

ON A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *SEPTARIA* FER. FROM
VALLAR RIVER, S. INDIA.

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(PLATE II.)

Recently Mr. R. V Seshaiya, Lecturer in Zoology of the Annamalai University, sent me for identification two specimens of a *Septaria* from the Vallar River, about two miles from the sea at Porto Novo. These specimens do not agree with any previously known species of the genus and are described below under the name *Septaria dravidica*, sp. nov.

In his valuable monograph¹ of the genus *Navicella*=*Septaria*, the late Prof. E. von Martens recorded from the Indian area the following 3 species: *Navicella suborbicularis* Sow. (with *N squamata*² Dohrn from Andamans, Nicobar and Ceylon as a synonym), *N reticulata* Reeve from Ceylon (with *N livesayi* Dohrn from Ceylon as a synonym) and *N caerulescens* Sowerby (with *compressa* Benson as a variety) from the River Ganges. Preston³ considered all the species as distinct and recorded *Septaria reticulata* (Reeve), *S. livesayi* (Dohrn) and *S. squamata* (Dohrn) from Ceylon and *S. compressa* (Benson) and *S. caerulescens* (Sowerby) from the River Ganges and its tributary Hughli in Bengal.

As is clear from the above references, no species of the genus has so far been recorded from Peninsular India and it is, therefore, of special interest to find a species living near Porto Novo in the Vallar River. The new species, as noted above, does not agree with any of the previously known Indian forms, but it differs in so far the shape of its septum is concerned, from all other known species of the genus.

Recluz⁴ in his account of the genus divided the species into 3 groups, (i) Sommet saillant au-delà de la marge, souvent corrodé; (ii) A sommet submarginal entier; (iii) A sommet situé un peu avant le bord postérieur. The brother Adams⁵ adopted for these groups the name *Catillus* Humphrey and the subgeneric names *Septaria* Fér. and *Elara* H. and A. Adams. Gray⁶ taking into consideration the form of the operculum and the septum divided the family Navicellidae as he designated it, into 3 tribes and 4 genera—*Catillus*, *Paria*, *Stenopoma* and *Orthopoma*. E. von Martens⁷ arranged the species of the genus into three groups, and these groups have been adopted by Thiele⁸ in his valuable "Handbuch" The three groups are (i) *Septaria* s. s., with an elongated,

¹ Martens, E. von—*Navicella* in *Martini and Chemnitz Conch.-Cab.* (N. F.), II (10), pp. 1-40, pls. i-vi (1881), pp. 41-56 (1882). The dates of publication of the last two plates, vii, viii, are not definite, but they were probably issued in 1882.

² *N. squamata* is wrongly spelt as *N. squamala* on p. 31 of von Martens' monograph.

³ Preston, H. B.—*Fauna Brit. Ind., Freshw. Moll.*, pp. 6-8 (1915).

⁴ Recluz, C.—*Journ. Conchyliol.* I, pp. 375, 376 (1850).

⁵ Adams, H. and A.—*Gen. Moll.* I, p. 387 (1856).

⁶ Gray, J.—*Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, pp. 993-1000 (1867).

⁷ Martens, E. von.—*op. cit.*, p. 8 (1881).

⁸ Thiele, J.—*Handbuch Syst. Weichtierkunde*, I, p. 76 (1929).

rather strongly arched shell, thick periostracum, apex prominent, projecting beyond the posterior margin of the shell,—Type *S. (S.) borbonica* Bory St. Vincent; (ii) *Sandalium* Schumacher, shell greatly arched nearly circular, periostracum thin, with distinct markings, apex somewhat raised, hardly projecting beyond the shell margin,—Type *S. (S.) orbicularis* (Sowerby), and (iii) *Navicella* Lamarck, shell, flat, thin, elongate periostracum, thin; apex sharp, lying mostly in front of the posterior margin of shell,—Type *S. (N.), tessellata* Lam.

In reference to the septum (Scheidewand) von Martens remarked that its free anteriorly directed edge is often more or less, but generally very slightly, arched backwards in the middle; in *N. freycineti* Sowerby, however, it projects somewhat forwards in the middle line as in most species of the genus *Crepidularia*. In *S. dravadica*, which belongs to the *Navicella* group, on the other hand, the septum is very narrow and its middle region is broadly arched in the form of a semi-circular bay.

It is of interest to remark here that the late Dr. von Martens in his otherwise valuable monograph referred to above has in his descriptions of several species confused the anterior end of the shell with the posterior.

***Septaria dravadica*, sp. nov.**

Shell ovoid; moderately arched; distinctly narrower anteriorly than posteriorly, lateral sides slightly arched; average index of length to breadth 4:3—3:2, height to breadth 1:3; apex situated near but not projecting beyond the posterior margin. Shell of a yellowish colour cut up by rectangular black spots forming a chequered pattern; in the paratype the dark olive spots are smaller and more numerous and almost obliterate the ground-colour; apex dark violet. Septum comparatively very narrow, less than $\frac{1}{5}$ the length of shell, cut up in the middle along a semicircular area; of a light creamy colour; inner surface of shell light bluish with the pattern of colour-marking shining through it. Operculum (figs. 3, 3a) longer than broad, shell-white in colour, rib, narrow, elongated, marginal; lateral area broad, channelled; diagonal process not distinctly marked.

Measurements (in millimetres).

	Holotype.	Paratype.
Length	18	16.2
Maximum breadth	12.5	12
Maximum height	4	4

Holotype No. M. $\frac{14373}{2}$, Paratype No. M. $\frac{14374}{2}$ in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India (Indian Museum), Calcutta.

Locality.—*S. dravadica* was collected from the Vallar River, about two miles from the sea at Porto Novo, South India. The species is common about February.

The radula (fig. 4) resembles that of *S. tessellata* (Lam.) figured by von Martens (*loc. cit.*, pl. i, fig. 3).