Zeitschrift: Mitteilungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Bern

Herausgeber: Naturforschende Gesellschaft in Bern

Band: 25 (1968)

Artikel: Remarks on colour patterns and related features of the Molluscan shells

Autor: Oberling, J.J.

Kapitel: Explanation of the plates

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-319553

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 03.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

Bibliography

BÖGGILD, O. B. (1930): Shell structure of the Mollusks. Mém. Acad. Roy. Sci. Lettres Danemark, Copenhague. Ser. 9, T. 11, n° 2.

COMFORT, A (1964): Molluscan Shell Patterns. — Animals, Vol. 5, n° 5.

Cox, L. R. (1955): Gastropod descriptive terminology. Proc. Malac. Soc. London, Vol. 31.

DAVIES, M. (1935): Tertiary Faunas, Vol. I.

NEUMANN, D. (1959): Variabilität der Farbmuster aus der Schale von Theodoxus fluviatilis L.—Z. Morph. Okol. Tiere, 48.

OBERLING, J. J. (1960—1962): Notes morphologiques sur des coquillages. Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat. Berne.

PORTMANN, A.: Animal Forms and Patterns. Publ. Faber & Faber.

ROBERTS, M. (1851): Popular history of the Mollusca.

WRIGLEY, A. (1947): The colour Patterns and Sculpture of Molluscan Shells. Proc. Malac. Soc. London, Vol. 27.

Explanation of the plates

(All figures diagrammatic, variously magnified; view of shell surface, with aperture to the left unless otherwise indicated; arrows, when present indicate distal direction. Asterisks stand for patterns not seen on actual specimens. Alt. c. bands = alternating colour bands.)

Plate I

- Fig. 1 End whorls of gasteropod, showing pattern elements resulting from various types of activities of secretion sources.
- Fig. 2 b Oblique band: secretion continuous. When secretion of same is intermittent it appears as in fig. 2 a, not fig. 3.
- Fig. 4 Cross section through superficial portion of shell, showing the in-depth secretion of spots; in such species as *Natica millepunctata* Lam.
- Fig. 5 Various types of junctions of lines. Vertical parallel lines = growth lines
- Figs. 6, 9 Valves of two varieties of a *Lioconcha*, prob. *L. castrensis* Lam., showing diverging patterns.
- Fig. 7 Zigzags, which include both diverging and converging portions.
- Fig. 8 Marginella lineata Mühl., showing «inflowing» pattern.
- Fig. 10 Irregular zigzags in *Strombus vittatus* L. Zigzags are AB, CD, EF. Dashed lines = connecting lines.
- Fig. 11 Rhombic network produced by two sets of lines of opposite obliquity.
- Fig. 12 Zigzags of Strombus vittatus L., showing directional instability.
- Fig. 13 Two connected zigzags of Strombus vittatus. Dashed lines = connecting lines.

Plate II

- Fig. 1 Polymita picta Born, showing crossing of white radial band and dark concentric line.
- Fig. 2 Discontinuous near-radial lines in Littorina zebra Don.
- Fig. 3 Interrupted transverse bands in *Imbricaria conica* Desh.
- Fig. 4 Interrupted lobes in Conus lucidus Wood.
- Fig. 5 Interrupted lines and bands (thick, black) in the reticulated pattern of *Tricolia* tessellata Phil. Figure should be shifted clockwise ab. 45 °.
- Fig. 6 «Influence» of a dark transverse band on an alt. c. band, such as in Gibbula ardens v. Salis.
- Fig. 7 Interruption and dislocation of transverse lines by radial band in *Conus generalis* L.
- Fig. 8 Sinuous lines in *Voluta undulata* Lam., showing bends to be closer on their flanks and, presumably in «compensation», more numerous on their proximal extremities and thicker on their distal extremities.
- Fig. 9 Crossings of transverse sinuous lines and radial alt. c. bands in *Monodonta articulata* Lam.
- Fig. 10 «Influence» of «latent» radial bands on dotted pattern of Conus arenatus Brug.
- Fig. 11 Closely set transverse lines, showing «nearness» effect.
- Figs. 12, 13 Influence of growth breaks on pattern elements: 12 a: interruption of radial bands. 12 b: pause in secretion of radial band. 13: Sinuous transverse lines becoming concentric and straight on the other side of growth break, then becoming again sinuous. G. B. = growth break.

Plate III

- Figs. 1-6c Simple pattern elements of the linear type (except 2a and 1a, b).
- Figs. 6 d-8 Common pattern types in Gasteropods.

