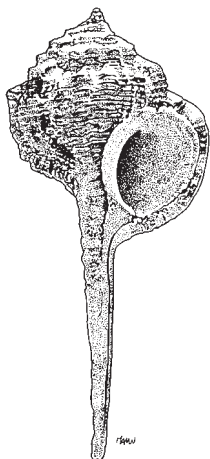


***Haustellum haustellum*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

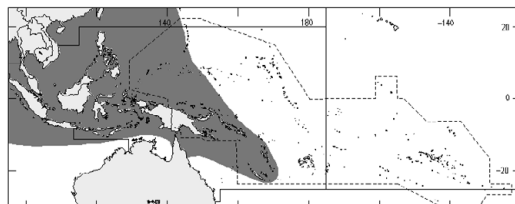
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Haustellum vicdani* Kosuge, 1980; *Murex haustellum* Linnaeus, 1758; *M. kurodai* Shikama, 1964; *M. longicaudus* (Baker, 1891) / None.

**En** - Snipe's bill murex; **Fr** - Murex bec-de-bécassine.

Maximum shell length 15 cm, commonly to 10 cm. On sand and coral-rubble bottoms. Littoral and sublittoral zones, to a depth of about 90 m. Most common in moderately shallow water. Collected locally for food and shell trade. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa to Melanesia; north to Japan and south to Queensland and New Caledonia.



ventral view  
(after Short and Potter, 1987)

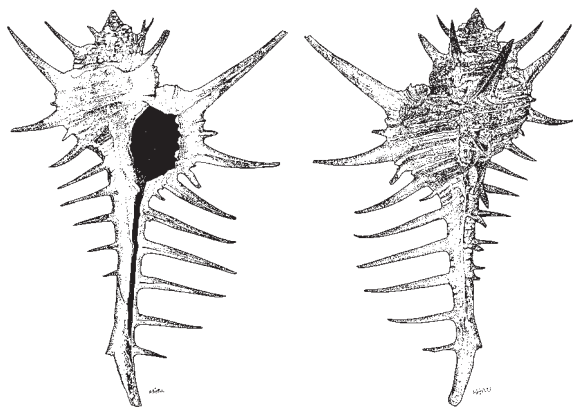


***Murex ternispina*** Lamarck, 1822

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Acupurpura nigrispinosa* (Reeve, 1845); *Murex nigrispinosa* Reeve, 1845 / *Murex tribulus* Linnaeus, 1758.

**En** - Black-spined murex; **Fr** - Murex noire-épine.

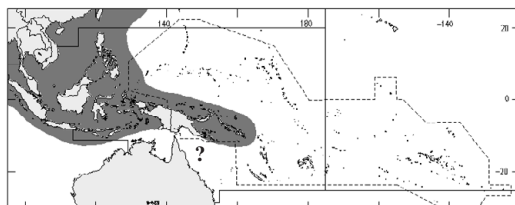
Maximum shell length 12 cm, commonly to 9 cm. On soft sublittoral bottoms, from shallow water to a depth of about 60 m. Collected and locally marketed for food and shell trade. Indo-West Pacific, from Sri Lanka to Melanesia; north to Japan and south to southern Indonesia and probably eastern Queensland.



ventral view

dorsal view

(after Ponder and Vokes, 1988)

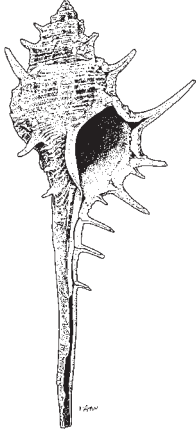


***Murex trapa* Röding, 1798**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Murex martinianus* Reeve, 1845; *M. rarispina* Lamarck, 1822; *M. unidentatus* Sowerby, 1834 / *Murex ternispina* Lamarck, 1822.

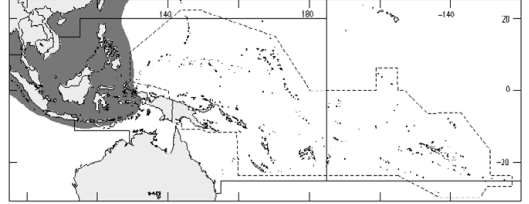
**En** - Raespined murex; **Fr** - Murex rare-épine.

