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## Research article

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# *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. (Bivalvia: Mytilidae) endemic in the Kattegat-Skagerrak

Kurt W. OCKELMANN<sup>1</sup> & Tomas CEDHAGEN<sup>2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Marine Biological Laboratory, Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen, Strandpromenaden 5, DK-3000 Helsingør, Denmark.

<sup>2</sup>Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience, Section of Aquatic Biology, Ole Worms allé 1, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

\*Corresponding author: [cedhagen@bios.au.dk](mailto:cedhagen@bios.au.dk)

<sup>1</sup>Email: [lriemann@bio.ku.dk](mailto:lriemann@bio.ku.dk)

<sup>1</sup>[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:6333B54D-F45D-4115-9553-3EF07BF3B591](https://zoobank.org/author:6333B54D-F45D-4115-9553-3EF07BF3B591)

<sup>2</sup>[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:18F16A0B-FF60-488A-B4A6-A2D84BFA7378](https://zoobank.org/author:18F16A0B-FF60-488A-B4A6-A2D84BFA7378)

**Abstract.** Small usually beautifully coloured mussels from the Kattegat were to date identified as *Modiolus adriaticus* (Lamarck, 1819) since C.G.Johs. Petersen's account of the shell-bearing molluscs was published in 1888. However, these mussels from Danish and Swedish waters represent a very distinct new species which also is endemic. The present paper serves to describe this new species, *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov., which belongs to the genus *Modiolus* Lamarck, 1799. The genus *Gibbomodiola* Sacco, 1898, to which *Modiolus adriaticus* has been moved, is here synonymized with *Modiolus* Lamarck, 1799.

**Keywords.** *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov., endemic, Kattegat, Skagerrak.

Ockelmann K.W. & Cedhagen T. 2019. *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. (Bivalvia: Mytilidae) endemic in the Kattegat-Skagerrak. *European Journal of Taxonomy* 556: 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2019.556>

## Introduction

The bivalve family Mytilidae Rafinesque, 1815 is diverse and species live in most parts of the world, from the shore to the deep sea. Four mytilid bivalves are known from the Skagerrak-Kattegat region: *Mytilus edulis* Linnaeus, 1758; *Modiolus modiolus* (Linnaeus, 1758); *Modiolula phaseolina* (Philippi, 1844) and a species previously recorded under the name *Modiolus adriaticus* (auct.).

Small, usually beautifully coloured mussels from the Kattegat were to date identified as *Modiolus adriaticus* (Lamarck, 1819) since C.G.Johs. Petersen's account of the shell-bearing molluscs was published in 1888. However, these mussels from Danish and Swedish waters represent a very distinct new species which also is endemic. Here, we define this new species which belongs to the genus *Modiolus* Lamarck, 1799.

The new species is reported from Skagerrak, Kattegat, Øresund and the Norwegian coast off Bergen under the name *Modiolus adriaticus* (Petersen 1888, 1893; Jensen & Spärck 1934; Jørgensen 1946;

Muus 1973; Rasmussen 1973; Christensen 1978; Wikander 1981; Bondesen 1984). Holocene subfossil shells from Skagen were reported by Petersen (1991) and from Limfjorden and Vendsyssel by Petersen (2004). The species was also reported from Scotland (Leslie & Herdman 1881), but this record is a misidentification according to McKay & Smith (1979). Other uncertain literature records were discussed by Wikander (1981). The new species seems to be absent from the North Sea and British Isles (Petersen 1977). Descriptions of the species of Modiolinae relevant in this study are: Jensen & Spärck (1934), Tebble (1976), Hayward & Ryland (1990, 1995) and Poppe & Gotto (1993).

## Material and methods

Terminology follows Ockelmann (1995).

### Abbreviations

AW = Anders Warén  
GNM = Natural History Museum, Gothenburg, Sweden  
KWO = Kurt W. Ockelmann  
NHMD = Natural History Museum of Denmark

### Comparative material of *Modiolus* Lamarck, 1799 examined for this study

#### *Modiolus adriaticus* (Lamarck, 1819)

ENGLAND • Isle of Man; E. Forbes leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Guernsey; 15 fathoms depth; KWO det.; NHMD • (*M. a.* var. *ovalis* Sowerby, 1859); Falmouth; A.M. Norman leg.; 17636 NHMD • Falmouth; 20 Nov. 1895; Norman leg.; KWO det.; NHMD.

