Species of *Ecphora*, Including the Subgenus *Stenomphalus*, in the Pungo River Formation

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ABSTRACT

Published references to the genus *Ecphora* and the subgenus *Stenomphalus* and their species are summarized, including American and European stratigraphic and geographic occurrences. *Ecphora "quadricostata"* of the Maryland St. Marys Miocene is here named *Ecphora (Ecphora)* gardnerae and two other new species, *Ecphora (Ecphora)* pamlico and *Ecphora (Stenomphalus) aurora* are described from the Middle Miocene Pungo River Formation. *E. (S.)* aurora is noted in both America and Europe.

Introduction

Specimens of the species of the gastropod genus Ecphora have long engaged the interest of naturalists and collectors alike. In areas where they are available ecphoras are second only to shark teeth as fossils of interest to the public. Perhaps no American fossil has been so widely illustrated, particularly copies of Ecphora "quadricostata" figured by Martin in the Maryland Geological Survey Miocene volume in 1904. It has been claimed that *Ecphora quadricostata* was the first American fossil to be illustrated (Shattuck, 1904:xxxiv; Vokes, 1957:30; Raup, 1961:606). As pointed out by Harris (1937:443) and also noted by Ward and Blackwelder (1975:3), three extinct Tertiary species, Chesapecten jeffersonius, Mercenaria "tridacnoides," and the Ecphora are all illustrated in Lister's Historiae Conchyliorum. The various parts of Lister's two editions of his work were published between 1685 and 1697 and the Huddesford edition in 1770. According to the findings of Engelmann (1846:461) and Wilkins (1957:203-204), no claim to priority can be made for Lister's figure of Ecphora; the plate on which it appears was not published until 1770 in the Huddesford edition. One hesitates, but the figure representing Chesapecten jeffersonius, published in the first edition of Lister in

liber III in 1687 (pl. 167), apparently is first; a close second is *Mercenaria "tridacnoides"* in the appendix to liber III (Lister, 1688, pl. 499).

Discovery in North America of specimens of new species of *Ecphora* (*Ecphora*), and of *Ecphora* (*Stenomphalus*) (until now known only in the Miocene of Europe), are of great interest, and their probable relationships with European species are also possibly of great significance.

Three species of Ecphora occur in the Pungo River Formation: Ecphora (Ecphora) tricostata Martin, and the two new species, Ecphora (Ecphora) pamlico and Ecphora (Stenomphalus) aurora. Only Ecphora tricostata has been collected in place, as reported by Gibson (1967:639, fig. 4). Nevertheless, the matrix associated with the specimens indicates that each species occurs in a separate bed. According to Gibson, E. tricostata occurs in unit 7 at the top of the Pungo River Formation. Gibson (pers. com.) considers that the matrix of limestone with considerable phosphate grains associated with a float specimen of E. tricostata may indicate that it came from as low as unit 5. He believes that the small pebble-sized phosphate in the matrix associated with specimens of Ecphora pamlico is characteristic of beds lower than unit 5, but not as low in the section as the thoroughly phosphatized matrix of the specimens of Ecphora (Stenomphalus) aurora. E. (S.) aurora may also occur in the Burdigalian and Helvetian Miocene in France. I believe that Cossmann and Peyrot (1924:534-536, pl. 14: fig. 47, pl. 15: fig. 19) have misidentified this species as Ecphora moulinsii (Brochon, 1849:117-128, figs. 1, 2), a strikingly different species named from type Burdigalian at Léognan, France. It is interesting that Ecphora (Ecphora) jauberti (Grateloup, 1840, pl. 1: figs. 3, 4), a very rare European species related to E. (E.) pamlico, occurs in the Tortonian Miocene of Saubrigues, France, according to Cossmann and Peyrot (1924:534). If this is so, then E. (E.) jauberti occurs later than E. (S.) aurora in France, just as the closely related E. (E.) pamlico apparently does at Lee Creek. No particular significance can be placed on these possible temporal-stratigraphic relationships until pamlico and aurora are collected in place in America and the rare jauberti is recollected in France. Cossmann and Peyrot (1924:534-535) reported

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that the type specimen of *E. jauberti* (Grateloup) is lost and no other specimens have been collected.

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Genus Ecphora Conrad, 1843

Ecphora Conrad, 1843:310.

