

Scientific note

Amathina tricarinata (Linnaeus, 1767) reaches Cyprus (eastern Mediterranean Sea)

(Mollusca, Gastropoda, Amathinidae)

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Amathina tricarinata (Linnaeus, 1767) (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Amathinidae) is a heterobranch gastropod with a cap-shaped and patelliform thick shell that bears three pronounced longitudinal ridges, usually living in the sublittoral zone often as an ectoparasite on large bivalves (Ponder 1987). Native and widely diffused in the whole Indo-Pacific area, including the Red Sea, it entered the Mediterranean basin via the Suez Canal, where it has been recorded from Turkey (Çeviker & Albayrak 2006, Delongueville & Scaillet 2006, Giannuzzi-Savelli et al. 2014), Lebanon (Scapolatempo et al. 2003), and Israel (Mienis 2006, 2008) (Fig. 1A).

In the summer of 2012, during ecological assessment of coastal waters in Cyprus, benthic macroalgae were collected at tide level in Vasiliko bay (34°43.357' N, 33°17.950' E). Sampled algae were brought to the laboratory, and the associated fauna was collected by hand picking, sorted out by phyla, and fixed in pure alcohol. Among the ~50 molluscan taxa subsequently identified, a single live specimen of *A. tricarinata* was found, free from any bivalve host (Fig. 1B). The animal was found at c. 1 m depth, at an anthropogenically impacted site surrounded by three ports, where the macrophytic community was dominated by fleshy and bushy opportunistic algal species such as *Ulva* spp., *Halopteris scoparia* (Linnaeus) Sauvageau and *Cladostephus spongiosus* (Hudson) C. Agardh. The present finding from Cyprus

may demonstrate a westerly migration of this alien amathinid gastropod and confirms its established status in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The specimen is currently stored in the private collection of the senior author (F.C.).

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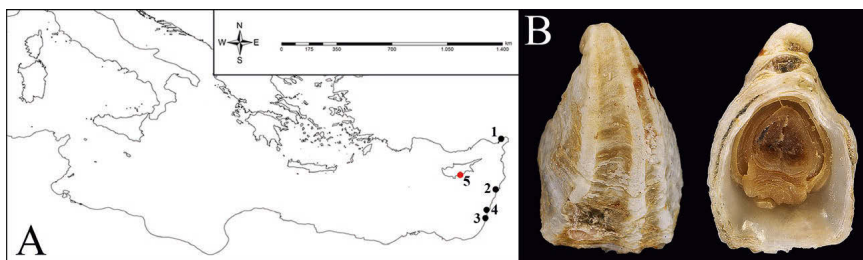


Fig. 1. A. The eastern Mediterranean Sea and the known distribution of *Amathina tricarinata*. Black dots: published records. Localities: 1, Yumurtalık (since 2000: Çeviker & Albayrak 2006, Delongueville & Scaillet 2006, Giannuzzi-Savelli et al. 2014); 2, Beirut (2000: Scapolatempo et al. 2003); 3, Hadera (2004: Mienis 2008); 4, Shiqmona (2005: Mienis 2006). Red dot: present record. Locality: 5, Vasiliko bay (2012). B. *Amathina tricarinata* from Cyprus (height: 5.6 mm).

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