Plate IV

- Fig. 1 Various theoretically possible simple spot shapes.
- Figs. 2–10 Theoretically possible arrangements of «small» elements. 2. Homogeneously irregular. 3. Clustered irregular. 4. Regular perpendicular. 5. Regular oblique. 6. Unidirectional (radial). 7. Two-directional (radial and transverse). 8. Elements arranged in rows. 9. Elements arranged in bands. 10. Elements arranged in crossing pattern.
- Figs. 11–13 Some theoretically possible arrangements of «big elements». 11. Elements parallel to each other. 12. Elements touching each other. 13. Elements crossing each other.
- Fig. 14 Some theoretically possible arrangements of small and big elements. a) Elements not touching each other. b) Elements touching each other. c) Elements crossing each other. d) Elements within one another.
- Fig. 15 Possible relationships of «big» elements with parallel axes (not mentioned in text except for normal parallel and alternate parallel zigzags).
- Fig. 16 Rows of spots in a Mitra (here Mitra papalis Lam.).
- Fig. 17 Production of «blurring» in spot margins through different processes. a—d: cross sections through shell, s = shell surface; figures very schematic. a) Spot thinner at margin. b) Spot lighter at margin. c) Spot secreted at deeper levels at the margin. d) Shell substance more opaque over spot margins.

- Fig. 18 Conus striatus L., showing junction figures of transverse lines and portions of radial bands.
- Fig. 19 a, b: arrangements of «small» elements (lobes and dots), as contrasted to c, arrangement of «big» elements, lobed lines.

Plate V

- Fig. 1 Crossed-oblique arrangement of spots, as in *Tricolia pullus*, almost as regular as the «regular oblique» arrangment. Spots are here joined by fine lines forming a regular rhombic network.
- Fig. 2 Relatively regular arrangement of spots in radial and transverse directions producing also oblique alignments (along the axes x and x').
- Fig. 3 Conus chaldeus Röd., showing arrangement of spots.
- Fig. 4–7 Showing how alt. c. bands may become differentiated from the rest of the whorl.
- Fig. 8 Relationship between light ogives and transverse lobed bands in Conus textile L.
- Fig. 9 Arborescent «junction figures» of *Neopetraeus arboriferus* Pil., showing overlap of the figures.
- Fig. 10 Junction figures of *Bulimulus coturnix* Sowb. DD = transverse element. C = radial elements. A = oblique elements.
- Figs. 11-14 Illustrating diverse types of periodicity in secretion of divergent elements. In fig. 14, the elements of fig. 11 continue to be secreted until they meet. The upper and lower portions of figs. 12 and 13 may be referred to as parts a and b respectively of these figures.
- Fig. 15 Neritina glabrata Sowb. showing elements with different periodicity in upper and lower portions of the whorl.
- Fig. 16 Neritina oualanensis Les.: Periodicity of element secretion varies in alternate fashion from upper to lower portion of the whorl.

Plate VI Linear networks

- Fig. 1 Irregular network of the crossed-line type.
- Fig. 2 Irregular network of the cellular type.
- Fig. 3 Irregularly oriented overlapping rectangular network.
- Fig. 4 Rectangular labyrinthic network of the cellular type.
- Fig. 5 Rectangular labyrinthic network of the crossed-lines type.
- Fig. 6 Overlapping irregular patterns.
- Fig. 7 Overlapping irregular rectangular network.
- Fig. 8 Rhombic labyrinthic network.
- Fig. 9 «Tented» pattern produced from light ogives, as in Conus aulicus L.
- Fig. 10 «Tented» pattern as in *Oliva porphyria* L. In that species and in most other cases, tents point distally (upper arrow [1]), in rare species proximally (lower arrow [2]). AB and CB will be converging lines in the first case, diverging in the second, etc.
- Fig. 11 Association of zigzags and regular rhombic network, as in Strombus vittatus L.
- Fig. 12 Irregular scaly network.
- Fig. 13 Scaly network changing into a rhombic one.
- Fig. 14 Theoretical derivation of regular triangular network from rhombic one.

- Fig. 15 Derivation of rhombic network from elongate light spots, as in *Theodoxus fluviatilis*. Sketch shows pigment rings around distal end of spots.
- Figs. 16–19 Derivation of rhombic and hexagonal networks from expansion of light spots of an ocellated pattern until they adjoin neighbouring spots, variously distributed.
- Fig. 20 Hexagonal network in the young Bulla striata Brug.
- Fig. 22 Hexagonal network derived from the crossing of lines, as in *Littorina meleagris*. AA, BB = set of reclined lines crossing the inclined lines CC and DD.
- Fig. 23 Hexagonal network derived from transverse zigzags (AA, BB, etc.) and connecting lines (dotted).
- Fig. 21 Theoretical derivation of trapezoidal network from regular hexagonal network.

Plate VII

- Figs. 1-6 Theoretically possible but actually unrealized linear networks. Fig. 1 Alternating sinuous curves with connectives; Fig. 4 Parallel sinuous curves with connectives. Figs. 2, 3, 5 Various rectangular patterns. Fig. 6 Overlapping trapezoid network.
- Fig. 7 Irregular network of lines and spots.
- Fig. 9 Regular network derived from alternately parallel sinuous lines.
- Fig. 10 Network derived from sinuous lines at right angle to each other (theoretical).
- Figs. 11, 13, 14 Networks derived from lobate lines. Fig. 11: Catenate network, from lobate lines arranged «face to face». Fig. 13 Scaly network, from alternating parallel lobate lines. Fig. 14 From simple parallel lobate lines, with connecting lines.
- Figs. 15, 19 «Reverse» networks, with colourless framework. Fig. 15: Rectangular reverse framework. Fig. 19: Hexagonal reverse framework.
- Figs. 16-18, 20-22 Checkerboard networks.
- Fig. 16 Irregular checkerboard.
- Fig. 17 Irregular triangular checkerboard derived from triangles.
- Fig. 18 Regular triangular checkerboard and «egg and trapeze» network, both apparently derived from a rhombic network, as in *Littorina meleagris* Pot.
- Fig. 20 Rectangular checkerboard formed when grooves traverse an ocellated pattern.
- Fig. 21 Rectangular checkerboard formed by closely spaced dislocated oblique bands.
- Fig. 22 Rectangular checkerboard formed by big «junction spots» of rhombic pattern.

