

## The Muricidae (Gastropoda) described from Mauritius by Tapparone Canefri in 1881

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**Keywords.** Gastropoda, Muricidae, Mauritius, Tapparone Canefri, type material.

**Abstract.** Types of Muricidae described from Mauritius by Tapparone Canefri in 1881 and housed in the Museo di Storia Naturale, Sezione di Zoologia "La Specola", Università di Firenze, Italy are commented and illustrated. Three species are involved, *Murex dichrous*, *Trophon fossuliferus* and *Tritonidea lefevreiana*. Two are valid and available and *Trophon fossuliferus* is here synonymised with a species occurring in South Africa. Lectotypes are selected for *Murex dichrous* Tapparone Canefri, 1881, *Engina xantholeuca* G.B. Sowerby III, 1882 and *Trophon fossuliferus* Tapparone Canefri, 1881.

### INTRODUCTION

Tapparone Canefri introduced seven new names in the family Muricidae, *Murex dichrous* Tapparone Canefri, 1881, now *Morula (Habromorula) dichrous* (Houart, 2004 and this paper), *Latirus fischerianus* (Tapparone Canefri, 1882), now *Orania fischeriana* (type illustrated by Snyder & Callomon, 2010), *Murex foraminiferus* Tapparone Canefri in Kobelt, 1877, synonym of *Favartia cyclostoma* (G. B. Sowerby II, 1841), *Trophon fossuliferus* Tapparone Canefri, 1881 (this paper), *Murex jickelii* Tapparone Canefri, 1875, now *Naquetia jickelii* (type illustrated by Houart et al, 2021), *Murex kusterianus* (Tapparone Canefri, 1875), now *Hexaplex kusterianus*, and *Tritonidea lefevreiana* Tapparone Canefri, 1881, now *Cytharomorula lefevreiana* (Houart, 2013 and this paper).

Tapparone Canefri (1881) described three Muricidae species from Mauritius. *Murex dichrous* was commented and illustrated by Houart (2004) but the type had not been located at that time. *Tritonidea lefevreiana* is assigned to *Cytharomorula* Kuroda, 1953 and was included in a study of a group of five similar-looking species from the Indo-West Pacific (Houart, 2013). Lastly, *Trophon fossuliferus* is here synonymized with *Vaughtia scrobiculata* (Dunker in Philippi, 1846) from South Africa.

Thanks to the help of other authors and malacologists (Houart, 2013) the type material of these three species was located in the Museo di Storia Naturale, Sezione di Zoologia "La Specola", Università di Firenze (Florence), Italy and digital images were obtained.

The use or not of a hyphen in the name Tapparone Canefri was commented on by Van Gemert (2014).

### Comments about the date of publication of "Glanures dans la faune malacologique de l'Île Maurice"

The date of publication indicated on the first page of volume XV of the "Annales de la Société Malacologique de Belgique" refers to the year 1880. This date has been used by most subsequent authors. However, a note on page 308 of the same volume states that " Le premier fascicule du tome XV, comprenant les *Bulletins des séances* et les *Mémoires* jusqu'à la page 112, fut distribué le 1<sup>er</sup> août 1885" (The first issue of Volume XV, comprising the *Bulletins des séances* and the *Mémoires* up to page 112, was distributed on 1 August 1885). This would be the only date to be taken into consideration. However, the publication of the "Glanures" was also distributed as an offprint in 1881. Consequently, that date should be taken into account for the species described from Mauritius by Tapparone Canefri (J.-M. Pacaud and P. Bouchet, in litt.).

### Abbreviations

AMS: The Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia.  
MNHN: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France.  
MZUF: Museo Zoologico "La Specola", Sezione del Museo di Storia Naturale, Università di Firenze, Italy.  
RH: Roland Houart, research collection of the author, Landen, Belgium.

