

**A remarkable new species of *Poireria* (*Flexopteron*)
(Gastropoda: Muricidae)
from the Philippine Islands.**

Roland HOUART

3400 Landen (Ezemaal)

Research Associate at the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique.

KEY-WORDS: Gastropoda, Muricidae, Muricinae, Philippine Islands, new species.

ABSTRACT. *Poireria* (*Flexopteron*) *poppei* is described from 2 specimens dredged off Balut Island, in the Philippines. It is the second known Recent species of *Flexopteron*, and is compared with *P. (F.) philippinensis* (Shuto, 1969) and *P. (F.) primanova* Houart, 1985.

RESUME. *Poireria* (*Flexopteron*) *poppei* est décrit à partir de deux individus récoltés au large de l'île de Balut, dans les Iles Philippines. Il s'agit de la deuxième espèce non fossile de *Flexopteron*. Elle est comparée à *P. (F.) philippinensis* (Shuto, 1969) et *P. (F.) primanova* Houart, 1985.

INTRODUCTION.

The subgenus *Flexopteron* was named by SHUTO (1969: 111) in the Coralliophilidae, for a fossil shell from the Philippines. HOUART (1985: 166, figs 3-3d) described the first known Recent species and illustrated the radula. As stated in VOKES (1992), the radula is close to those of *Poireria* s.s. or to trophonine genera such as *Boreotrophon* and *Nipponotrophon*, although with a narrower rachidian tooth, bearing comparatively longer lateral denticles. The classification of *Flexopteron* as a subgenus of *Poireria* is therefore subject to discussion. More material and more intensive researches are needed before any decision can be taken, and as suggested in VOKES (1992), for now it is better to leave these taxa in their accustomed place. Nevertheless, the discovery of a living specimen of *Flexopteron* in the Philippines is very interesting, and certainly the most exciting news for the moment.

Poireria (*Flexopteron*) *poppei* n.sp.

Figs 1-6

MATERIAL STUDIED.

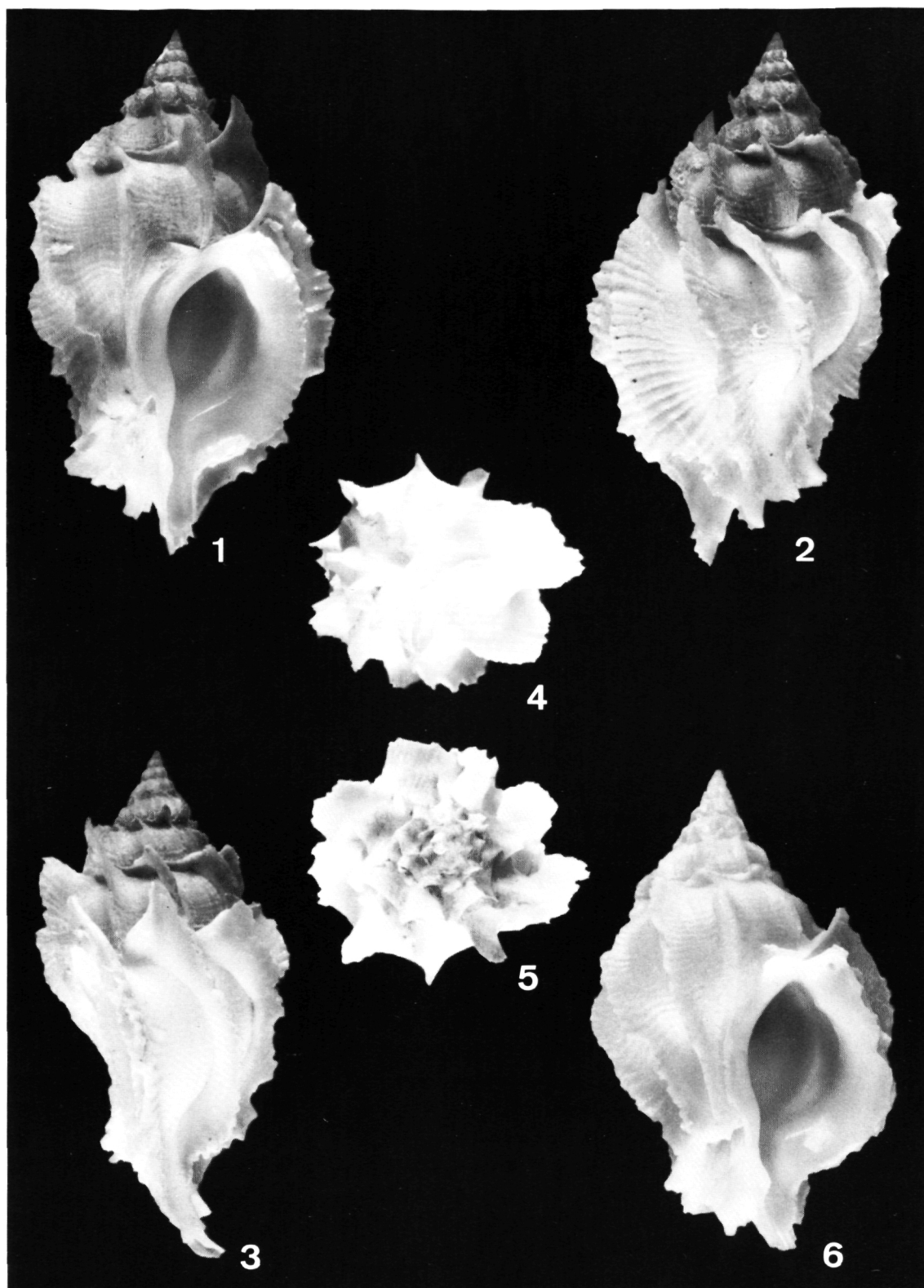
Holotype 52 X 29.5 mm, MNHN and 1 paratype 47 X 29 mm, coll. G.T. Poppe.

