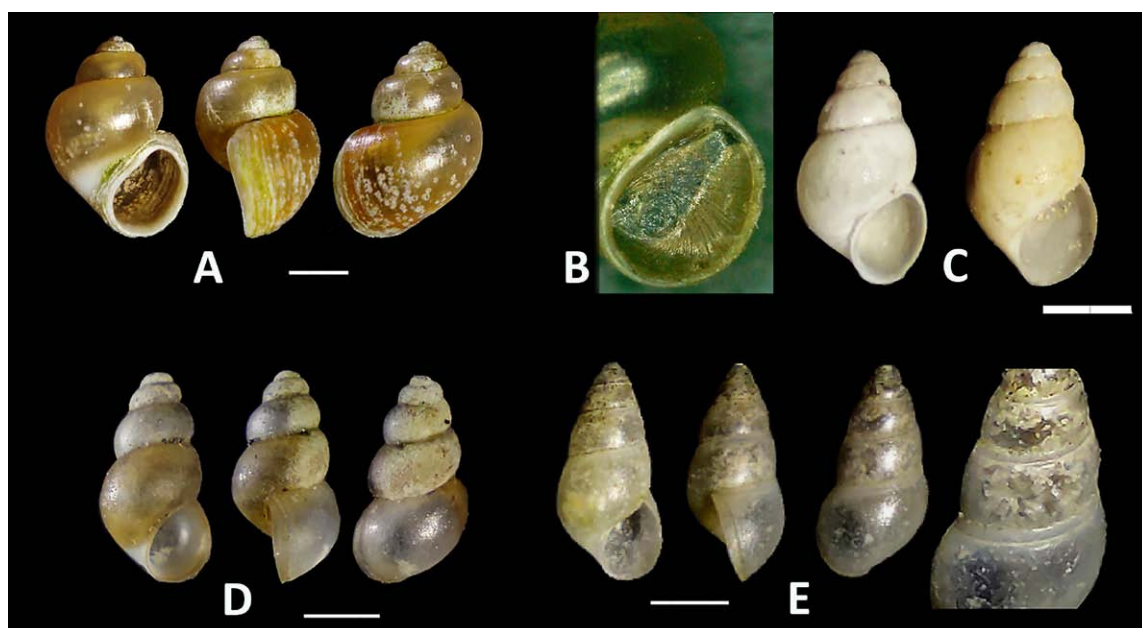


Fig. 4: **A:** *Pseudamnicola* sp., from Naoussa's stream; **B:** *Pseudamnicola* sp. Operculum, from Naoussa's stream; **C:** *Pseudorientalia* sp., from the fresh water tanks of Drios, size: 2.5 mm; **D:** *Ectrobia maritima* from a small stream at Agioi Anargyroi (Fig. 2B); **E:** *Hydrobia glyca*, from Naoussa's stream (Scale 1 mm). Photos: C. Zeimbekis

