

SCAMIT Code: MBC 69

Date Examined: 9 May 1988
Voucher by: Paul Scott (SBMNH)

Synonymy: Mysella golischi Dall, 1916

Literature: Dall, W.H. 1899.
Dall, W.H. 1916.
Scott, P.H. 1987.

Diagnostic Characters:

1. Shell large for genus (13 mm length), thin, with irregular growth striae.
2. Shell subquadrate to ovate, highly inflated, inequilateral with anterior much longer.
3. Beaks prominent, almost to posterior margin, opistogyrate.
4. Cardinal teeth unequal, anterior cardinal large and elongate, posterior cardinal very reduced.

Comparisons:

The elongate anterior tooth and posterior beaks differentiate this species from other southern California species (fig. 1). Mysella golischi is a juvenile form of M. pedroana and has a more equilateral shell (fig. 2).

Remarks:

M. pedroana lives commensally with the mole crab, Blepharipoda occidentalis. As with most commensals, the shape of the shell can be quite variable.

Distribution: San Diego, California to Monterey Bay, California (intertidal to 80 ft).

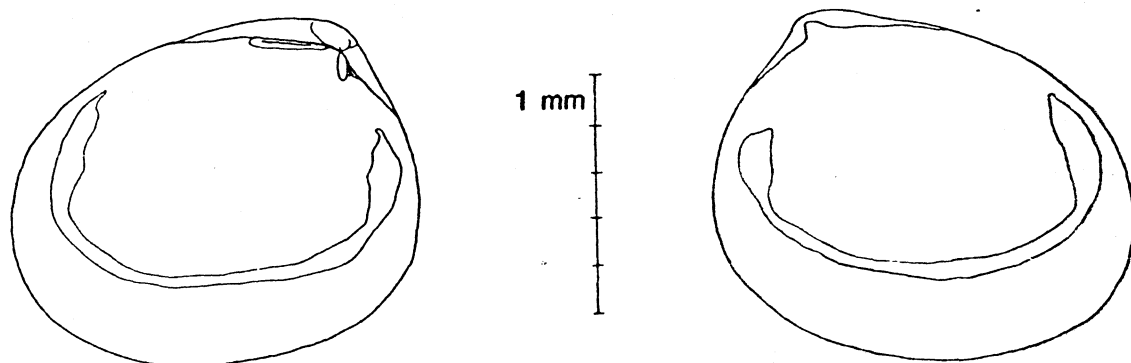


Figure 1
Drawings by Laurie Marx (SBMNH)

(over)

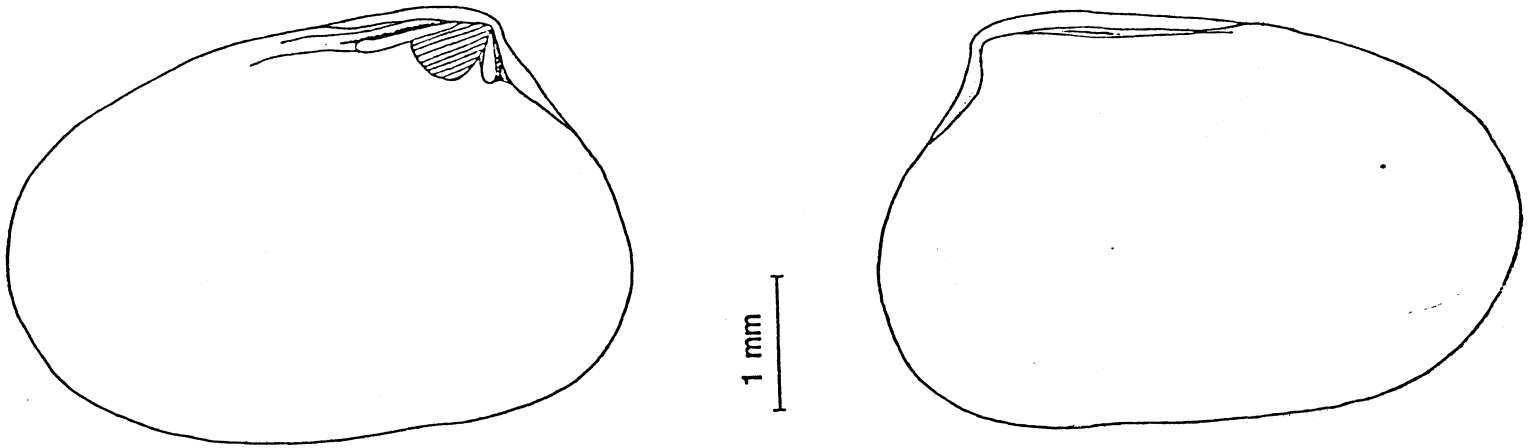


Figure 2

Mysella pedroana