#### *Modiolus modiolus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

DENMARK • Kattegat, E of Fladen, Kanonbaaden Hauch, stn 474; 23 Jul. 1886; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; NHMD • Kattegat, Kanonbaaden Hauch, stn 286; 7 m depth; 24 Jun. 1885; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; NHMD • Kattegat, off Fornæs lighthouse, Kanonbaaden Hauch, stn 333; 20 m depth; 24 Jun. 1885; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; sand, mud; NHMD • Kattegat, Trindelen, Kanonbaaden Hauch, stn 29; 28 m depth; 9 Aug. 1884; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; gravel; NHMD.

#### *Modiolus phaseolinus* Philippi, 1844

NORWAY • North Sea; 58°12' N, 4° E; 63 fathoms depth; NHMD • Skagerrak, Thor stn 35; 58°00' N, 10°49' E; 200 m depth; 11 Jul. 1907; NHMD • Stavanger, Lysefjord; 70–80 m depth; 17 Mar. 1902; C.M. Steenberg leg.; NHMD.

SWEDEN • Bohuslän, Koster area; 1866; on the *Lophelia pertusa* reef; NHMD • Bohuslän; A.W. Malm leg.; NHMD.

## Results

Phylum Mollusca Linnaeus, 1758  
Class Bivalvia Linnaeus, 1758  
Order Mytilida Férussac, 1822  
Family Mytilidae Rafinesque, 1815  
Genus *Modiolus* Lamarck, 1799

#### *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov.

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Figs 1–2

*Mytilus adriaticus* – Petersen 1888: 126.

*Modiola adriatica* – Petersen 1893: 71. — Jensen & Spärck 1934: 75. — Jørgensen 1946: 288.

*Modiolus adriaticus* – Muus 1973: 84. — Rasmussen 1973: 272. — Christensen 1978: 49. — Wikander 1981: 73. — Bondesen 1984: 13. — Larsen *et al.* 2007: 425.

### Diagnosis

Dissoconch shell substance thin and light. Shell shape in lateral aspect somewhat elongated, antero-ventrally upturned often approaching a parallelogram, dorsal margin behind umbones straight in adult specimens; shell margin postero-dorsally stretched and narrowly rounded posteriorly, mid-ventrally straight or nearly so. Umbones strongly prosogyrate not much elevated above the dorsal margin. Shell surface with sharp growth lines and often with low and uneven commarginal ribs. Periostracum yellowish and varnished turning brownish in larger specimens. Short and simple byssal hairs on the periostracum occur mainly around the siphonal region. They are easily lost just as are grains glued to the shell. Shell inside glossy, neither adductor muscle scars nor pallial line are discernible. Ligament is sub-internal, not strong and its length between 35–40% of the adult shell length. The prodossoconch I is 400 µm. The species is edentulous after the nepioconch stage. The nepioconch usually turns whitish when it remains in adult specimens. Largest diameter of nepioconch is most often between 0.6–0.8 mm. Shell colouration varies greatly. Red only, red with blue (violet or purple), blue only, and presence of opaque white, usually as blotches, or absence of white. Red is by far the most common colour expressed as rays, strongest dorsally and posteriorly on the shell. Uncoloured specimens appear to be very rare. A well-developed bundle of byssus, strong, hair-like protein threads, originate from the posterior end of the foot and are used for attachment to sandgrains that form a covering around the shell. This species is referred to the genus *Modiolus*.

### Etymology

The species name, '*cimbricus*', is derived from the name of a people, the Cimbricans, believed to have been at home in the northern Jutland, Denmark.

### Material examined

#### Holotype (Fig. 1)

DENMARK • a pair of cleaned valves (dimensions (mm): dissoconch shell length 13.3, height 7.3 and width 6.0, length of ligament is 4.9, and largest diameter of the nepioconch is ~0.65) (shell colour red rays on most of the shell, and with a diffuse violet sheen on central region of the shell); Øresund, between Denmark and Sweden, Ellekilde Hage; near 56°05' N, 12°30' E; 14–16 m depth; 21 Aug. 1965; KWO leg. and det.; sediment coarse sand; NHMD.