Maximum shell length 11.5 cm, commonly to 10 cm. Muddy-sand bottoms. Low tide and shallow sublittoral depths. Used locally as food, or collected for shell trade. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from Madagascar and Mascareign Islands, India, Sri Lanka and the Andaman Sea, to the Philippines; north to southern Japan and south to southern Indonesia.



ventral view

(after Ponder and Vokes, 1988)

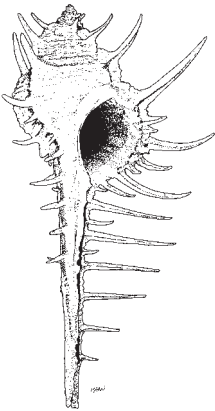


***Murex tribulus* Linnaeus, 1758**

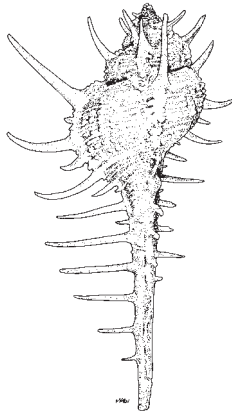
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Murex crassispina* Lamarck, 1822 / *Murex ternispina* Lamarck, 1822; *M. tenuispina* Lamarck, 1822 (= *M. pecten* Lightfoot, 1786).

**En** - Caltrop murex; **Fr** - Murex tribule.

Maximum shell length 10.5 cm, commonly to 8 cm. On clean or muddy sand, or coral-rubble bottoms. Sublittoral, mainly in shallow water between depths of 1 to 15 m. Used as food locally, the empty shell sold for collections. Indo-West Pacific, in southeastern Africa and Madagascar, and from the easternmost part of the Indian Ocean to Melanesia; north to southern Japan and south to northern Queensland and New Caledonia; also probably present in the Marshall Islands. Specimens from the Arabian region usually referred to this species actually belong to the distinct species *Murex forskoehlii* Röding, 1798.

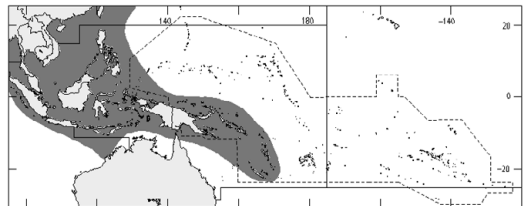


ventral view



dorsal view

(after Ponder and Vokes, 1988)



***Nassa francolina* (Bruguière, 1789)**

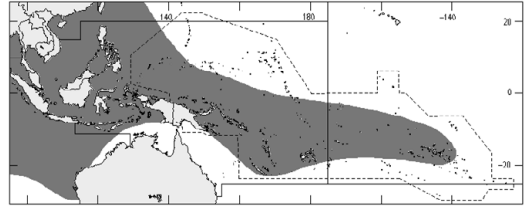
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Iopas francolinus* (Bruguière, 1789) / *Nassa sarta* (Bruguière, 1789).

**En** - Francolina jopas; **Fr** - Jopas francolin.

Maximum shell length 7 cm, commonly to 5 cm. On coarse sand and rubble, or under stones and corals, in coral reef areas. Littoral and shallow subtidal waters. Occasionally collected for subsistence by coastal populations. Distribution imperfectly known, because of frequent misidentification with *Nassa sarta*. Probably widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific, though more common in the Indian Ocean, from East Africa to eastern Polynesia; north to Japan, and south to southern Indonesia and New Caledonia.



ventral view  
(after Kira, 1962)

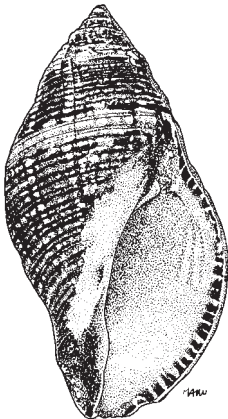


***Nassa sarta* (Bruguière, 1789)**

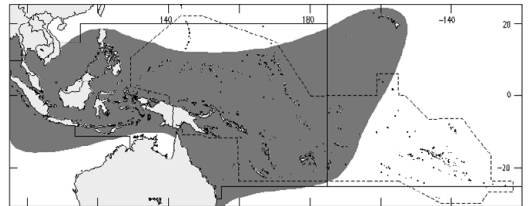
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Iopas sertum* (Bruguière, 1789) / *Nassa francolina* (Bruguière, 1789).

