

A NEW SPECIES OF *COLUMBARIUM* (GASTROPODA: MURICACEA) FROM OFF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

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The genus *Columbarium* Martens 1881 (as defined by Darragh, 1969) is represented in the Recent fauna by eight species, which inhabit outer continental shelf and upper continental slope communities off South Africa, eastern Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Trawling operations off the southern coast of Queensland have brought to light a remarkable new species of *Columbarium*, which more closely resembles several Tertiary species than any in the Recent fauna. This new species is described herein.

Columbarium harrisae new species

Figs. 1-4

Description – Shell large (to 110 mm), heavy, fusiform; spire angle 37° – 42° ; protoconch of 2 whorls, large, bulbous, glassy, with deviated, disjunct apex; transition to teleoconch indistinct, marked by gradual acquisition of a peripheral keel and axial growth lines; teleoconch with up to 8 sharply shouldered whorls; suture adpressed; siphonal canal long, straight, heavy; spiral sculpture of 2–4 cords on body whorl and 20–26 finer threads on siphonal canal; axial growth lines produce 21–24 short, open spines per whorl along the shoulder, with corresponding scales on each of the spiral cords and threads; shell color white with brown spots between spines and scales; aperture ovate; outer lip smooth; columella smooth, with a raised peristomal plate that forms a notch below the suture, and extends along the inner edge of the siphonal canal; operculum corneous, sharply

ovate, with terminal nucleus; periostracum and soft parts unknown.

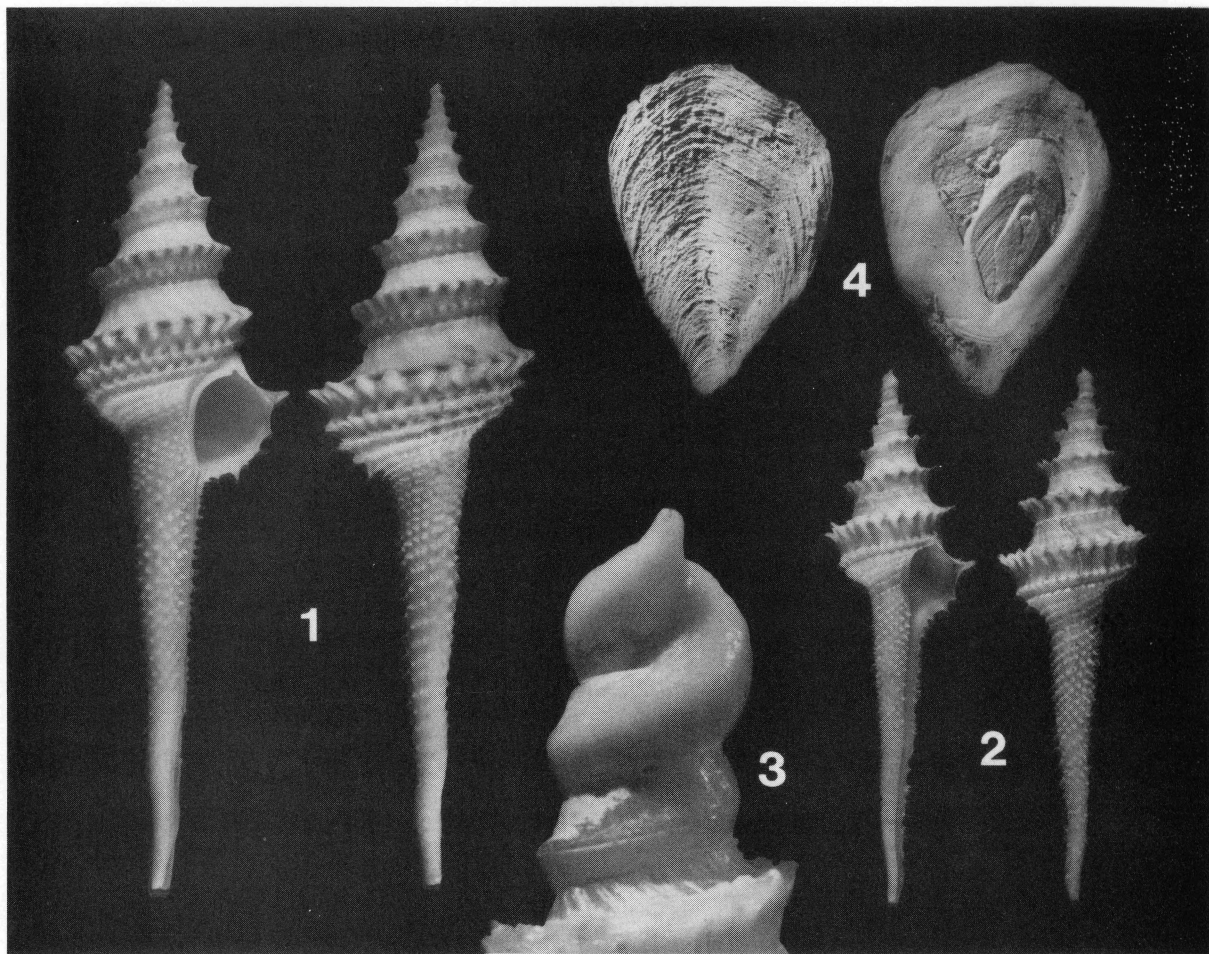
Type material – Holotype - United States National Museum, Washington, D.C. (USNM 806997) length 106 mm; Paratype 1 - (USNM 806998) length 70 mm; Paratype 2 - Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware (DMNH 153524) length 99 mm; Paratype 3 - The Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia length 73 mm.

Type locality – East of Lady Musgrave Island, Queensland, Australia, in 140 fathoms (256 meters).

Range – Specimens have also been taken off Lady Elliot Island, Queensland, Australia, in 150 fathoms (275 meters) (Trevor, 1982).

Remarks – The large size, high spire, heavy shell, stout siphonal canal and characteristic protoconch readily distinguish this new species from all other Recent members of the genus. *Columbarium harrisae* most closely resembles *C. vulneratum* (Finlay and Marwick, 1937) from the Paleocene of New Zealand, from which it differs by its larger size and more elongate shell. Young specimens of *C. harrisae* lack the raised peristomal plate, and bear a strong resemblance to *C. rugatum* (Aldrich, 1886), from the Lower Eocene of Alabama, but may easily be discerned on the basis of protoconchs.

The high spire, thick shell and prominent spiral sculpture are primitive characters within the Columbariinae, being shared by such groups as *Histricosceptrum*, *Peristarium* and *Coluzea*.



FIGS. 1-4. *Columbarium harrisae* new species. 1, Holotype, USNM 806997, dredged east of Lady Musgrave Island, Queensland, Australia, in 256 meters (1.0X). 2, Paratype 1, USNM 806998, same locality and depth (1.0X). 3, Protoconch of paratype 1 (10.0X). 4, Operculum of paratype 1 (5.0X).

Such features of the Pacific species of *Columbarium* as enlarged protoconch, reduced spiral ornament, lower spire, and long, thin siphonal canal are modifications that have arisen since the closing of the Tethys Sea. *Columbarium harrisae* appears to be an offshoot from a primitive stock and not closely related to the other Australian members of the genus.

This new taxon honors Valerie Harris of Caloundra, Queensland, who generously pro-

vided the type material. Thanks are due Richard M. Kurz, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, who provided additional material and information.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Trevor, N. 1982. New Species of Columbariidae? *Keppel Bay Tidings* 21(1):1.