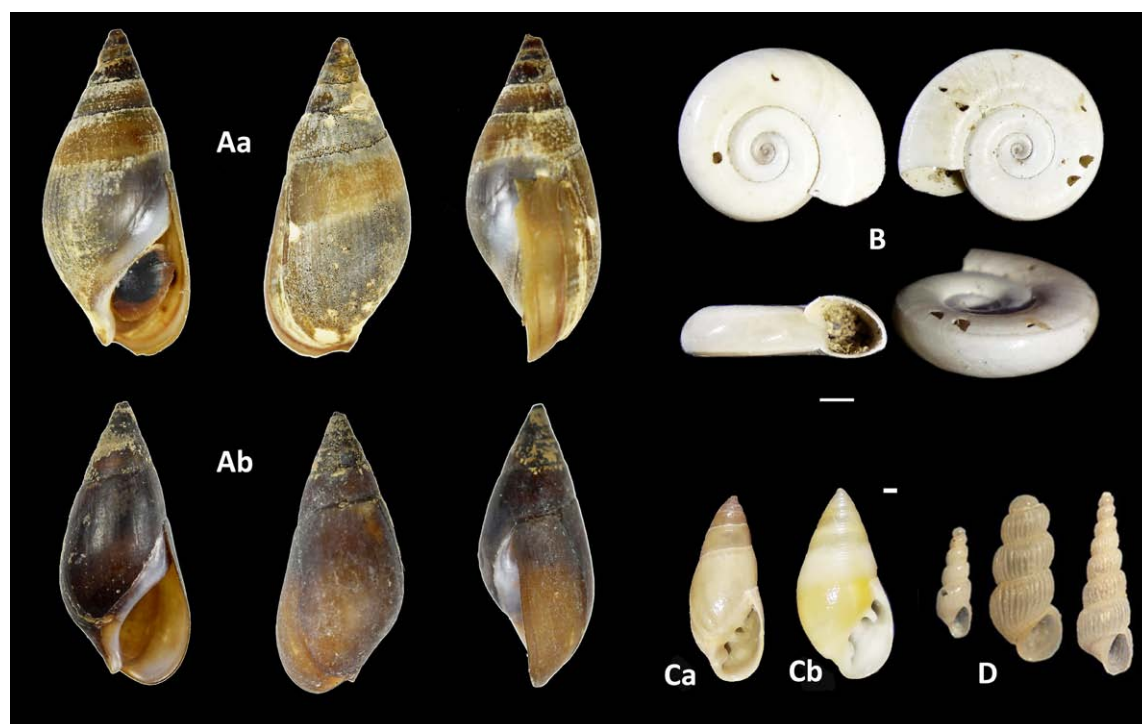


Fig. 5: **A:** *Melanopsis astropaliae*: **Aa:** from Petaloudes stream, size: 20 mm; **Ab:** Naoussa's stream, size: 17.8 mm; **B:** *Planorbis atticus* from the fresh water tanks of Drios; **C:** *Myosotella myosotis*: **Ca:** from Agioi Anargyroi beach, Naoussa; **Cb:** *Ovatella firminii* from Agia Irini, S.W. Paros; **D:** *Truncatella subcylindrica* from Naoussa. Size of the right one 6 mm. B-C: scale 1 mm. Photos: A: W. Fischer, B-D: C. Zeimbekis