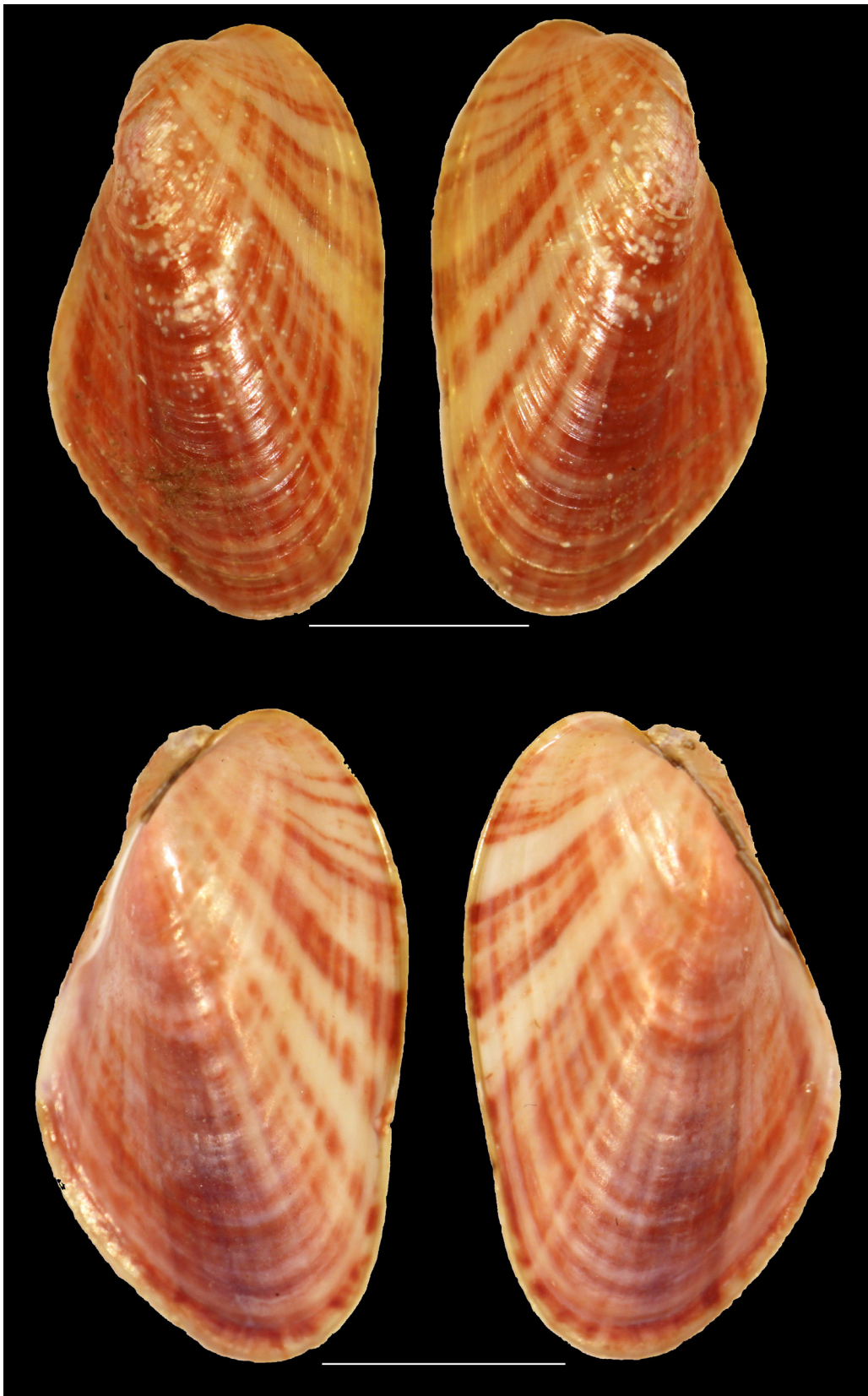
#### Paratypes

DENMARK • 54 pairs of cleaned valves (individuals taken alive 6.2–12.8 mm long and with the same colour pattern as the holotype); Øresund, northern part, off Odinhøj; 14–18 m depth; 21 Jul. 1965; KWO leg. and det.; sand; NHMD.

#### Additional material

Material with soft parts still present is available from different localities in the Kattegat. It is very difficult to specify the number of specimens, because most of samples consist of valves that are mixed in a glass tube. Deposition of the type series and additional material is at the Natural History Museum of Denmark. The new species was often kept in aquarium in the Marine Biological Laboratory, Helsingør, University of Copenhagen between 1958 and 1990.

DENMARK • several shells, including an individual within sand clump, in a glass tube; S Kattegat; before 11 Jul. 1990; KWO det.; bred in aquarium; NHMD • 5 tubes without label; spring 1995; KWO leg.; NHMD • Hornbæk bugt; 31 Aug. 1966; KWO leg. and det.; NHMD • Kattegat, stn 492x; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Samsø Flak, east; 12 Aug. 1986; KWO det.; NHMD • Kattegat,



**Fig. 1.** *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov., holotype (shell length 13.3 mm). The upper part of the figure shows the external shell side and the lower part shows the inner side of the valves. Scale bars = 5 mm.

