

Notes on Fossil Chitons. 1. A new species of *Lepidopleurus* (Mollusca: Polyplacophora) from the Pleistocene of Salice (Sicily, Italy)

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Abstract

A new species of Polyplacophora (Mollusca) has been found in the Salice outcrop, in the Peloritain Mountains (Sicily, Italy), is attributed to the early Pleistocene. *Lepidopleurus (Leptochiton) salicensis* n.sp. is characterized by its uniformly sculptured tegmentum, with (well) raised, randomly distributed, neatly separated rounded/polygonal granules. The new species is compared with *Lepidopleurus (Leptochiton) alveolus* (M.Sars MS, Lovén, 1846), from the North Atlantic, and *Lepidopleurus (Leptochiton) tavianii* Dell'Angelo, Landau & Marquet, 2004, from the Pliocene of Estepona (Málaga, Spain).

Key words: Mollusca, Polyplacophora, Lepidopleuridae, Pleistocene, new species, Italy

Introduction

The Salice outcrop, attributed to the early Pleistocene by Bonfiglio (1969), has already been discussed by Seguenza (1876), and is situated in the Tyrrhenian zone of the Peloritani Mountains, at an elevation of about 340 m. The top of the hill, where the former Salice military fort (locality "Coilare") is situated, is particularly rich in fossils, and is composed of upper bathyal sediments.

Brachiopods (Gaetani & Saccà 1983, 1984), Anthozoa (Micali & Villari 1991) and molluscs (Micali & Villari 1989, 1990, 1991) have previously been described from the Salice outcrop. The only chiton reported from this site is *Lepidopleurus (Leptochiton) sarsi* (Kaas, 1981) (Dell'Angelo & Palazzi 1989). Numerous isolated valves have been recovered from sieving large amounts of sediment, resulting in the discovery of a previously undescribed species of *Lepidopleurus (Leptochiton)*.