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## Notes on the correct taxonomic status of *Haliotis rugosa* Lamarck, 1822, and *Haliotis pustulata* Reeve, 1846, with description of a new subspecies from Rodrigues Island, Mascarene Islands, Indian Ocean (Mollusca: Vetigastropoda: Haliotidae)

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*Haliotis rugosa* Lamarck, 1822, and *H. pustulata* Reeve, 1846, have long been a source of confusion. Herbert (1990) suggested the synonymy of the two and designated the lectotype and type locality of *H. rugosa*. Examination of several hundred shells of each of the two taxa has demonstrated that the *H. rugosa* morphology is found only on Mauritius and Reunion, while the *H. pustulata* morph occurs at Madagascar and the east coast of Africa, from approximately Park Rynie, South Africa, to the Red Sea and east to Yemen. No specimens from the latter localities resemble *H. rugosa*; however, a very small number of specimens from Mauritius have an intermediate morphology between the two taxa. The two species-level taxa are here considered as subspecies of each other. They show some overlapping shell morphology, but are geographically isolated.

**Abbreviations of Collections:** BOC: Buzz Owen Collection, Gualala, California, USA; SBMNH: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, USA; RKC: Robert Kershaw Collection, Narooma, NSW, Australia; NGC: Norbert Göbl Collection, Gerasdorf near Vienna, Austria; HDC: Henk Dekker Collection, Winkel, The Netherlands; FFC: Franck Frydman Collection, Paris, France; MAC: Marc Alexandre Collection, Souvret, Belgium.

**Shells examined:** *H. rugosa rodriguensis* n. ssp., Anse Cotton, Rodrigues Island, 10; Saint François, Rodrigues Island, 3; Gran Baie, Rodrigues Island, 1. *H. rugosa rugosa*, Mauritius, >100; Reunion, >65. *H. rugosa pustulata*, Madagascar, >100; Park Rynie, South Africa to Fernão Veloso, Mozambique, >75; Zanzibar to Red Sea area, >50; Mukalla, Yemen, 25; Dahab, Sinai, Egypt, 22; Haifa, Israel, 2; Tobruk, Libya, 2.

### Genus: *Haliotis* Linnaeus, 1758

**Type species.** *Haliotis asinina* Linnaeus, 1758 (subsequent designation Montfort, 1810)

### *Haliotis rugosa rodriguensis* new subspecies

(Fig. 1.1–14)

**Type material:** Holotype: SBMNH 230926 (Fig. 1.1), 31.2 mm. Paratype: BOC 195233 (Fig. 1.2), 45.3 mm. Grande Baie, Rodrigues Island, Mascarene Islands.

**Type locality:** Anse Cotton, Rodrigues Island, Mascarene Islands; 19°40'58"S, 63° 29'48"E.

**Etymology:** The subspecies is named for the type locality, Rodrigues Island.

**Distribution and habitat:** All 14 specimens were live taken by snorkeling in 1–3 m in December, 2011, by Bruno Mathé, and were found living under dead coral and stones. No animals were preserved.

**Description (diagnostic characters underlined):** Shell small (to ~50 mm), fairly light-weight, oblong, hardly arched, somewhat convex. Anterior margin straight to slightly curved. Spire somewhat elevated and tilted, located approximately 70% towards the posterior margin of shell; partially visible in ventral view (Fig. 1.1–1.2). Holes medium large, fairly elevated, somewhat elongate, usually 4–6 open. Dorsal surface usually with strong, bumpy spiral cords alternating with narrower ribs crossing deep, prominent lamellae-like folded ridges, giving shells very jagged irregular sculpture (ribs may appear slightly scaly on some specimens). Spiral ribs with bumps present on early portion of most specimens. Periphery between row of holes and columella with 2–3 very strong thick cords, occasionally with 1–2 weak threads immediately below holes. Central cord usually largest, often expanding to create a wide shelf-like ridge.