

## *Spondylus somalicus*, spec. nov., a new species from Somalia

(Mollusca, Bivalvia, Spondylidae)

By Manfred Parth & René Philippe

Parth, M. & R. Philippe (1992): *Spondylus somalicus*, spec. nov., a new species from Somalia (Mollusca, Bivalvia, Spondylidae). – *Spixiana* 15/1: 107–108.

*Spondylus somalicus*, spec. nov. from Somalia is described and compared with *Spondylus gaederopus* (Linné, 1758).

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Besides of the recently described species *Spondylus pratii* Parth, 1990, in the last two years a further new species from Somalia turned up. Externally it was confounded with *Spondylus gaederopus* (Linné), in the meantime, however, more exact comparison revealed that it is a distinct, yet undescribed species which is so far known only from Somalian waters.

At the last years exchange in Ottmarsheim this species had been offered by an Italian dealer under several names, which were based on colours rather than on serious differentiating characters. In the following, this species is being described.



*Spondylus somalicus*, spec. nov. Left. Holotype. Right. Paratype.

*Spondylus somalicus*, spec. nov.

Holotype: Somalia (Zoologische Staatssammlung Eing. Kat. Nr. 1865). — Paratypes: 2 specimens, same data (Coll. M. Parth).

Measurements. Width of holotype: 10.5 cm, of paratypes: 10.3 cm, 11.5 cm.

Shape. Large for the family, heavy, elongate-ovate, variable. Form of lower valve quite straight, upper valve varying from gibbous to depressed. Surface of upper valve generally smooth, only in paratype 1 about 8–9 stronger principal ribs visible bearing short, spatulate spines. Interstitial area smooth. Umbonal area rounded.

Colour. Colour varies from purple to red. Internally white with a purple, crenulated margin. Area of attachment very large.

Habitat. Apparently on dead corals.

Distribution. Only known from the waters of Somalia, no other exact data available.

Discussion

*Spondylus somalicus*, spec. nov. can be easily distinguished from the most related and very similar species *S. gaederopus* (Linné, 1758) mainly by the following characters (see Lamprell 1987):

- a. Bigger size of *S. somalicus*.
- b. Longer spines in *S. gaederopus* on the principal ribs (generally smooth or short spined in *S. somalicus*).
- c. Longer interstitial spines in *S. gaederopus*.
- d. Very different umbonal area which is rounded in *S. somalicus*, while pointed in *S. gaederopus*.

References

- Lamprell, K. 1987. Spiny Oyster Shells of the World, *Spondylus*. — E. J. Brill, Leiden  
Parth, M. 1990. *Spondylus pratii*, spec. nov., eine neue Art aus Somalia. — *Spixiana* 13: 5–7

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Spixiana, Zeitschrift für Zoologie](#)

Jahr/Year: 1992

Band/Volume: [015](#)

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Artikel/Article: [Spondylus somalicus, spec.nov., a new species from Somalia \(Mollusca, Bivalvia, Spondylidae\) 107-108](#)