### SYSTEMATICS

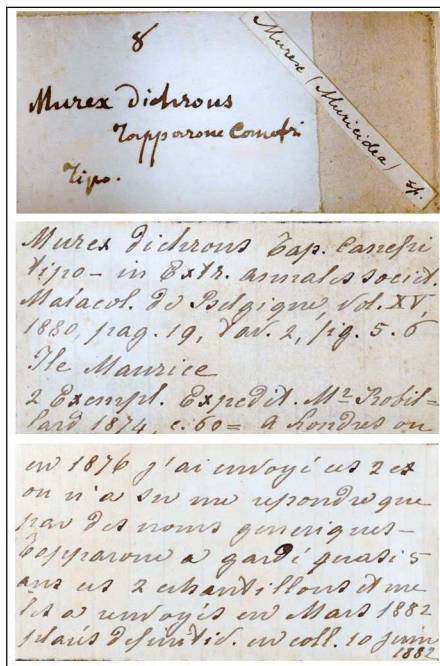
Order **NEOGASTROPODA** Wenz, 1938  
Superfamily **MURICOIDEA** Rafinesque, 1815  
Family **MURICIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815

***Morula (Habromorula) dichrous***  
(Tapparone Canefri, 1881)  
Figs 1, 2, 5A–H

*Murex dichrous* Tapparone Canefri, 1881: 21, pl.2, figs 5, 6.

*Engina xantholeuca* G.B. Sowerby III, 1882: 119, pl. 5, fig. 9.

**Type material.** *Murex dichrous*: two syntypes MZUF 4462, here selected as lectotype MZUF 4462/1 and paralectotype 4462/2; *Murex xantholeuca*: lectotype NHMUK 1982.130, 13.0 mm, here selected.



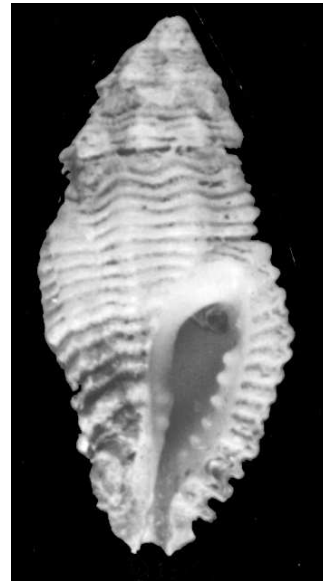
**Figure 1.** Original labels with *Murex dichrous* Tapparone Canefri, 1881

**Type locality.** *Murex dichrous* and *Engina xantholeuca*: Mauritius.

**Distribution.** *Morula (Habromorula) dichrous* is a scarce species living probably in the whole Tropical Indian Ocean but only known there from a few scattered localities such as Mozambique (J. Rosado), Madagascar (MNHN), Reunion (RH) and Mauritius. The species is also known from Vietnam (Thach, 2012), the Philippines (RH), Guam (RH), Papua New Guinea (MNHN), North Queensland (Australia) (RH), the Coral Sea (AMS C.170061), New Caledonia (MNHN) and French Polynesia (RH), living at 8–15 m.

**Remarks.** The single specimen of *Murex xantholeuca* Sowerby, 1882 in NHMUK was considered a holotype by Houart (2013: 106). In accordance with art. 74.7 of

ICZN, as no holotype was ever designated by Sowerby, that specimen is here selected as the lectotype.

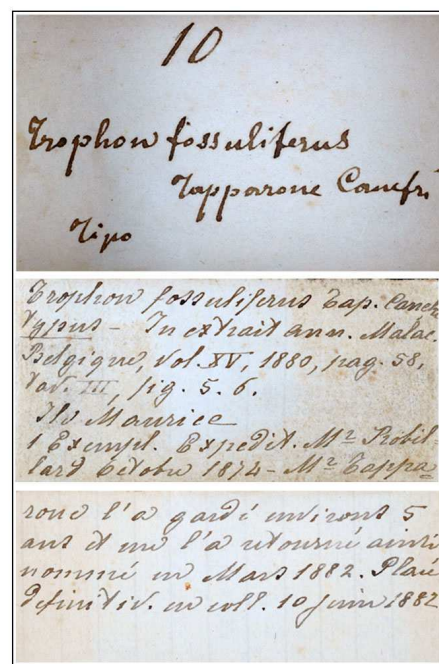


**Figure 2.** *Engina xantholeuca* G.B. Sowerby III, 1882. Lectotype NHMUK 1982.130, 13.0 mm.

***Trophon fossuliferus*** Tapparone Canefri, 1881  
Figs 3, 5I–L

*Trophon fossuliferus* Tapparone Canefri, 1881: 58, pl. 3, figs 5, 6.