**En** - Wreath jopas; **Fr** - Jopas guirlande.

Maximum shell length 7 cm, commonly to 5 cm. On rocky areas or under corals, slabs, and stones. Intertidal and shallow subtidal zones. Used as food by some coastal populations. Distribution imperfectly known, because of frequent confusions with *Nassa francolina*. Mainly in the tropical West Pacific realm, from the eastern end of Indian Ocean to western Polynesia; north to the Philippines and Hawaii, and south to northern New South Wales.



ventral view  
(after Short and Potter, 1987)

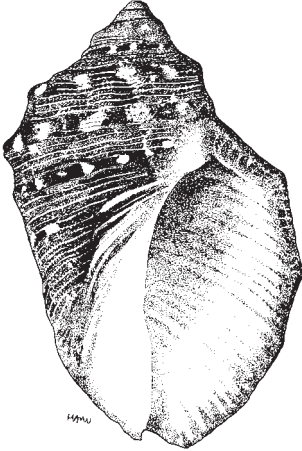


***Purpura panama*** (Röding, 1798)

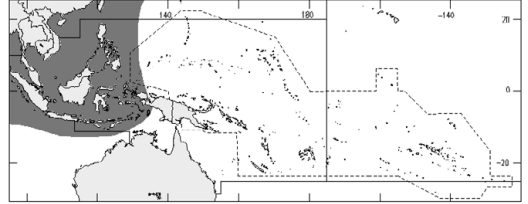
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Purpura rudolphi* Lamarck, 1822; *Thais rudolphi* (Lamarck, 1822) / None.

**En** - Rudolph's purpura; **Fr** - Pourpre de Rudolphe.

Maximum shell length 7 cm, commonly to 5 cm. Rocky areas, at tidal and shallow subtidal depths. Common from mid-tidal pools to the low-tide fringe where it preys on oysters, barnacles and limpets. Occasionally used as food in the area, this species is commonly marketed and eaten in India. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from East and South Africa to eastern Indonesia; north to Japan and south to southern Indonesia.



ventral view  
(after Kira, 1962)

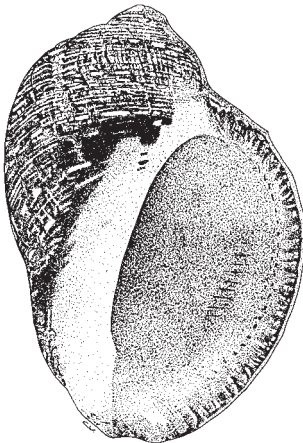


***Purpura persica*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

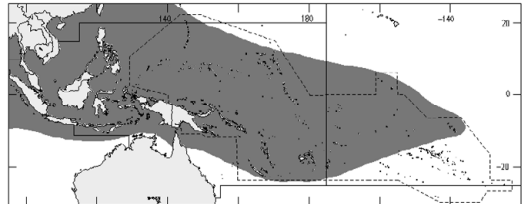
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Thais persica* (Linnaeus, 1758) / None.

**En** - Persian purpura; **Fr** - Pourpre persique.

Maximum shell length 9 cm, commonly to 7 cm. Under corals and stones, or on rocks exposed to surf action. Collected locally for food in Southeast Asia. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from Madagascar and the Mascareign Islands to eastern Polynesia; north to Japan and south to northern Queensland and New Caledonia.



ventral view  
(after Short and Potter, 1987)

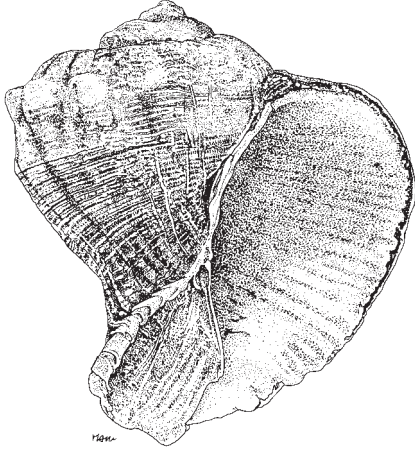


***Rapana rapiformis* (Born, 1778)**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Rapana bulbosa* (Lightfoot, 1786) / None.

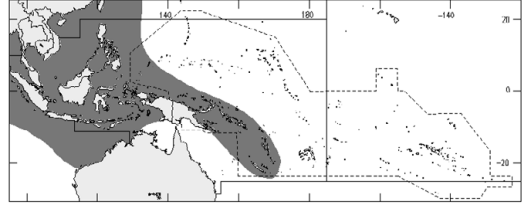
**En** - Turnish shaped rapa; **Fr** - Rapane bulbeuse.

