

CYPRAEA HADDNIGHTAE, A SYNONYM OF C. CRIBRARIA

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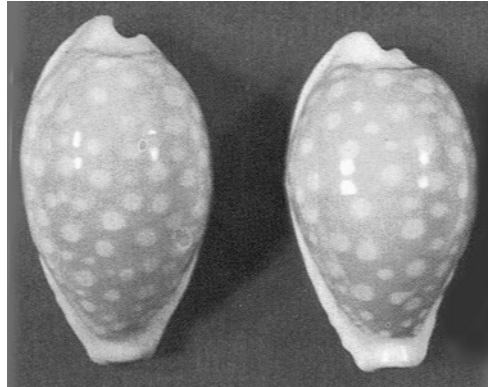
Abstract: *Cypraea haddnighatae* was described from the South of West Australia. The description of this taxon and the subsequent malacological literature do not contain confirmation of its specific level and show that it is a color form, a synonym of *Cribrarula cribraria*.

Key words: Mollusc, Gastropoda, Cypraeidae, *Cribraria haddnighatae*, West Australia, intraspecific variation.

Cypraea haddnighatae Trenberth, 1973-Figs. 1-2 below and Fig. 11 p. 23—was described as a species after several yellow colored shells similar to *Cribrarula cribraria* (Linnaeus, 1758) were found in Albany, in the South of West Australia. It is recognized in Burgess (1974, 1975, and 1985) as a species distinguished by the more pyriform shell, light orange-yellow dorsum, peculiarities of the dorsal spotting, and more produced columellar teeth.

Besides, “the dorsal white spots are not sharply circumscribed and are not slightly depressed below the dorsal surface, as they are in the nearly 200 specimens of *C. cribraria* from the entire Indo-Pacific are that I have examined. The dorsal surface is smooth and uninterrupted overlying the spots of these relatively fresh *C. haddnighatae* specimens. Furthermore, the spots of *haddnighatae* are smaller in relation to shell size, more uniform in shape and distribution, and more widely separated than on *cribraria*. In addition, the spots are not distinct and sharply demarcated as found in *cribraria*. In fact, the spots on *haddnighatae* have a hazy indistinct outline almost identical to the larger spots found on *C. cernica* Sowerby. This finding is possibly due to the additional dorsal nacre deposited over the spots of *haddnighatae*.”

Cyp. haddnighatae was treated as a valid species in Burgess (1970, 1975, 1985). It was treated as a synonym of *Cribrarula fallax* (E.A. Smith, 1881) in Raybaudi (1986b) and in Lorenz & Hubert (1993, 2000). As can be seen in Fig. 3 the white dorsal spots of *C. cribraria*, which look clear and round with the naked eye, have in fact uneven sides so Burgess’s note cited above that they are not sharply circumscribed is related to all shells of *cribraria* and not only to shells of *haddnighatae*. There is no scientific evidence in the malacological literature that a living interbreeding population with shell characters



1-2. *C. haddnighatae*; after Raybaudi (1986b).



3. The dorsal pattern (enlarged)

of *haddnighatae* is present in the South of West Australia and that this taxon is a species and not a sporadic color form of *C. cribraria*. Hence *Cypraea haddnighatae* should be treated as a synonym of *Cribrarula cribraria*.

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Shells of several taxa of the genus *Cribrarula*



1-4. An unusual shell of *C. cumingii* (16 mm, Marquez's Is.) with a confused dorsal pattern, (obtained as *C. astaryi*). Author's collection



5-6. *C. taitae*. Pictured as *C. astaryi* in Burgess (1985)

7-8. *C. fallax*; the holotype, after Raybaudi (1986b)



9-10. *C. cribraria* f.exmouthensis, after Raybaudi (1987)

11. *C. haddnighiae*, Albany. After Raybaudi, 1986b.



12. *C. fallax*, from Denmark -Albany, West Australia. After Raybaudi, 1986b.