Kobberenden, Kanonbaaden Hauch, stn 303; 6½ fathoms depth; 8 Sep. 1885; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Kattegat, stn 136x, 303x, 492x; 1885; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Kattegat, Hellebæk; 1860; C.F. Lütken leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Øresund, northern part, off Odinshøj; 16–17 m depth; 1 Dec. 1981; KWO det.; coarse sand, shells; NHMD • Kattegat, Fornæs lighthouse, Kanonbaaden Hauch, stn 328; 18 Sep. 1885; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Øresund, Hellebæk; 12 m depth; 11 Oct. 1960; KWO leg. and det.; NHMD • northern Øresund; 31 Aug. 1983; KWO leg. and det.; NHMD • Frederikshavn; 14 Jan. 1984; KWO leg. and det.; NHMD • Frederikshavn; 1949; G. Thorson leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Anholt, Forskningsstyrelsen stn 48-1 and 48-4; 3 Sep. 1985; O. Norden Andersen leg.; KWO det.; rocky bottom; NHMD • same data as for preceding, Forskningsstyrelsen stn 57-1, 57-2, 58-2, 58-3, 58-4, 58-5, 62-1, 62-3 and 62-18; 29 Aug. 1985; O. Norden Andersen leg.; KWO det.; rocky bottom; NHMD • same data as for preceding, Forskningsstyrelsen stn 60-2 and stn 60-5; 30 Aug. 1985; O. Norden Andersen leg.; KWO det.; rocky bottom; NHMD • same data as for preceding, Forskningsstyrelsen stn 62-5; 19 May 1985; O. Norden Andersen leg.; KWO det.; rocky bottom; NHMD • same data as for preceding, Forskningsstyrelsen stn 65-4; Aug–Sep. 1985; O. Norden Andersen leg.; KWO det.; rocky bottom; NHMD • Kattegat, Samsø, western Flak; Aug. 1986; KWO det.; sandy bottoms; NHMD • Kattegat, Øresund, off Odinshøj; 12–15 m depth; 11 Aug. 1966; C. Nielsen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • various samples; Kattegat, Øresund; 12–22 m depth; 1958–1977; KWO leg. and det.; sandy bottoms with gravel; NHMD • E of Fyns Hoved; 55°37.5' N, 10°39.2' E; 16.5 m depth; M. Jensen leg.; KWO det.; stones, sand; NHMD • Kattegat, Trindelen; 5½ fathoms depth; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Kattegat, Hirtsholmene; 24 Jul. 1950; P.L. Kramp leg.; KWO det.; shell gravel; NHMD • Kattegat, between Samsø and Bolsaren; 6 Jun. 1876; G. Winther leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Kattegat, Kanonbaaden Hauch, stn 79; 10 Sep. 1884; C.G.Joh. Petersen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Frederikshavn, NE of Hirtsholmene; 5 Aug. 1981; 10–12 m depth; KWO leg. and det.; coarse sand and shell gravel; NHMD • Frederikshavn, NE of Hirtsholmene; 7 Aug. 1969; KWO leg. and det.; sand; NHMD • same data as for preceding; 24 Jun. 1967; 6–8 m depth; KWO leg. and det.; sand; NHMD • Frederikshavn; 25 Aug. 1965; 5 m depth; J. Knudsen leg.; KWO det.; gravel; NHMD • Læsø; KWO det.; NHMD • Frederikshavn, NE of Hirtsholmene; 16 Aug. 1950; KWO det.; gravel; NHMD • Frederikshavn; 8 Jul. 1967; C. Nielsen leg.; KWO det.; NHMD.

SWEDEN • Kosterfjorden, N of Saltö; 5–15 m depth; AW leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Kosterfjorden, Tjämnö; AW leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • Bonden, Kristineberg Marinebiological Station; 27 Jan. 1964; NHMD • Bohuslän; A.W. Malm leg.; KWO det.; NHMD • (labelled *Modiolus adriaticus*); Skagerrak, Bohus-Malmön, Kattesand; 1970; H.G. Hansson leg. and det.; in fishing net; GNM Gen. Kat. Nr. 2009-22139 • (labelled *Modiolus adriaticus*); Skagerrak, Kosterfjorden, Kostergrundet; 15 fathoms depth; 2 Aug. 1968; AW leg. and det.; sandy bottom; GNM Gen. Kat. Nr. 69-12.448 • (labelled *Modiolus adriaticus*); Skagerrak, Koster; 16 fathoms depth; 4 Aug. 1869; A.W. Malm leg. and det.; GNM Moll. 5022 • S. Lovén leg.; AW det.; SMNH • AW leg. and det.; SMNH.

### Comparison with other modioline bivalves in Skagerrak, Kattegat, and the English Channel

Morton (2015) gave an overview of the systematics of the superfamily Mytiloidea. Characters were compared with information from the following sources: Jeffreys (1863), Dautzenberg (1895), Jensen & Spärck (1934), Tebble (1976), Hayward & Ryland (1990, 1995), Poppe & Gotto (1993), Huber (2010) as well as our material from museum collections.

*Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. differs from *M. adriaticus* by its smaller size as its maximum size only reaches about half that of *M. adriaticus*. The ventral margin is less concave than in *M. adriaticus*. Its shell is often slightly more elongated and the periostracum slightly darker. The byssal hairs on the periostracum short and simple, but absent in *M. adriaticus*. Shell surface with sharp growth lines and often with low and uneven commarginal ribs, contrary to a sculpture of fine but irregular concentric lines, but indistinct growth lines in *M. adriaticus*. Ligament is sub-internal contrary to the narrow,

external, deeply inset ligament in *M. adriaticus*. It also differs by its endobysate lifestyle, contrary to *M. adriaticus*, which lives epibysate, at least as adult.

A taxon described as *Modiolus ovalis* Sowerby, 1859 was synonymized with *Modiolus adriaticus*, but retained as a distinct variety by Jeffreys (1863: 117). The form *ovalis* differs from *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. by reaching more than the double maximal shell length; by its more cylindrical shell shape; its proportionally straighter and longer ventral margin; its more evenly rounded dorsal margin; its darker shell colour – horncolour to brownish-yellow with fewer, darker and less obvious coloured rays. Dark individuals may even lack rays (*M. a.* var. *ovalis* 17636 NHMD). Its umbo reaches the anteriormost part of the shell. The form *ovalis* is Lusitanian and does not occur in the Skagerrak, Kattegat or the North Sea.

*Modiolus gallicus* Dautzenberg, 1895 is a poorly understood species from the French Atlantic and Channel coasts. It is synonymized with *Modiolus barbatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) by some authors or regarded as a variety of that species. It differs from *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. by its larger shell size; thicker shell; more cylindrical shell shape; more concave ventral margin; thicker periostracum with prominent growth lines and covered with numerous long byssal hairs; darker and more uniform colour without violet or pink rays. As a Lusitanian form, it does not occur in the Skagerrak, Kattegat or the North Sea.

*Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. differs from *M. modiolus* by its smaller maximal size, thinner and brittle shell. Its anterior margin projects well beyond the umbo, but less so in *M. modiolus*. Its lighter periostracum has fewer and smaller periostracal spines, contrary to the pale brown periostracum in small individuals of *M. modiolus*. Its soft parts are red with brown gills, contrary to the orange-red soft parts, speckled with white and often tinted with brown, as well as its red and white foot in *M. modiolus*. The ligament is sub-internal contrary to external and deeply inset in *M. modiolus*.

*Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. differs from *M. phaseolinus* Philippi, 1844 by its smaller maximal size. Its anterior part projects well beyond the umbo. The shell outline is more trapezoid or oblong. The siphonal end exhibits a proportionally smaller semi-circle outline and is often more pointed than in the large, rounded end of *M. phaseolinus*. The ventral margin is straight or nearly so, contrary to concave in *M. phaseolinus*. It has a more prominent umbo. Its periostracum is thinner with fewer and much smaller byssal hairs. Soft parts light red with brown gills, contrary to a reddish-brown body in *M. phaseolinus*. Ligament is sub-internal contrary to external and deeply inset in *M. phaseolinus*.

### **Synonymy of *Gibbomodiola***

We regard *Modiolus adriaticus* as the closest relative of *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. The first species has been moved to the genus *Gibbomodiola* Sacco, 1898 (Huber 2010; WoRMS 2019). Sacco (1898) described *Gibbomodiola* as a subgenus of *Modiolus*. His description is very short and with general characters which do not allow any clear distinction from other genera or subgenera. Other characters are impossible to see on his plate. Cox *et al.* (1969) retained it as a subgenus and used Sacco's characters formulated as “elongately ovate, transversely arcuately gibbous, posteriorly broadly expanded”. Huber (2010) characterized the genus as modioliform, gibbous, smooth without periostracal hairs, but did not discuss it any further. The fact that *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. has short and simple byssal hairs on the periostracum should exclude it from the genus *Gibbomodiola*. Jeffreys (1863: 116), who was a very careful observer, also reported “slight hairs” on the periostracum of *M. adriaticus*, but this character is not mentioned by other authors. Consequently, the validity of the genus *Gibbomodiola* is dubious and needs to be clarified. We therefore synonymize *Gibbomodiola* with the genus *Modiolus*.