Maximum shell length 15 cm, commonly to 10 cm. On sandy bottoms. Sublittoral, to a depth of 30 m. Reasonably common in shrimp trawls. Indo-West Pacific, from Madagascar and Sri Lanka to Melanesia; north to Japan and south to New Caledonia.



ventral view

(after Short and Potter, 1987)

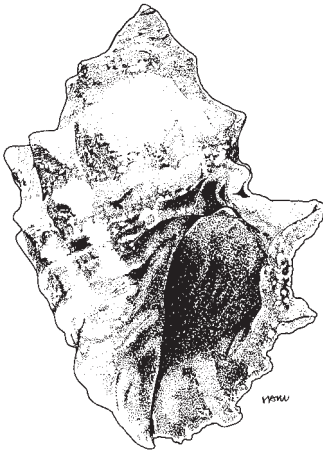


***Thais aculeata* (Deshayes and Milne Edwards, 1844)**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Mancinella aculeata* (Deshayes and Milne Edwards, 1844); *Murex hippocastanum* Linnaeus, 1758 (suppressed name); *Purpura pseudohippocastanum* Dautzenberg, 1929 / *Mancinella aculeata* Link, 1807 (= *Thais alouina* (Röding, 1798)).

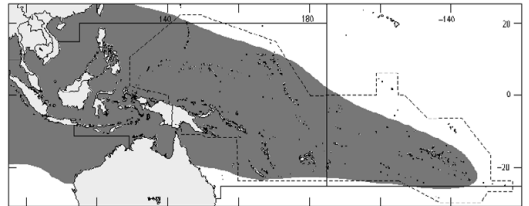
**En** - Aculeate rock shell; **Fr** - Pourpre aiguillonnée.

Maximum shell length 6 cm, commonly to 5 cm. On rocky shores and coral reef flats. Intertidal zone. Often common among rock oysters. Frequently collected for food by coastal inhabitants. Distribution imperfectly known because of frequent confusion with similar species. Probably widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from Madagascar to eastern Polynesia; north to Taiwan Province of China and



south to Queensland, ventral view

(after Salvat and Rives, 1975)





***Thais alouina*** (Röding, 1798)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Mancinella aculeata* Link, 1807; *M. alouina* (Röding, 1798); *Murex mancinella* Linnaeus, 1758 (rejected name); *Purpura gemmulata* Lamarck, 1816 / None.

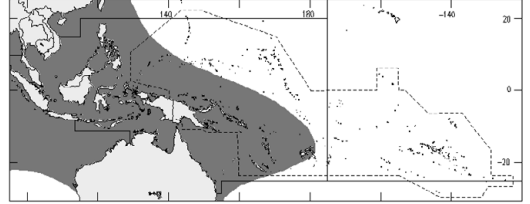
**En** - Alou rock shell; **Fr** - Pourpre petit-bourgeon.

Maximum shell length 6 cm, commonly to 5 cm. On rocks, usually among marine growths and algae in sheltered areas. Littoral and shallow subtidal zones. Locally collected for food by coastal populations. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from East and South Africa to Melanesia; north to Japan and south to northern New South Wales.



ventral view

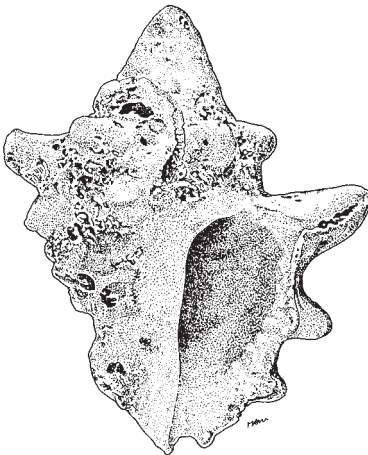
(after Short and Potter, 1987)

***Thais armigera*** (Link, 1807)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Mancinella armigera* (Link, 1807); *Purpura affinis* Reeve, 1846 / None.

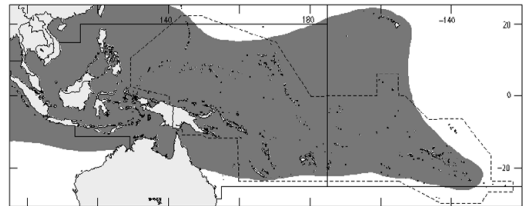
**En** - Belligerent rock shell; **Fr** - Pourpre armée.