TYPE LOCALITY.

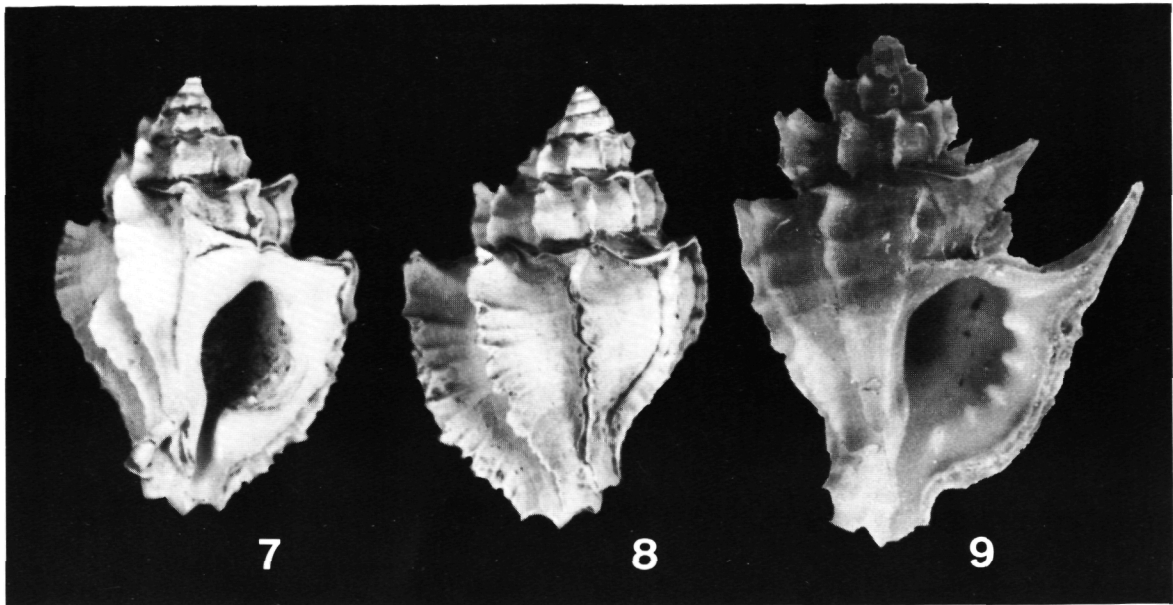
Mindanao, Balut Island, Philippine Islands, from tangle net, exact depth unknown, approximately 400-450 m.