**Type material.** Syntype MZUF 4316, here selected as lectotype.



**Figure 3.** Original labels with *Trophon fossuliferus* Tapparone Canefri, 1881

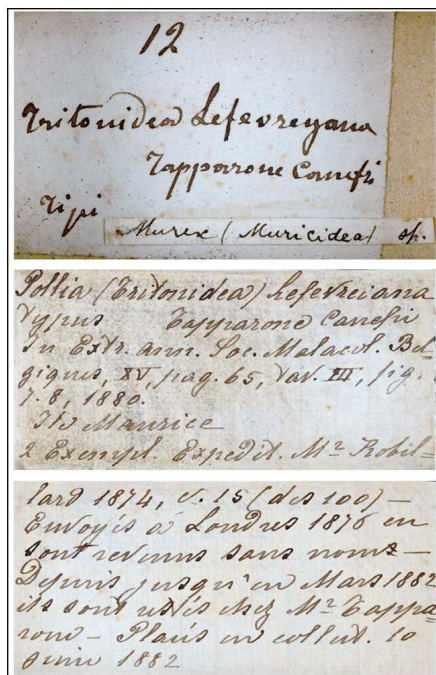
**Type locality.** Mauritius.

**Remarks.** *Trophon fossiliferus* is clearly a subjective junior synonym of *Vaughtia scrobiculata* (Dunker in Philippi, 1856) (Fig. 5M–O), a species occurring in South Africa, from Saldanha Bay, Cape Province to northern Transkei. How an empty shell of this species, endemic to South Africa, ended up in Mauritius will probably remain a mystery.

*Cytharomorula lefevreiana*  
(Tapparone Canefri, 1881)  
Figs 4, 5P–V

*Tritonidea lefevreiana* Tapparone Canefri, 1881: 65, pl. 3, figs 7, 8.

**Type material.** Lectotype MZUF 24524/1 and one paralectotype MZUF 24524/2, selected by Houart (2013).



**Figure 4.** Original labels with *Tritonidea lefevreiana* Tapparone Canefri, 1881

**Type locality.** Mauritius.

**Distribution.** Currently only known from the Seychelles, Mauritius and Reunion, living at 58–70 m.

**Remarks.** The species was confused with *Cytharomorula benedicta* (Melville & Standen, 1895) by a few authors. In a recent paper (Houart, 2013), I commented on the five species in this peculiar group

and illustrated the type material as well as numerous other specimens.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