TYPE-SPECIES.—Fusus 4-costatus Say (1824:127, pl. 7: fig. 5); by monotypy. Say's protograph is of the species found in the Yorktown Formation of Virginia. Sohl (1964:173) characterized the genus *Ecphora* as

small to moderately large subfusiform shells and a moderately low spire. Whorls strongly shouldered, with strong spiral carinations over periphery; basal constriction strong. Whorls may be loosely attached. Aperture ovate, produced to a narrow, generally elongate and curving siphonal canal terminating in a moderately strong notch; outer lip crenulate; inner lip moderately thick, free or partly attached over parietal surface. Umbilicus broad, open, deep, and margined by a serrate strong carina.

Shells of *Ecphora* consist of two layers; a thick outer translucent brown layer and a thinner light-colored inner layer, which is sometimes leached away. Zalman Altschuler (pers. com.) of the U.S. Geological Survey has determined by x-ray identification that the outer layer of specimens of *E. quadricostata* and *E. gardnerae* is almost entirely calcite and the inner layer entirely aragonite. Aragonite, being less stable, is often leached away, as in the numerous specimens of *Ecphora quadricostata* from the Yorktown Formation at Lee Creek.

Ecphora tricostata Martin (1904:209, pl. 52: figs. 5, 6) occurs in the Miocene Calvert Formation (rarely in the Choptank) in Maryland and in the Pungo River Formation in North Carolina.

Some species not originally referred to the genus *Ecphora* are here included in it and some initially called *Ecphora* are here excluded from it.

Rapana tampaensis Dall (1890 [1890-1903]:153; 1915:78, pl. 13: fig. 8), first referred to Ecphora by Cossmann (1903:65), is from the Tampa Formation of Florida. The species also occurs in the "Silverdale" beds (USGS 23108) of North Carolina. These beds are approximately of the same age. Current research in micro- and macropaleontology of the Silverdale fauna indicates that it may be late Oligocene in age rather than early Miocene. The fragmentary specimen from these beds identified by Richards (1943:524, pl. 85: fig. 16) as *E. quadricostata*, is apparently the same as an undescribed species from Silverdale in the U.S. National Museum collection (USGS 21943).

The specimen (USNM 112520) from Church Hill, Maryland (Calvert Formation) figured by Dall (1892 [1890– 1903] pl. 20: fig. 14) as *Rapana tampaensis* Dall, var.? and referred to as *Ecphora tampaensis* by Martin (1904:211, pl. 52: fig. 9) followed by Grabau and Shimer (1909:787, fig. 1152a) was later named *Rapana ecclesiastica* by Dall (1915:78). Martin had noted that "*Fasciolaria (Lyrosoma) sulcosa*" of Whitfield (1894, pl. 17: figs. 9, 10; not Conrad (1830:220, pl. 9: fig. 8) was related; subsequently Richards and Harbison (1942:211) synonymized Whitfield's species with *ecclesiastica*. I am indebted to the late W.P. Woodring for pointing out (pers. com.) that *ecclesiastica* should be referred to the genus *Tritonopsis* Conrad (1865:20) found in the late Eocene of Panama (Woodring, 1973:477, pl. 70: figs. 26, 27) and the Oligocene of Mississippi.

Sohl (1964:173) has outlined the problem of considering Ecphora proquadricostata Wade, a Cretaceous species, as the earliest known Ecphora. Zalman Altschuler (pers. com.) has determined that the entire shell of E. proquadricostata is aragonitic. This fact strengthens my opinion that there is no direct genetic connection with the known later species, though as pointed out by Sohl, the Cretaceous species is morphologically like Ecphora. I believe that the earliest undoubted ecphoras are in the Oligocene both in Europe and in North America. Ecphora koeneni Görges (1952:6, pl. 2: fig. 11a, b) judging from the figure, is an Ecphora, sensu stricto. It is from the Oligocene of North Germany. The poorly preserved impression identified by Dall (1894:301) as "Ecphora quadricostata" from the "land phosphate" rock of South Carolina, is undoubtedly of the genus Ecphora. An examination of the associated specimens and Dall's list of species indicates that they come from the Oligocene Cooper Marl.

Ecphora (Ecphora) gardnerae, new species

FIGURE 1A,B

Ecphora quadricostata.-Martin 1904:207, pl. 52: fig. 1.

It is now known that most if not all of the fossils described by Say in 1824 came from Virginia rather than Maryland, contrary to Say's title "An Account of Some of the Fossil Shells of Maryland." According to Gardner (1948:201), "Mansfield believed from internal evidence that they came not from Maryland but from Virginia" and Dall (1892 [1890–1903]:351) had earlier doubted the provenience of a Say species. Ward and Blackwelder (1975:9, 16) have shown that the common pecten of the Maryland Miocene is not *Pecten madisonius* Say as formerly universally used, but that the name in fact belongs to a Yorktown species of



FIGURE 1.—*Ecphora (Ecphora) gardnerae*, new species, holotype, USNM 647519, height about 120 mm; A, apertural view; B, dorsal view.

