

In the general form of the shell, the sculpture, the apertural features and the periostracum *Monoplex* is very similar to *Septa* s.str., but differs from *Septa* in its slightly taller and relatively narrower protoconch, in usually developing only the terminal and penultimate varices, in its larger size and more inflated form, and in its stronger spiral and weaker axial sculpture. The radulae of the two groups are almost identical, as noted above, and demonstrate that *Monoplex* is very closely related to *Septa*.

***Septa (Monoplex) parthenopea* (Salis, 1793)**

Although the trivial name *parthenopeus* used by von Salis closely resembles the proper noun Parthenopaeus (the son of Meleager), it has generally been regarded as an adjective, a simplification of *parthenopeius* (of or to do with Parthenope, or Naples), and is therefore inflected to agree with the genus *Septa* (feminine).

DESCRIPTION: Shell large, solid, ovately fusiform, with a moderately tall spire and short anterior canal. Spiral sculpture dominant, of two or three strong nodulose cords on spire whorls and about ten on body whorl and canal. Axial sculpture of weak ribs between the nodules on the spiral cords. Varices poorly developed; many specimens have only the penultimate and terminal varices, but in a few from most populations all varices are well developed and are situated about every 270° around the shell. Outer lip bearing prominent white internal plicae on a dark brown background, corresponding in position to the interstices of the external cords. Plicae may be partially or completely subdivided into two to four secondary plicae. Inner lip reddish brown, bearing numerous rather irregular and anastomosing white plicae and a single large ridge high on the parietal wall, marking off the comparatively large posterior canal. Colour of adult whorls pale yellowish brown, sometimes with darker spiral bands between the cords, and usually with dark brown splashes between the nodules on the varices and at the sites of potential varices on earlier whorls. Protoconch of five and a half whorls, large, tall and narrow, with well rounded whorls and well impressed sutures, horny, dark brown, and parallel to the axis of the teleoconch. Periostracum the best developed of all the Gastropoda; thick, dark brown, produced into many closely spaced, high, thin, axial blades bearing fringes of long bristles. Operculum oval or lanceolate, with a terminal nucleus (occasionally subcentral due to injury) and with many concentric growth lines. Radula typical of the Cymatiidae; central tooth low and broad, down-curved in the centre, with a large lanceolate central cusp and three to five denticles on each side; lateral tooth with a large cusp extending sharply down from the basal plate, with four or five denticles on its outer edge; marginal teeth rather slender, strongly curved and with small bases.

The protoconch was figured by Clench and Turner (1957: pl. 128, fig. 2). The radula was figured and described by Powell (1933: 160, fig. 7) and has been re-examined by the writer.

The animal: Clench and Turner (1957: 230) mentioned that it might be possible to differentiate geographic forms of *Monoplex* on the basis of animal characters. This has not been attempted here, but differentiation of the subspecies on shell characters has proved to be moderately easy, and it seems likely that there are slight differences between the animals and radulae of the three subspecies.

Except for the sole of the foot, the whole of the surface of the part of the animal extending outside the shell bears a colour pattern of rings of medium olive green on a pale greenish-white background. The rings are largest, up to about 5mm in diameter, on the sides of the head and foot. The pigment in the colour pattern turns bright red in alcohol, formalin and Bouin's fluid. The prominent colour rings render the animal one of the most distinctive and attractive of the Cymatiidae. Other animal features, such as the location of the eyes on small projections near the bases of the tentacles, are similar to those of all other Cymatiidae.