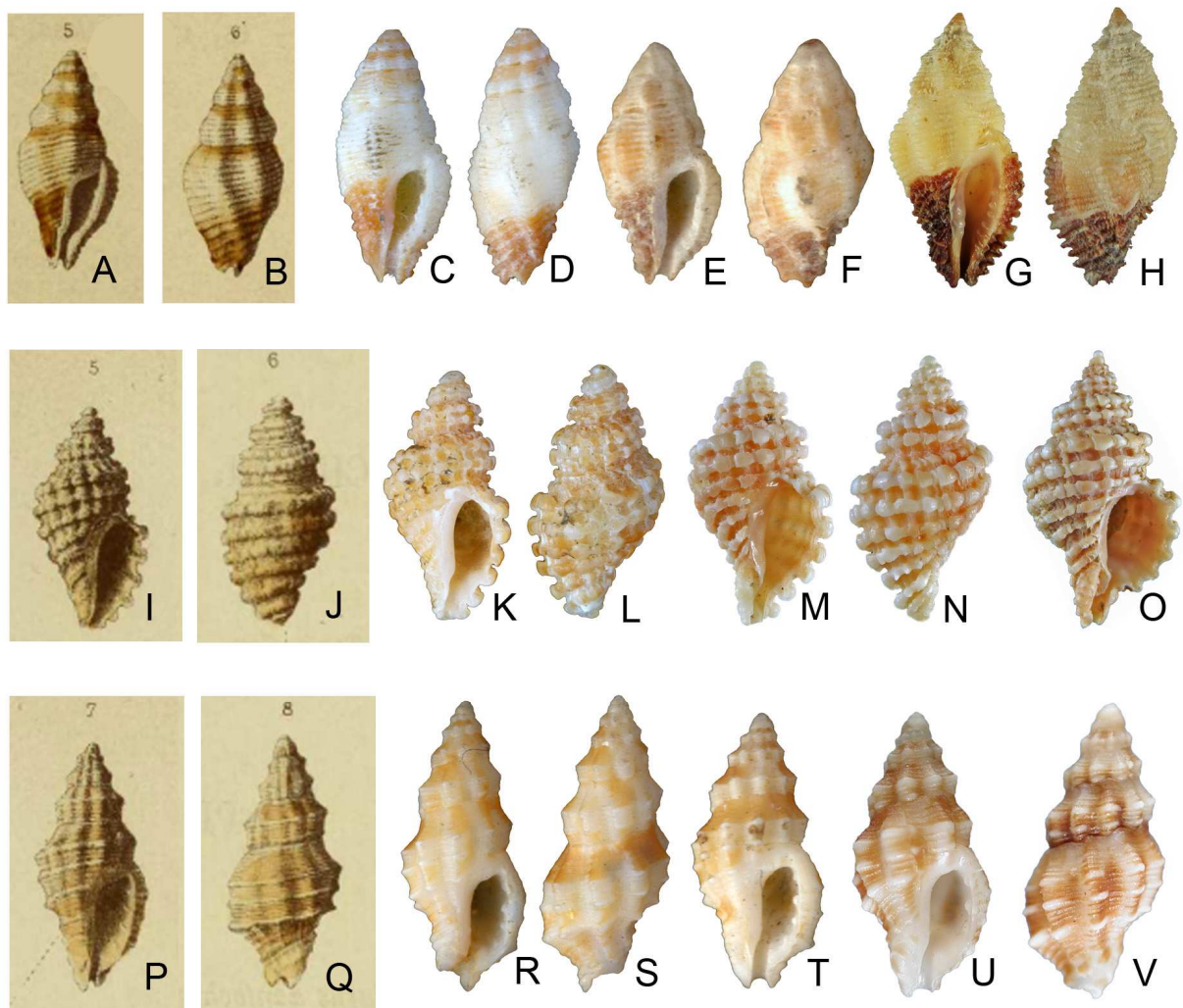
I am particularly thankful to Cecilia Volpi and Antonio Callea, Museo di Storia Naturale, Sezione di Zoologia "La Specola", Università di Firenze, Italy, for searching and finding the type material and to Saulo Bambi for the digital photographs he made for me in 2013.

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**Figure 5**

**A–H.** *Habromorula dichrous* (Tapparone Canefri, 1881)

A–B. Original illustrations; C–D. Lectotype MZUF 4462/1, 12.4 mm; E–F. Paralectotype MZUF 4462/2, 9.8 mm; G–H. Philippines, Cebu, RH, 10.8 mm.

**I–O.** *Vaughtia scrobiculata* (Dunker in Philippi, 1856)

I–J. Original illustration of *Trophon fossuliferus*; K–L. Lectotype of *T. fossuliferus*, MZUF 4316, 11 mm; M–N. South Africa, Kidds Beach, eastern Cape, RH, 10.2 mm; O. South Africa, Cape Province, Kei Mouth, RH, 13.2 mm.

**P–V.** *Cytharomorula lefevreiana* (Tapparone Canefri, 1881)

P–Q. Original illustration; R–S. Lectotype MZUF 24524/1, 11 mm; T. Paralectotype MZUF 24524/2, 8.3 mm; U–V. Reunion, off St Paul, 20°59'S, 55°15'E, 58–70 m, MNHN-IM-2014-2364, 6.6 mm.