Virginia. This confusion of locality undoubtedly initiated the chain of coincidence that resulted in the common *Ecphora* of the St. Marys Miocene of Maryland masquerading under the name "*Ecphora quadricostata*," which properly belongs to the Yorktown species of Virginia. This St. Marys Miocene species is here named *Ecphora* (*Ecphora*) gardnerae, new species. In *Ecphora gardnerae* the four prominent spiral ribs become stronger with maturity, in contrast to the ribs in *E. quadricostata*, which become weaker with age. The holotype of *Ecphora gardnerae* (USNM 647519) is the specimen figured by Martin.

Probably because the name Ecphora quadricostata had been preempted for the Maryland St. Marys species, the name Ecphora umbilicata (Wagner) has had some usage as the name for the Yorktown species. "Fusus umbilicata Wagner" Dall (1898 [1897]:9, pl. 2: fig. 2) is a synonym of Ecphora quadricostata Say, as very early recognized by Cossmann (1898:110), as well as a homonym of Fusus umbilicata Smith (1839:98, pl. 1: fig. 2). It has also been used by Martin (1904:209, pl. 52: fig. 4) for a Choptank Miocene species of Maryland, which apparently needs a name. Mansfield (1930:71) recognized that the Choptank species was not the same as F. umbilicata Wagner (i.e., E. quadricostata). Dall (1898:8) related the circumstances concerning "Wagner's plates" and reference to them in Bronn's Index (1848:517, 1849:455). Brochon's repeated reference (1849:119, 124, 127) to "Fusus quadricostatus Wagner" (with no mention of Say) establishes their circulation, but their subsequent treatment by Martin (1904:209) and by Mansfield (1930:70) as validly published is not justified. In any case, a date earlier than 1839 would have to be proved because of the prior use of the name by Smith. These bits of information indicate probable correspondence between Brochon and Wagner and perhaps realization by Wagner that his figure represented Say's species quadricostatus. Brochon (1849:128) does establish that "le Fusus de Wagner provient des couches pliocenes de Virginie," a fact apparently not known to Dall. Another nominal species, Ecphora parvicostata Pilsbry (1911:438, fig. 1), with only "Maryland" for locality, is apparently nothing more than an extreme variation of E. quadricostata and must have come from Virginia.

A large well-preserved specimen (USNM 106919) of Ecphora in the National Museum of Natural History supposedly from Florida was identified by Dall as Ecphora quadricostata. Because it was repeatedly mentioned by Dall and undoubtedly had an early influence on his thinking concerning the age of the beds from which it was supposed to have come, it seems desirable to document and dispose of the specimen. It had come to the National Museum from R.E.C. Stearns, who was on an expedition to Florida in 1869. Dall (1885:82) first reported the specimen as found at Tampa "on the long rocky point"; later he (1887:166) identified the locality as Ballast Point, and later still (1890:8, 125) as "Long Key ... containing no solid rock of any sort." At this time Dall seems to have had some reservations probably due to the discrepancies. Although he still considered the specimen as possibly from the silex bed, he recognized that the specimen was not silicified. Dall and Harris (1892:125) referred it to a "later horizon" and Dall's final notice (1903 [1890-1903]:1596) in his "List of Species of the Floridian Miocene" repeated this pronouncement. A critical examination of the specimen and comparison with specimens from the St. Marys River leads to the conclusion that it is a specimen of Ecphora gardnerae from the St. Marys Miocene of Maryland. Stearns (1869:466-467) did not mention the find in his account of his stay on Long Key or any other locality. His wide interests and knowledge of mollusks is so well demonstrated that it seems unlikely that a find so unusual would have gone unrecorded. There seems to be no satisfactory accounting for this confusion. Eppert's reference (1966:49, 58) to "*Ecphora quadricostata umbilicata*" is a lapsus and undoubtedly concerns Stearns' specimen.

Ecphora (Ecphora) pamlico, new species

PLATE 1: FIGURES 1, 2

Shells moderately large with angle-sided whorls; three prominent spiral thin flange-like costae at the whorl angles. Secondary sculpture of many spiral bands between costae; bands becoming obsolete or nearly so on the flattened shoulder; posterior interspace between the costae wider than anterior interspace. Aperture ovate; anteriorly produced into a very narrow, broadly curved canal. Umbilicus large, rounded and bordered by a regularly and weakly stepped (or serrated) carina.