In the same publication Sacco (1898: 41, pl. XI, figs 34–35) described the type species *Gibbomodiola taurarcuata*, a fossil from the Oligocene and wrote that it resembles the recent species *Modiola arcuatula*



Hanley, 1843 (a synonym of *Arcuatula arcuatula* (Hanley, 1843)) from SE Asia and *Modiola nitens* Gould & Carpenter, 1857, a species of uncertain identity, sp. inquirendum, from California. Huber (2010) included other species in this genus: *Gibbomodiola adriatica* (Lamarck, 1819); *Gibbomodiola albicosta* (Lamarck, 1819) and *Gibbomodiola biradiata* (Hanley, 1843), all of them with photographs. Under the genus *Modiola*, Huber (2010) wrote “whether the 35 species recognized as *Modiolus* indeed all belong here, needs to be resolved by future workers”. This is also true for the species previously included in *Gibbomodiola*.

## Discussion

### Distribution

An old record of *M. adriaticus* from Finmark, Norway, dates back to the crustacean specialist Wilhelm Liljeborg. It was cited by Jeffreys (1863) and Sars (1878). This was during the Little Ice Age. Living specimens of this thermophile species have never been found on the Norwegian west coast after that, despite numerous careful faunal investigations. This record, the basis for the record in the zone S4E in Seaward (1990), is therefore probably a misidentification.

The records S1 and S7 in Seaward (1990) are also based on literature records of dead shells only. Jeffreys (1863: 117–118) wrote: “When the animal is dead, the shell floats on the surface of water, by reason of its lightness and being perhaps buoyed up by gas generated in the process of decay”. So, dead shells could possibly have been dispersed far away from the distributional area of the living population. We therefore omit these stations from the distributional area of the species. All other records from Cabioch (1968: fig. 23) and Seaward (1990, 1993) are located within the area indicated with blue colour on the map (Fig. 3).

### Biology

Most animals of the new species become sexually mature one year after settlement at a shell length of 4–6 mm. Potential maximum adult shell length is ~25 mm, which is seldom realized in nature. The larval development includes a short planktotrophic stage. Depth distribution of *M. cimbricus* sp. nov. depends on salinity conditions in the Kattegat depending on current patterns and mixing of inflowing water from the North Sea with outflowing Baltic Sea water. Its distribution coincides with bottoms exposed to mixohaline (brackish) water (Dietrich 1963; Lund-Hansen *et al.* 1994).

Adults of *M. adriaticus* are epibyssate (KWO pers. obs.), but juveniles are reported to be endobyssate (Jeffreys 1863: 117). In contrast to the epibyssate *Modiolus adriaticus*, *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. is strongly endobyssate living wrapped in a ball of sand grains held together by byssus threads (Fig. 2). This is interpreted as a protection against predation, particularly from forcipulate seastars that have suckers on the tube feet and can evert the stomach. Such a seastar living in the region, *Asterias rubens* Linnaeus, 1758, has been shown to be a serious predator on *Mytilus edulis* in the region (Hancock 1965). This seastar, as well as two species of *Leptasterias* Verrill, 1866, *L. danica* (Levinsen, 1886) and *L. muelleri* M. Sars, 1846, are very powerful potential predators on *M. cimbricus* sp. nov. The bivalve’s ball of sand will, however, prevent seastars from attaching to the shells and so from pulling the valves apart. This structure is a parallel to spines (Feifarek 1987) or epibiota on the shell (Laudien & Wahl 2004) of other bivalves that in a similar way will prevent seastar predation.

### Speciation

*Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. is a case of neoendemism, but there are also other examples in the Baltic, Kattegat and Skagerrak regions. All endemic species and populations in the Baltic Sea have evolved after the Weichselian glaciation (Johannesson *et al.* 2011). Speciation in the region can be very fast. The brown alga *Fucus radicans* L. Bergström & L. Kautsky, 2005, evolved during the last four hundred years

(Pereyra *et al.* 2009). However, most marine species are unable to survive in the brackish water there. Neoendemism in the region, outside the Baltic Sea, is poorly studied. Other examples are *Parvicardium hauniense* (Høpner Petersen & Russell, 1971) and probably the local form of *Parvicardium scabrum* (Philippi, 1844). Populations of the latter from SW Scandinavian waters differ from the typical form by their dark pigment around the siphons (KWO pers. obs.). Molluscs without pelagic larval stage, such as *Astarte* J. Sowerby, 1816 (Jørgensen 1946) produce offspring with a limited dispersal with subsequent evolution of numerous local species or varieties. Petersen (2001) described eight new species of *Astarte* geographically restricted to the region, but these are poorly defined species in need of reappraisal.

