

SCAMIT Code:

Date examined: 11 March 1991
Voucher by: Paul Scott, SBMNH

Synonymy:

Arca minuta Fabricius, 1776
Leda minuta brevirostris Jeffreys, 1864
Leda minuta praecursor Arnold, 1906
Leda lomaensis Dall, 1919

Diagnostic characters:

1. Shell short to elongate, inflated to compressed, length to 18 mm.
2. Sculpture of regular, pronounced, widely-spaced concentric ribs.
3. Rostrum of intermediate length, straight, narrow, blunt.
4. Periostracum dull to varnished.
5. Escutcheon wide, well defined by a marginal ridge.

Related species / character differences:

See discussion under *Nuculana leonina*.

Depth range: 4 - 1,900 meters

Distribution: Panarctic and circumboreal; Pt. Barrow, Alaska to San Diego, California.

Comments:

This is perhaps the most widely distributed species in the genus. The shell shape of *Nuculana minuta* is extremely variable, which is not surprising considering that the species inhabits an incredible range of habitats from the subtidal to the deep sea. Much work needs to be done to accurately define this species.