

**TYPHISOPSIS CLAYDONI N. SP., A NEW SPECIES OF TYPHINAE
(GASTROPODA: MURICIDAE) FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.**

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Introduction

Typhisopsis claydoni n. sp., described here from a single specimen, is the sixth newly named species of Typhinae from the Pacific region since RADWIN & D'ATTILIO (1976), (see HOUART, 1985, 1986 and 1987) and the only other known species of the otherwise monotypic genus *Typhisopsis*. *Typhisopsis coronatus* (Broderip, 1833) from the eastern Pacific is the only related and comparisons between both species were very interesting. They differ by many aspects but details such as *intritacalx* (D'ATTILIO & RADWIN, 1971), partition and anal tubes are very similar.

Material studied: Holotype Western Australian Museum n.° WAM 1-88.

Type locality: Port Hedland, West Australia, found under rock on drift dive, rubbly bottom, 12 m depth.

Description: Shell stout and rounded, medium sized for the genus. Spire low, consisting of 6 teleoconch whorls and a protoconch of undetermined nature (broken). Suture impressed.

Last whorl bearing four varices ending in a sharp apically recurved spine at the shoulder margin. Last varix strongly reflecting dorsally and spiny on anterior portion; three previous varices broad and rounded. The partition, an erect plate connecting the varix with the preceding whorl, well developed. Anal tubes rounded, horizontal and dorsally bent. Each anal tube originating at the shoulder margin, just near the preceding varix; last tube moderately long and hollow, others broken and closed. Spiral sculpture consisting of 5 obsolete cords, more prominent on the varices. No spiral sculpture discernable on the early whorls. Siphonal canal very short, broad, closed and hollow; strongly bent backwards on its tip; no apparent sculpture.

Aperture large and rounded, slightly erect and smooth, forming an entire peristome.

Shell color whitish, covered by a spirally striate intritacalx, mostly visible on the back side of last varix.

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Discussion: The only related species is the one other member of the genus *Typhisopsis*, namely *T. coronatus* (Broderip, 1833) from the eastern Pacific, ranging from Puerto Penasco, Sonora, Mexico to Santa Elena, Ecuador (RADWIN & D'ATTILIO, 1976: 213). *T. claydoni* is stouter and more rounded, the 4 varices are flatter and broader, the aperture is broader and more rounded and the siphonal canal is shorter and strongly bent backwards while almost straight for *T. coronatus*.

Another newly named typhine, *Talityphis neocaledonicus* Houart, 1987 from southern New Caledonia may be compared. Although named in another genus the species approaches *T. claydoni* by its general outline and size. Nevertheless, the varices of *T. neocaledonicus* are sharp, thin and expanded, the aperture is smaller, the siphonal canal longer and the anal tubes are more upward bent.

As demonstrated by VELLA (1961), all other Australasian species belongs to other genera; after examination they do not need to be compared here.

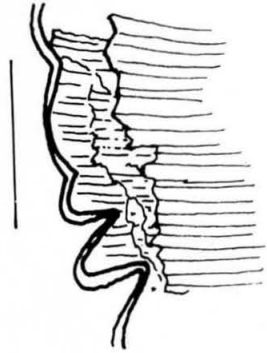
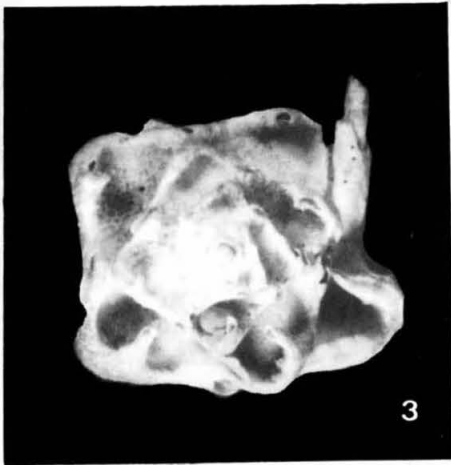
Etymology: named after MIKE CLAYDON of Port Hedland, West Australia, who lent this specimen for examination and kindly donated it as holotype.

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FIGURES
(Scale: 2 mm)

- 1 — 3, *Typhisopsis claydoni* n. sp., holotype 18,5 × 15 mm.
4 — Intritacalx