Most specimens are both distorted and defective; neither spires nor canals are complete in any specimen. The holotype is the only undistorted large specimen (Plate 1: figure 2).

MEASUREMENTS.—Holotype, height about 65 mm, width about 65 mm; aperture of holotype not exposed; figured paratype, height about 58 mm, width about 44 mm.

Ecphora (E.) pamlico is represented by 25 specimens; all are caught up in a phosphatized matrix with dark phosphate pebbles throughout. A small slab collected by Royal Mapes contains nine specimens. No specimen has been collected in place, but the associated matrix is considered by Gibson (pers. com.) to indicate beds lower than unit 5 of the Pungo River Formation.

REMARKS.—*Ecphora* (*E.*) *pamlico* is related to a large undescribed species of *Ecphora* in the National Museum of Natural History from zone 10 of the Calvert Formation of Maryland, collected by the late Sydney F. and Doris Blake. It is also related to *E.* (*E.*) *jauberti* (Grateloup) (Plate 1: figures 3, 4) found in the Tortonian of Saubrigues, France.

TYPES.—Holotype USNM 647668; figured paratype USNM 647671, unfigured paratypes USNM 647669-647670, 647672-647679.

OCCURRENCE.—Known only from the Pungo River Formation at Lee Creek, North Carolina.

Subgenus Stenomphalus Sandberger, 1861

Subgenus Stenomphalus Sandberger, 1861:222.

The type-species by subsequent designation (Dall, 1890: 124) is Fusus cancellatus Thomä (= Ecphora (Stenomphalus) caerulea ornata Bucher). The nomenclatorial imperatives and the interspecific relationship are derived from the work of Zilch (1983:93-101, pl. 10), who has recently published the results of his studies of the species group to which the type-species belongs. Fusus cancellatus Thomä (1845:162, pl. 4: fig. 8) is four times preoccupied; first by Sowerby (1826:45). Braun's later, undescribed substitute name (1851:1131), listed thus "Fusus brevis A. Braun (F. cancellatus Thomae a.o.a. O.S. 162)," valid only by the included reference to Thoma's species, is preoccupied by Fusus brevis Brown (1827, pl. 48: fig. 34). The earliest described species name in the group is Buccinum caeruleum Römer-Büchner (1827:18, pl. 1: figs. 1-3) published in a work so rare that it was not recorded in the famed Index Animalium of Sherborn. A copy of Römer-Büchner's work could not be located in the United States, and I have seen only a xerox of the pertinent part. A species named by Bucher (1913:93, 96, pl. 1: figs. 8-10) Stenomphalus cancellatus ornatus is from the type-locality of F. cancellatus. Since Wenz's (1932) resurrection of Römer-Büchner's species name and revision of the nomenclature, S. caeruleus ornatus Bucher has been maintained as the valid name for the type-species of Stenomphalus Sandberger. Presumably the species is quite variable; Thomä's type figures (1845, pl. 4: figs. 8a, 8b) show obvious differences from the somewhat larger specimens figured by Sandberger (1860, pl. 17: figs. 7, 7a, 7b). Sandberger's figures have been considered as representing the typical form by Boettger (1883:218). Both Thomä and Sandberger reported the species as abundant at Hochheim, the type-locality. Thirteen specimens in the U.S. National Museum collections from three localities (Hochheim, Florsheim, and "Flonheim u. Alzey," including seven from the type-locality (Hochheim), are more nearly like Thomä's figures in size and outline, but some of them exhibit the broader spiral bands of Sandberger's figures. According to Zilch (1983) the type-locality is in the early Miocene "Cerithien-Schichten" of the Mainz Basin, Germany.

The shells of the species of the subgenus *Stenomphalus* are characterized by a reduction in the strength of the spiral sculpture and a much less prominent umbilicus. The species are generally smaller than species of the typical subgenus.

Ecphora (Stenomphalus) aurora, new species

PLATE 2: FIGURES 1-5

?Rapana (Ecphora) Moulinsii (Brochon).—Cossmann and Peyrot, 1924:534, pl. 14: fig. 47; pl. 15: fig. 19?.

Shell moderately large for the subgenus, pyriform with rounded whorls bearing three primary low but prominent spiral bands, which in turn bear secondary bifid spiral bands; the anterior primary band hardly set off from the anterior secondary bifid spiral bands of the anterior of the body whorl; shoulder flattened and sunken below edge of posterior primary band. Broadly ovate aperture anteriorly produced into a slightly curved siphonal canal. Umbilicus anteriorly produced and bordered by a rudely stepped carina.