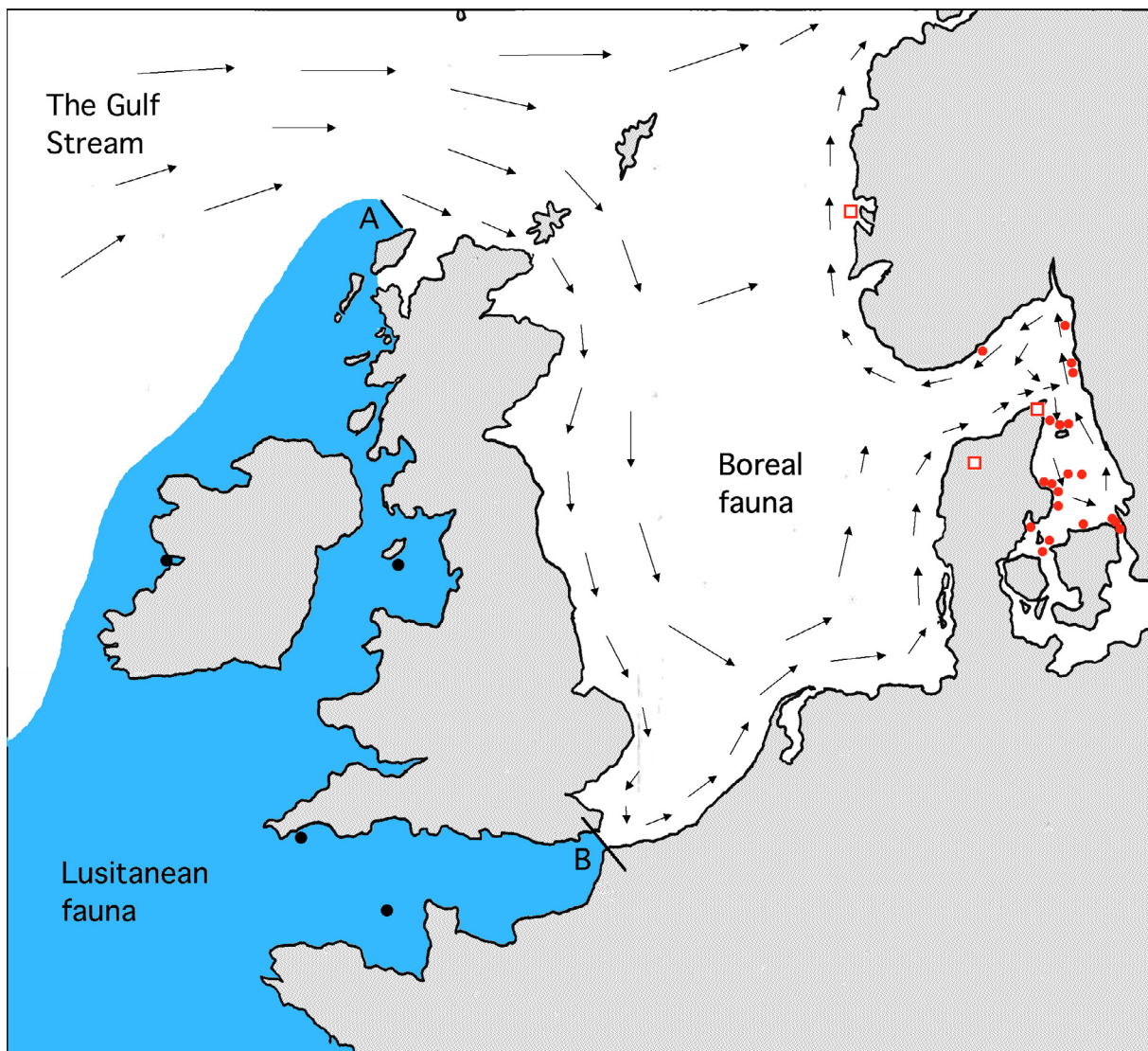
A plausible hypothesis is that *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. has evolved into a separate species after the Weichselian glaciation. It closely resembles *M. adriaticus*, from which it has evolved. The latter species belongs to the Lusitanian (Mediterranean) fauna that today has its northern border on the south and west coasts of the British Isles, including the Irish Sea (Ekman 1953; Hylleberg & Riis-Vestergaard 1984) (Fig. 3). This fauna is characterized by its corresponding Mediterranean-influenced water masses from the south. Today, a branch of the Gulf Stream presses towards the northwestern parts of the British Isles and the North Sea. It fills the latter with its water and results in a very stable current pattern because it is determined by sufficient water depth that allows for three amphidromic points in the North Sea (Dietrich 1963; Jelgersma 1979; Lund-Hansen *et al.* 1994; see also below). Consequently, the edge



**Fig. 2.** *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov. A 17.5 mm long specimen in its ball of sand grains. This specimen has been cultured for five years. Scale bar = 5 mm.



