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**NEW PINK FORM OF *EROSARIA TURDUS PARDALINA* (DUNKER, 1852)**

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**Abstract:** A new form of *Erosaria turdus pardalina* from the Gulf of Aqaba is reported for the first time. In one shell of this form the sides and dorsum are covered by pink callus so the whole shell looks pink. In the two other shells only the sides and extremities are covered by pink callus.

**Key words:** Mollusca, Gastropoda, Cypraeidae, *Erosaria turdus pardalina*, intraspecific variation, Gulf of Aqaba.

*Erosaria turdus* (Lamarck, 1810) is a very variable species, which is locally common in the Red Sea, Oman, the Persian Gulf and western India. Populations of the species in the Gulf of Aqaba can be distinguished as a subspecies *Erosaria turdus pardalina* (Dunker, 1852); they differ by having a larger shell with mostly elongated extremities. Shells of this subspecies are very variable and its 15 forms are already described in “Cowries of East Sinai”; some of these forms are rare whereas the others can be found more or less regularly.



1. *E. turdus pardalina*, pink form; colored extremities and sides; E. Sinai



2. *E. turdus pardalina*, 44 mm, pink form; shell overcallused and tinged with pink; E. Sinai



3-4. *E. turdus pardalina*, 41.6 mm, pink form; shell overcallused and tinged with pink; E. Sinai (all three shells from A. Singer collection)



In this species, the shell base may be “tinged with pinkish at the extremities” and this shell character was even used in the Prodrôme—Schilder & Schilder (1938)—as one of characteristics of *Erosaria turdus winckworthi*, a possible subspecies from Eastern Arabia, the Persian Gulf and India.

This peculiarity of *E. turdus* is known also in the Gulf of Aqaba especially when shells are fresh collected. Later, the pinkish color may turn light brown and mostly disappears.

In a new form—Figs. 1-4—a pinkish callus covers the sides and partly the dorsum producing an effect that the whole shell is pinkish; this color is preserved for a long time.

#### Literature

Heiman, E.L. 2002. Cowries of East Sinai. Published privately. 208 pp.

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