All large well-preserved specimens of E. (S.) aurora are somewhat distorted; the strong step-like feature of the outer lip just below the shoulder on the figure of the holotype (Plate 2: figure 1) is a result of distortion. The umbilical region of the paratype (Plate 2: figure 5) is the least distorted of any specimen.

MEASUREMENTS.—Holotype, height 80 mm, width 55 mm; illustrated paratype, height 44.5 mm, width 30.5 mm.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—*Ecphora* (S.) aurora is represented by 95 specimens including many fairly well-preserved specimens and some steinkerns. They all have a completely phosphatized matrix that Gibson (pers. com.) regards as occurring lower in the Pungo River Formation than the matrix associated with *E*. (*E.*) pamlico, new species.

TYPES.—Holotype, USNM 647654 (Plate 2: figures 1– 3); illustrated paratype, USNM 647656 (Plate 2: figures 4, 5); other paratypes, USNM 647655, 647657–647667.

OCCURRENCE.—Pungo River Formation, Lee Creek, North Carolina, and Saucats (Peloua), France.

REMARKS.—*Ecphora* (S.) aurora is not related to any American species, but it seems to be the same as the species figured by Cossmann and Peyrot (1924) from France as *Rapana* (*Ecphora*) moulinsii (Brochon); particularly their figured specimen from the Burdigalian at Saucats (Peloua) (Plate 2: figure 7). Brochon's species (1849:117–128, figs. 1, 2) was described from the type Burdigalian at Léognan (Coquillat) and the original figures copied here (Plate 1: figures 5, 6) are strikingly different from the figures of Cossmann and Peyrot. Cossmann and Peyrot (1924:536) suggested that the specimen from the Helvetian at Salles figured by them may be reworked; if this is true, both species are confined to the Burdigalian.

Stratigraphic Order of the American Species of Ecphora

- E. quadricostata (Say): Yorktown Formation and equivalents. Virginia to Florida; traditional late Miocene of the Coastal Plain; currently regarded as Pliocene by many micropaleontologists.
- E. gardnerae, new species: St. Marys Miocene of Maryland and Eastover Formation, late Miocene, of Virginia. (See Ward and Blackwelder, 1980:19, 28; pl. 1: fig. 2).
- E. "umbilicata" of Martin: Choptank Miocene of Maryland.
- E. tricostata Martin: Choptank and Calvert Miocene of Maryland and upper part of Pungo River Formation (unit 7) in North Carolina. My report (see Espenshade and Spencer, 1963, table 10) of *Ecphora* cf. *E. tricostata* in a drill hole sample from central north Florida, said to be of middle(?) Miocene age, is based on fragmentary material. However, both the "cf." of the species and the query of the age should be removed.
- E. pamlico, new species: Pungo River Formation of North Carolina, but apparently below the occurrence of E. tricostata.
- E. aurora, new species: Lower part of the Pungo River Formation of North Carolina.
- *E. tampaensis* (Dall): Tampa Limestone of Florida, "Silverdale beds" of North Carolina (USGS 23108); early Miocene or late Oligocene.
- E. "quadricostata" of Dall: Cooper Formation Oligocene of South Carolina.

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PLATE 1

- 1, 2. *Ecphora (Ecphora) pamlico*, new species: 1, paratype, USNM 647671, apertural view, height about 58 mm; 2, holotype, USNM 647668, dorsal view, height about 65 mm.
- 3, 4. *Ecphora (Ecphora) jauberti* (Grateloup), Saubrigues, France, Tortonian Miocene (after Grateloup, 1840): 3, apertural view; 4, dorsal view.
- 5, 6, *Ecphora* (*Stenomphalus*) moulinsii (Brochon), Léognan, France, type Burdigalian Miocene (after Brochon, 1849): 5, apertural view; 6, dorsal view.



PLATE 2

- 1-5. Ecphora (Stenomphalus) aurora, new species: 1-3, holotype, USNM 647654, height 80 mm; 4, 5, paratype, USNM 647656, height 44.5 mm: 1, apertural view; 2, dorsal view; 3, apical view; 4, apertural view; 5, dorsal view.
- Prapana (Ecphora) moulinsii sensu Cossmann and Peyrot: 6, Salles, France, Helvetian Miocene; 7, Saucats (Peloua), France, Burdigalian. Miocene (after Cossmann and Peyrot, 1924): 6, apertural view; 7, dorsal view.



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