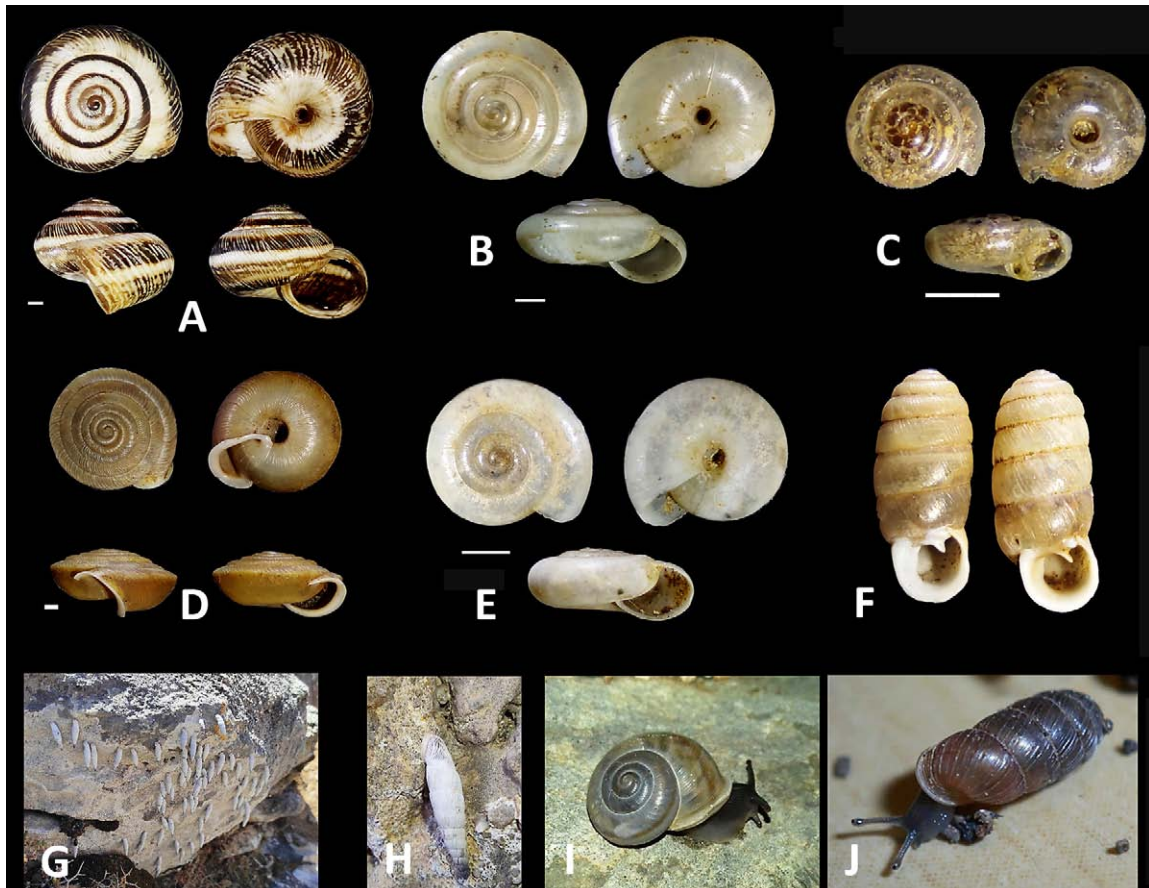


Fig. 6: **A:** *Cernuella cisalpina* from Colymbithres (scale 1 mm); **B:** *Mediterranea hydatina* from Demon's Cave, Lagada; **C:** *Vitrea clessini* from Agioi Pantes 550 m a.s.l. (scale 1 mm); **D:** *Lindholmiola lens* from Kambos area; **E:** *Vitrea contracta* from Agioi Pantes 550 m a.s.l.; **F, J:** *Orculella critica* size: 5 mm; **G:** *Albinaria caerulea caerulea* from Agioi Pantes 700 m a.s.l.; **H:** *Albinaria caerulea milleri* from rocks behind the central church of Naoussa; **I:** *Thiessea bacchica*, Agioi Pantes 550 m a.s.l.; A-E: scale 1 mm. All Photos: C. Zeimbekis

Welter Schultes 2012, p. 569). Mylonas & Vardinoyannis (2022) also use Mousson 1854 as author for *Xeromunda candiota*.

Thiessea bacchica (Fig. 6I) was found in the present study above 400 m a.s.l. (Fig. 2D). The largest population was found in the ancient marble quarry of Paros, in Marathi. This is the only *Thiessea* species that lives on Paros and is endemic to the Cyclades (Subai 1996). In Mylonas (1982), *T. bacchica* is listed as *Helicigona sphaerostoma sphaerostoma* (Bourguignat, 1857).

Helix figulina (Fig. 2G) has been found in several areas, two a few metres from the coast up to Agioi Pantes at an altitude of 700 m a.s.l. (Fig. 2C). It also lives in the dunes of Chrysi Akti and in the pine grove of Parikia. In these places it was always buried in the sandy soil.

Difficult to find are the microsnails like *Cecilioides acicula*, *Vitrea contracta* and *Vitrea clessini* (Fig. 6C). They were found after sampling and sieving of the surface soil in Agioi Pantes and Agios Antonios.