DESCRIPTION.

Shell large, up to 52 mm in length (holotype), heavy, lamellate, up to about 7 teleoconch whorls. Spire high, acute. Protoconch eroded, remaining parts suggesting it to be paucipiral, with 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 whorls. Teleoconch whorls broad, rounded. Suture obscured by axial lamellae of following whorl. Teleoconch whorls ornamented with sharp, spineless,



Figs 1-5. *Poireria (Flexopteron) poppei* n.sp., holotype MNHN, 52 mm X 29.5 mm.
 Fig. 6. *P. (F.) poppei* n.sp., paratype coll. G.T. Poppe, 47 mm X 29 mm.



Figs 7-8. *P. (F.) philippinensis* (Shuto, 1969), holotype GK.L 6943, 17 mm X 11.9 mm.

Fig. 9. *P. (F.) primanova* Houart, 1985, holotype MNHN, 14.7 mm X 11.4 mm. □

raised lamellae, 10 on first teleoconch whorl, 8 on second, 9 or 10 from third to fifth, 8 or 9 on sixth whorl, and 8 on last teleoconch whorl. Spiral sculpture consisting of numerous, low, rounded cords, more apparent on the abapertural face of the axial lamellae. Last teleoconch whorl with 23-25 spiral cords. Aperture ovate, comparatively small. Columellar lip smooth, completely adherent. Anal notch shallow, broad. Outer lip erect, finely and weakly crenulate, smooth within. Siphonal canal comparatively short, smooth, broad, weakly abaperturally bent, open. Previous canals fused, forming open, narrow umbilicus. Colour whitish to light orange or light brown, lamellae of last teleoconch whorl slightly darker coloured, aperture glossy white. Operculum and radula unknown.

REMARKS.

Poireria (Flexopteron) poppei differs from *P. (F.) philippinensis* (Shuto, 1969) in having a higher spire, more adapically curved axial lamellae, a shorter siphonal canal, more rounded teleoconch whorls (not shouldered as in *P. philippinensis*), and mostly in having 23-25 rounded spiral cords on the last teleoconch whorl, for only 10 in *P. philippinensis*. *P. poppei* differs from *P. primanova* Houart, 1985 in the same way; furthermore, *P. primanova* has only 6 spiral cords and numerous fine threads on the last teleoconch whorl.

ETYMOLOGY.

Named for Mr Guido T. Poppe, who kindly provided the studied material.

Acknowledgements.

I am very grateful to Mr Guido T. Poppe (Berchem, Belgium) and to Mr A. Moncur (London, U.K.), for giving me the opportunity to study these specimens. I am also most indebted to Prof. E.H. Vokes (Tulane University) for reading the manuscript, and for her welcome advice on an adequate supraspecific classification.

REFERENCES.

- HOUART, R., 1985. Report on Muricidae (Gastropoda) recently dredged in the South-Western Indian Ocean - I. Description of eight new species. *Venus* 44 (3): 159-171.
- SHUTO, T., 1969. Neogene gastropods from Panay Island, the Philippines. *Mem. Fac. Sci. Kyushu Univ. (D)* 19 (1): 1-250.
- VOKES, E.H., 1992. Cenozoic Muricidae of the western Atlantic region. Part IX - *Pterynotus*, *Poireria*, *Aspella*, *Dermomurex*, *Calotrophon*, *Acantholabia*, and *Attiliosa*; additions and corrections. *Tulane Stud. Geol. Paleont.* 25 (1-3): 1-108.