Plate VIII

Diagrams showing unrolled Molluscan shell, with much proximal-distal shortening, to illustrate variety of pattern ontogeny in various genera.

Plate IX

- Figs. 1, 2 Same as in preceding plate. Diagrams of Neritina communis Quoy and Meretrix petechialis Lam.
- Fig. 3 Basal whorls of *Pyramidella maculosa* Lam., showing colour pattern on whorl surface.
- Fig. 4 Portion of colourless zigzag of *Columbella fulgurans* Lam. crossing three ribs and showing effect of ribs on zigzag.

- Fig. 5 Lobe or ogive with «eye-lash» pattern in Neritina pulchella Recl.
- Fig. 6 Same pattern as in preceding figure, but associated with warts, as in *Neritina* squamosa Swob. (viewed almost tangentially to surface).
- Fig. 7 3 whorls of *Pusia tricolor* Gm. Transverse bands regular when associated with ribs in upper two whorls, irregular where the ribs are absent (last whorl).
- Fig. 8 Rissoa grossa Mich., showing lineoles regular when between the ribs, irregular further down.
- Fig. 9 Smaragdia viridis L., showing relation of lines to blotches.
- Fig. 10 Busycon contrarium Conr., showing relation of shoulder nodes to growth breaks (vertical lines) and concentric bands (dark bands to left of lines).

In the printing, the magnifications of the figures for the next two plates have been increased by $\frac{1}{3}$ from those indicated.

Plate X

- Fig. 1 Imbricaria conica Desh. (X 2), showing dark radial lines curving around extremities of light transverse segments.
- Fig. 2 Conus lucidus Wood (X 1. 2), showing relationship of radial lines and transverse segments.
- Fig. 3 Charonia tritonis L. (X 2/3), showing relationship of rather vaguely developed dark transverse bands and lobed radial alternating-colour bands.
- Fig. 4 Monodonta articulata Lam. (X 2. 5), showing relationship of sinuous transverse lines and radial alternating colour bands.
- Fig. 5 Conus striatus L. (X 1), showing relationship of transverse irregular lines to the radial rows of spots.
- Fig. 6 Conus imperialis L. (X 1), showing on the lip the relationship of the inner dark areas to the superficial dark lines.
- Fig. 7 Littorina zigzag Gm. (X 2), showing crossing of lines of opposite obliquity forming network with parallelogram-shaped cells.
- Fig. 8 Helix aspersa Müll. (X 1. 5), with irregular network.
- Fig. 9 Strombus vittatus L. (X 4), showing regular rhombic network.
- Fig. 10 Sunetta meroe L. (X 2), showing rhombic labyrinthic network (near shell margin).
- Fig. 11 Nitidella ocellata Gm. (X 5. 5), showing (rather indistinctly!) hexagonal network (at base of whorl) derived from oblique rows of isolated ocelli (on other portions of the whorls).

Plate XI

- Fig. 1 Littorina meleagris Pot. (X 5), showing hexagonal network (right of specimen) derived from the crossing of lines of opposite obliquity, and (upper left) the lines of one set which are straight where they are not «influenced» by those of the other set.
- Fig. 2 Conus abbas Hwass (X 3), showing lobate pattern that grades into hexagonal and rhombic networks.
- Fig. 3 Terebra dimidiata L. (X 2), with «reverse» rectangular network.
- Fig. 4 Neritina piratica Rus. (X 2. 5), with lobate network derived from adjoining transverse sinuous lines.

- Fig. 5 Conus cf. pyramidalis Maur. (X 2), showing hexagonal network derived from transverse zigzags and connecting lines.
- Fig. 6 Babylonia ambulacra Sowb. (X 1. 5), with reverse hexagonal network.
- Fig. 7 Neritina glabrata Sowb. (X 5), showing two sets of lines with widely different periodicity.
- Fig. 8 Littorina meleagris Pot. (X 6), showing triangular checkerboard (center of specimen).
- Fig. 9 Oliva porphyria L. (X 1. 5), showing «tent pattern», and numerous sinuous lines near whorl summit.
- Fig. 10 Planaxis lineatus Costa (X 5), showing abrupt change (in middle of penultimate whorl) from a regular «associated» type of pattern to an irregular «correlated» pattern.
- Fig. 11 Pusia tricolor Gm. (X 9), showing correlated pattern regular when associated to ribs (upper whorl, white transverse bands), becoming completely irregular where ribs are lacking (3 lower whorls).