

same work, and Vokes used the name as a valid senior synonym of *Ocenebra* Gray, 1847, using the family-group name Tritonaliinae based upon it. Keen (1964: 237) discussed the case further, and (p. 239) requested the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to place *Charonia* on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, and to place *Tritonalia* on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology. In view of the long-standing confusion over the use of *Tritonalia* this solution seems eminently sensible. The only usages of *Tritonalia* in the sense of *Charonia* I have seen are by Kuroda and Habe (1952: 92), Tinker (1952), and Kira (1955: 43).

**DIAGNOSIS:** Shell large to very large, elongate, with a tall spire and short anterior canal and base. Sculpture dominantly spiral, of low cords with one or several interstitial threads, or of threads only; axial sculpture consisting of low, weak folds in a narrow band below the suture and of several peripheral and lower rows of knobs. Varices well developed, spaced about every 270° around the shell, merging into the shell abaperturally but prominent adaperturally, and bearing the remains of the flaring outer lip in front. Inner lip rather broad, bearing one or two callus ridges near the posterior canal, and sculptured below with irregular plicae that are often developed on the top of the anterior canal only. Colour cream, pink or fawn marbled with darker reddish brown splashes. Protoconch of five smooth, rounded whorls, rather short and turbinate, with a brown, horny outer layer and a thin, pink, shelly inner layer; usually missing in adults. Periostracum of teleoconch very thin, pale straw coloured, smooth or lightly wrinkled, readily deciduous, perhaps even totally absent in *C. tritonis*. Operculum thick, dark brown, oval with a central nucleus and complete concentric growth lines in *C. tritonis*, oval with a slight anterior hook to the left, an anterior subterminal nucleus and incomplete concentric growth lines in *C. lampas*. Radula highly distinctive; of typical taenioglossan type, but with the central tooth broad and low, with a very narrow basal plate that is curved down at the extremities; all other teeth narrow and elongate.

The most distinctive feature of the genus is its radula, but it can also be readily separated from other Cymatiidae by its very large size, tall conoidal spire and short base and anterior canal, the form of the varices and the reduced periostracum.

#### ***Charonia tritonis* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

This species reaches a very large size, being probably the third largest of all gastropods. The spire and general shell shape are tall and narrow. The outer lip flares markedly. The inner lip bears prominent white plicae on a dark brown background over its whole length, and the interior of the outer lip bears paired dark brown teeth on a pale background. The spiral sculpture consists of broad cords with a single narrow thread filling each interspace, and nodules are low or absent. The shell surface is extremely glossy, and there appears to be almost no periostracum. The colour pattern is very bright, with a marked contrast between the red-brown crescentic axial splashes and the pink or cream background.

Clench and Turner (1957: pl. 111, figs. 1, 2) figured the operculum of a specimen of *C. tritonis variegata*, and also figured the radula (pl. 113, fig. 1) and an embryonic shell with well-preserved protoconch (pl. 114, fig. 2) of the same form. The radula shows important differences from that of *C. lampas*; the extremities of the basal plate of the central tooth are bent downwards much further, and the inner lateral tooth is broader.

Two very similar forms of *C. tritonis* occur in the Indo-Pacific and Atlantic oceans respectively, and, in a modern polytypic species concept, these can be considered only as geographic subspecies worthy of trinomial nomenclature. The two forms are figured excellently and their distinguishing characters discussed by Clench and Turner (1957: 193 *et seq.*). Such subspecies pairs are frequent in the Pacific and the western Atlantic because of the former connection of the two oceans through the site of the present Isthmus of Panama.