

A shell of *Antalis valdiviae* (Plate 1908) - An ultrarare scaphopod from the deep North Atlantic.

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Abstract: A recently dredged shell of *Antalis valdiviae* (PLATE 1908) from the deep North Atlantic is illustrated and described in detail.

Introduction:

The first and only previous find of this rare species is recorded in the original description of PLATE (1908), north of Rockall Trough, in 1750 m depth. In this paper PLATE was already puzzled by the irritating features of the shell, combining a glossy, finely ribbed shell like a big *Antalis* with an apex resembling a *Fissidentalium*. STEINER & KABAT (2001, 2004) followed his opinion that *Dentalium valdiviae* is located in the genus (or subgenus) *Antalis*.

Material and Findings:

Original diagnosis in PLATE (1908):

Dentalium (Antalis) valdiviae PLATE 1908

"Schale sehr groß, nicht sehr dickwandig, aber noch fest, undurchsichtig, von weißgrauer Farbe, stark glänzend. Oberes Drittel etwas stärker gebogen, der untere Teil fast gerade. Die oberen 3 cm mit ca. 50 feinen, aber schon mit bloßem Auge deutlich sichtbaren Längsrillen, welche an ihrem unteren Ende allmählich sehr undeutlich werden und schließlich aufhören, um in demselben Maße einer aus äußerst feinen Querlinien bestehenden Querskulptur Platz zu machen. Diese Zuwachslinien sind schon mit bloßem Auge sichtbar, verlaufen schräg zur Hauptachse und Parallel dem ziemlich festen Basalrande. Basalöffnung seitlich etwas komprimiert, daher rundlich-eiförmig. Apex herzförmig, sehr schräg abgeschnitten, nach hinten in einen kurzen Schlitz übergehend und asymmetrisch gestellt, nämlich bei Betrachtung der Konkavfläche mit dem Schlitz nach links von der Mittelebene zeigend."

Holotype: ZMB 61079 (KILIAS 1995).

Type locality: South of Thomson Ridge, Valdivia Station 11, 58°36.6'N, 11°33'W, 1750 m; but coordinates indicate a location within the Rockall Trough, near Rosemary Bank.

New material:

1 single shell from the BART VAN HEUGTEN collection, No.135-10. 3673 m, boxcore, 49°05,2'N 13°25,9'W, Goban spur area, off SW Ireland. 30.05.1994.

Description of the new specimen:

Shell nearly straight, the upper concave side of the shell more curved than the lower convex side, tapering to a fine end. Color white, a little glossy, around 14 close lined flattened broad ribs, 4 to 5 times the size of the intercostal space. Ribs become obsolete near 2/5 of the shell length. Numerous circular growth lines clearly visible, becoming more numerous to the aperture. Apex fine, circular. Apex with a notch-like structure resolving into a relatively broad slit, being 1.9 mm of length.

Mouth circular, thin.

Shell 36.5 mm length, diameter of aperture 4.0 mm.

Dried animal inside the shell. Animal small in comparison to the shell, like in *Fissidentalium* species.

Conclusions:

This is the second record of this rare species, more than a hundred years after its first observation. Both findings are from the deep eastern atlantic off Ireland. Further exploration in this nowadays economical highly valued region may reveal additional shells of this unusual species. BRUNDSE & TENDAL (2000) mention an *Antalis spec.* from the Faroe Islands from about 300-350 m depth, but it seems unlikely that it might be identical with *A. valdiviae*. In its taxonomical allocation we follow SCARABINO (1995) and STEINER & KABAT (2001, 2004) and use the genus *Antalis* for this species.

Big *Antalis*-like shells from depths below 1000 meters are not common. *Antalis spec.* from New Zealand (VAN DER BEEK & SAHLMANN, unpublished) and *Antalis perinvolutum* (LUDBROOK 1954) from the Gulf of Aden and Indonesian waters are other rare examples.

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Plate 29



BEEK, J. VAN DER & SAHLMANN, B.: *Antalis valdiviae*.

Explanations of Plate 29:

Antalis valdiviae (PLATE 1908), South of Thomson Ridge, Valdivia Station 11, 58°36.6'N, 11°33'W, 1750 m, holotype ZMB 61079 (photos courtesy ZMB Berlin).



BEEK, J. VAN DER & SAHLMANN, B.: *Antalis valdiviae*.

Explanations of Plate 30:

Antalis valdiviae (PLATE 1908), Goban spur area, off SW Ireland,
49°05,2'N 13°25,9'W, 3673 m, boxcore, 30.05.1994, 36,5 mm (photos V. Wiese).

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