Maximum shell length 9 cm, commonly to 7.5 cm. On rocky shores and coral reefs. Intertidal and shallow subtidal zones. Collected for food by coastal populations. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa to eastern Polynesia; north to Japan and Hawaii, and south to Queensland and New Caledonia.



ventral view

(after Short and Potter, 1987)

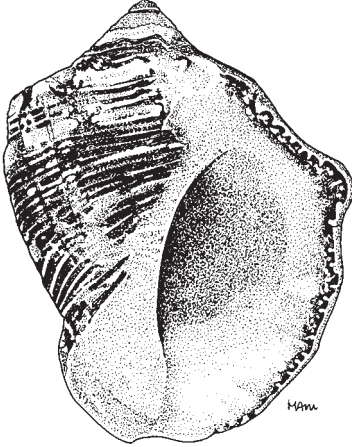


***Thais bufo*** (Lamarck, 1822)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Mancinella bufo* (Lamarck, 1822); *Purpura bufo* (Lamarck, 1822) / None.

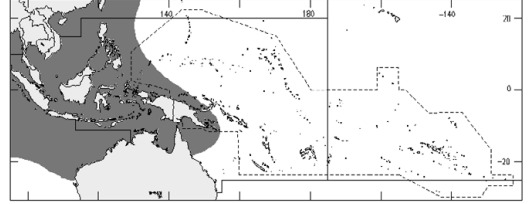
**En** - Toad purpura; **Fr** - Pourpre crapaud.

Maximum shell length 8 cm, commonly to 6 cm. On littoral rocks in sandy pools, and in estuaries. Preys on oysters and barnacles. Females usually gather for spawning, depositing the stalked egg capsules together in large sheets. Collected for food at low tide, where common. An important species in India. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from East and South Africa to Papua New Guinea; north to Japan and south to Queensland.



ventral view

(after Short and Potter, 1987)

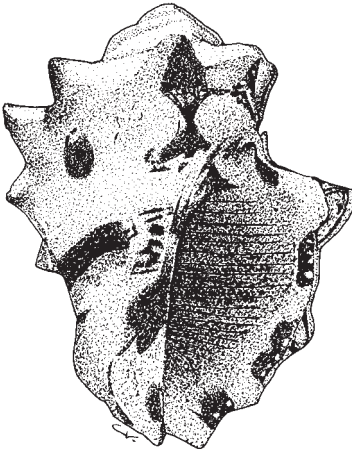


***Thais tuberosa*** Röding, 1798

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Mancinella tuberosa* (Röding, 1798); *Thais pica* (Blainville, 1832) / None.

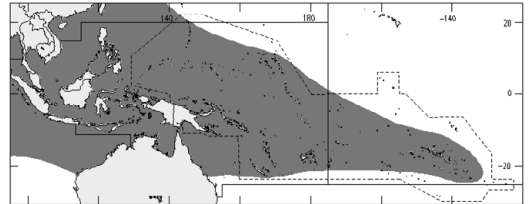
**En** - Tuberosa rock shell; **Fr** - Pourpre tubéreuse.

Maximum shell length 6 cm, commonly to 5 cm. On rocks and coral reefs, near the open sea. Intertidal and shallow subtidal waters. Collected at low tide for subsistence. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa, including Madagascar and the Mascareign Islands, to eastern Polynesia; north to Japan and south to Queensland and New Caledonia.



ventral view

(after Short and Potter, 1987)

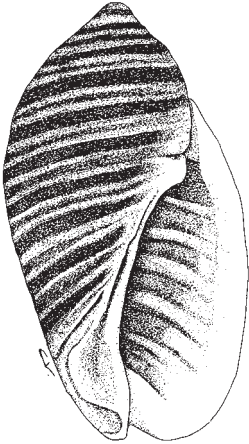


***Vexilla vexillum*** (Gmelin, 1791)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Purpura vexillum* (Gmelin, 1791) / None.

**En** - Vexillate jopas; **Fr** - Jopas vexillaire

Maximum shell length 3 cm, commonly to 2.5 cm. On rock and coral reef areas. Low tidal zone and shallow subtidal waters. Living parasitically on sea urchins on which they feed by protruding a long snout between the spines. Often collected for its brightly coloured shell. Used also as food in Indochinese countries. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, from East and South Africa to eastern Polynesia; north to Japan and Hawaii, and south to northern New South Wales.



ventral view

(after Kilburn and Rippey, 1982)