Fig. 7: *Helix figulina* Agioi Pantes. +750 m. Scale 1 cm. Photo: C. Zeimbekis

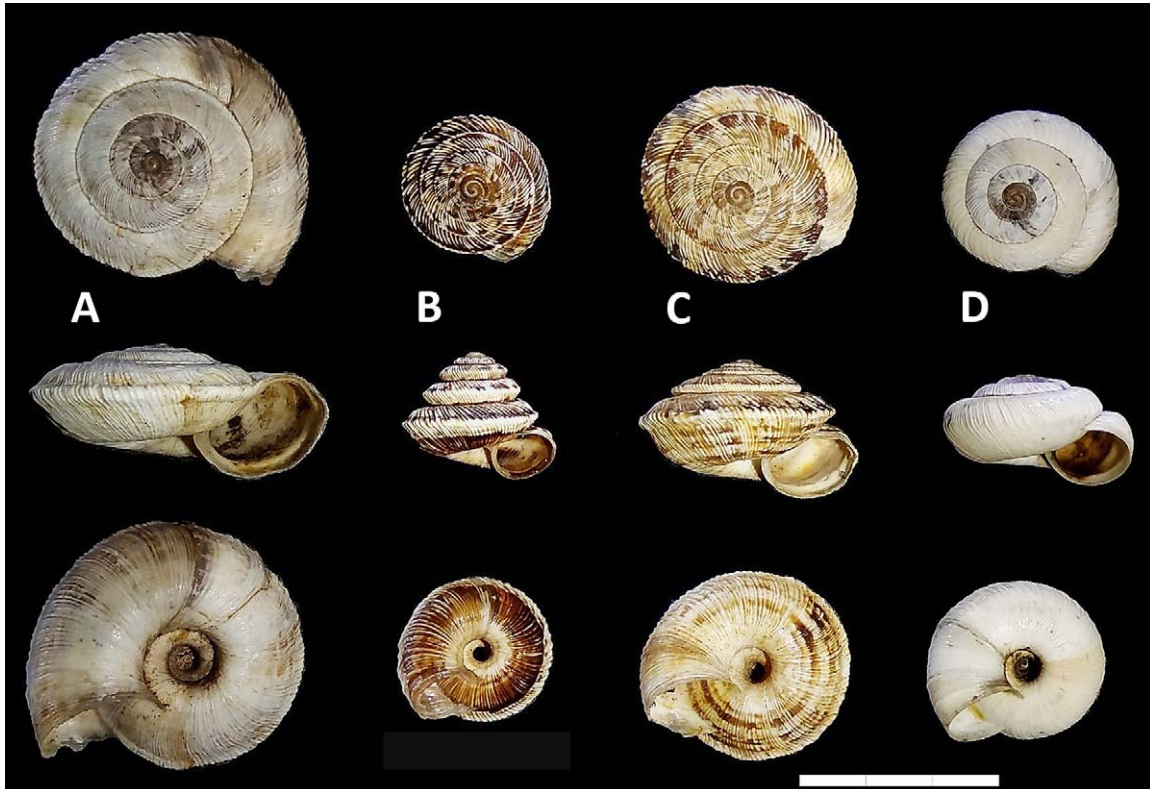


Fig. 8: The heterogeneity of *Candidula syrensis*. Comparison of samples from Agios Antonios, +120 m on Paros (C), with samples from Galissa on Syros (A), Mavri Rachi, Syros (B), and from Koronos on Naxos (D). Scale 1 cm. All Photos: C. Zeimbekis

Outlook

Populations often decline due to floods, which often occur in winter. For example, severe storms have caused immense floodings on many Aegean islands. On Paros the rain (04.2025) turned the Naoussa stream into a raging torrent of unstoppable water. Up to 80 litres per square

meter of rain fell in just a few hours. The port town of Naoussa, in the north of Paros, was particularly hard hit. The stream was covered with debris and mud, which was then dredged. There is reason to fear that the species from the Naoussa stream, recorded in this paper, do not longer exist. If any snails survived this catastrophic event, it will probably take decades for the populations to recover. The land snails are also likely to be affected to some extent.

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Fig. 9: *Pleurodiscus balmei* from Naoussa village. In garden with stone wall and plants for the necessary humidity. Scale 1 mm. Photo: C. Zeimbekis

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