between these two water masses forms the border between the Lusitanian and the Boreal marine faunas. So, the inflowing water masses to the North Sea will isolate the distribution areas of *M. adriaticus* and *M. cimbricus* sp. nov. from each other. Occasionally, however, particularly during the autumn, warm Lusitanian water from the Bay of Biscay can be pressed through the English Channel and follows the eastern North Sea coast northwards and can finally end in Skagerrak-Kattegat. Such inflow of southerly warmer water often carries large numbers of Mediterranean plankton that is easily visible, for example the scyphozoans *Rhizostoma octopus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Chrysaora hysoscella* (Linnaeus, 1767) (Hansson 2011). However, the present occasional inflow of Lusitanian faunal elements along the easternmost edge of the North Sea and further into Skagerrak-Kattegat does not correspond with



**Fig. 3.** Map of the sea around NE Europe. Compiled on the basis of Ekman (1953), Dietrich (1963), Wikander (1981), Hylleberg & Riis-Verstergaard (1984), Petersen (1991, 2004) and Lund-Hansen *et al.* (1994). Red dots indicate finds of *Modiolus cimbricus* sp. nov., and red squares indicate empty shells or subfossils only. Black dots indicate *Modiolus adriaticus* (Lamarck, 1819) in our material. The lines A and B indicate approximately the northern limits of the fauna influenced by Lusitanian (Mediterranean) species (blue colour). See the section Distribution for further information.

the reproductive season of *M. cimbricus* sp. nov., so these pulses of water masses will not cause any inflow of larvae of *M. adriaticus* to the North Sea, Skagerrak or Kattegat today. However, warmer post-glacial periods must have transported Mediterranean-influenced water to the Skagerrak-Kattegat area and carried larvae of *M. adriaticus*, that were later isolated in the area, separated from the mother species and evolved into *M. cimbricus* sp. nov. when the conditions changed after the post-glacial warm period. This is supported by archeological and Quaternary geological investigations that have reported numerous Lusitanian warm-water fish species from Neolithic and Bronze age deposits in the Kattegat-Skagerrak region (Jonsson 2005; Enghoff *et al.* 2007). The English Channel opened around 8000 BP (before present) and was the pathway for the inflow of Lusitanian water masses with its warm-water fauna that reached the Skagerrak-Kattegat area (Nordberg 1991; Gaffney *et al.* 2007, 2009). *Modiolus adriaticus* probably reached the area this way. Around 4500 years BP did the current pattern change to the conditions we see today, with lower temperatures and a fauna characterized by more cold-water species (Nordberg 1991; Gaffney *et al.* 2007, 2009). However, some of the warm-water species survived and one of them was *M. adriaticus* that subsequently evolved into *M. cimbricus* sp. nov.

Another factor contributing to the establishment of *M. cimbricus* sp. nov. as endemic in the Skagerrak-Kattegat area is that the new species has a larva with a short-lived pelagic stage, as concluded by Jørgensen (1946) and observed by one of us (KWO). Such larval types usually have a limited dispersal and often evolve to separate local species in a fairly short time (Taylor 1993). The prodissochonch I is a cast of the interior of the egg and so represents the size of the egg (Bussarawit & Cedhagen 2012). The nepioconch size, 0.6–0.8 mm, corresponds with the measurements given by Jørgensen (1946), 400 µm for the prodissochonch I and around 1 mm for prodissochonch II. He concluded that there is a possibility for a short pelagic larval stage or a non-pelagic larva. We conclude that there is a short-lived pelagic larval stage in *M. cimbricus* sp. nov. because no local varieties in the species are found, contrary to the situation in species without pelagic larva such as, e.g., *Astarte* (see above). A third factor contributing to the establishment of *M. cimbricus* sp. nov. as endemic in the Skagerrak-Kattegat area is that the water masses circulate within this area so that also larvae to a great extent circulate and remain in the area (Fig. 3). Records of empty shells on the Norwegian coast (Wikander 1981) could be the result of dead buoyant specimens that have followed the Baltic Current, continued as the Norwegian Coastal Current (see under Distribution above).

## Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Prof. em. T. Fenchel, former Head of the Marine Biological Laboratory, University of Copenhagen, for providing facilities for this study. We also wish to thank Ms Grete E. Dinesen, Dr Anders Warén and Prof. em. Claus Nielsen for comments on the manuscript. Dr Kennet Lundin, Natural History Museum, Gothenburg and Mr Tom Schiøtte, Natural History Museum of Denmark helped with material from their collections.

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*Manuscript received: 11 April 2019*

*Manuscript accepted: 18 July 2019*

*Published on: 24 September 2019*

*Topic editor: Rudy Jocqué*

*Section editor: Thierry Backeljau*

*Desk editor: Pepe Fernández*

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