

King's name *ranelliformis* was sunk as a synonym of *vexillum* Sowerby by Reeve (1844) on the grounds of tautonymy, once *ranelliformis* was included in the genus *Ranella*. It is of course the oldest name available for the southern South American species and should be used. Nodules upon the raised spiral cords are often strong, but heavy, raised axial folds as seen in true *argus* are never developed.

Young shells have a tendency for the inside of the outer lip to be very considerably thickened, to such an extent that the apertural opening is markedly reduced.

There is a strong tendency for only one very wide interstitial to be developed between the main spirals, but one or two finer spirals are often developed, and sometimes up to three or four strong interstitials may be present. One specimen from Chiloe had six fine interstitials. The number of axials between varices ranges from 12 to 21.

DISTRIBUTION: Talcahuano, Chile (36° 40' S.) to Tierra del Fuego.

**Argobuccinum ranelliformis tumidum** (Dunker, 1862) Pl. 1, figs. 1-4.

- 1843. *Ranella vexillum* Menke, Moll. Nov. Holl., p. 24 (not of Sowerby).
- 1862. *Bursa tumidum* Dunker, Proc. Zool. Soc., London, p. 239.
- 1865. *Bursa tumida* Dunker, Novit. Conch., p. 56, Pl. 18, figs. 8, 9.
- 1913. *Argobuccinum tumidum*: Hedley, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 38, p. 297.
- 1913. *Argobuccinum argus*: Suter, Man. N.Z. Moll., p. 309, Pl. 43, fig. 4 (not of Gmelin).
- 1924. *Argobuccinum tumidum*: Finlay, Trans. N.Z. Inst., 55, p. 462.
- 1927. *Gondwanula tumida*: Finlay, Trans. N.Z. Inst., 57, p. 399.
- 1933. *Argobuccinum (Argobuccinum) argus* var. *tumida*: Bayer, Zoolog. Meded., 16, p. 34.
- 1933. *Argobuccinum tumidum*: Powell, Trans. N.Z. Inst., 63, p. 164, text-fig. 8 (*radula*).
- 1945. *Gondwanula tumida* Cotton, Trans. R. Soc. S. Austr. 69, p. 256.
- 1959. *Argobuccinum tumidum*: Cotton, South Austr. Moll. Archaeogastropoda, p. 327.

Tate and May (1901, p. 356), Hutton (1885, p. 933), Verco (1895, p. 104), Pritchard and Gatliff (1898, p. 267), and Suter (1913, p. 309) have recorded this species from southern Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand as *argus* Gmelin. Hedley (1913, p. 298) reported as follows, "According to the British Museum Collections, *A. argus* is a distinct species from South Africa, while *A. vexillum*, which is more nearly related to *tumidum* than to *argus* is from South America." As Hedley stated, there are three specimens of *tumidum* Dunker in the British Museum (Natural History) labelled "Types" with the habitat, "Nova Seelandica". One of these exactly matches Dunker's figure and has therefore been selected as the Lectotype.

The Australasian forms classed as *tumidum* are certainly closer to *ranelliformis* (King) = *vexillum* (Sowerby) than they are to any other form of *Argobuccinum*. Shell outline is very similar in both forms, the spire being sharply pointed and fairly straight sided in outline. In the material seen by the writer there is one consistent difference. In *ranelliformis* King the nodules on the raised spiral cords continue fully developed right across the body whorl in adult shells. In *tumidum* on the other hand these nodules become obsolete across the body whorl, and the spirals over the last three quarters of a whorl in adult shells are smooth. This feature appears remarkably constant and supplies a good distinguishing character. In view of the very close similarity in shell form, it seems best to treat the differences as being subspecific in value.

There tend to be from one to three main interstitial spirals with three or four subsidiaries developed, but the arrangement varies considerably on the same