

PALEONTOLOGICAL NOTES

NOTES ON CERTAIN SPECIES OF MOLLUSCA FROM THE WACCAMAW FORMATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SAID TO BE FROM THE PINECREST FORMATION OF FLORIDA, AND VICE VERSA

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In a recent publication Petuch (1994) figured three specimens as species described by Olsson and Petit, 1964, accompanied by notations that the original locality was incorrect. According to Petuch these are:

"*Scaphella brennmortoni* Olsson and Petit, 1964. Length 141 mm. PB – specimen from Petuch Unit 7, APAC pit, Sarasota, Sarasota Co. Erroneously stated as coming from South Carolina, this is actually a Pinecrest Beds species (*fide* R.E. Petit, pers. comm.)." – Petuch, 1994, p. 196, pl. 77, fig. H (not in text).

This is not only a Waccamaw species but it is one of the more common large gastropods of the Waccamaw Formation. Specimens are on hand and available had Dr. Petuch inquired. This species was never mentioned in conversations between us.

The specimen figured by Petuch, stated to be from Sarasota, Florida, is shown only in a reduced size dorsal view. Although it appears to be conspecific with *S. brennmortoni* it is suggested that Florida and South Carolina specimens be physically compared.

"*Conus (Leptoconus) presozoni* Olsson and Petit, 1964. Length 112 mm. PB – specimen from Petuch Unit 7, APAC pit, Sarasota, Sarasota Co. Originally described as coming from the Waccamaw Formation of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (a mistake) but now known to be confined to the Pinecrest Beds of southern Florida (*fide* R.E. Petit, pers. comm.)." – Petuch, 1994, p. 226, pl. 92, fig. A (not in text).

This species is most definitely a Waccamaw species, and paratypes are on hand that could have been made available to Petuch had he inquired. This species was never mentioned in conversations between us. Petuch previously (1991, p. 52) referred to *C. presozoni* as being from "both the Duplin Formation of South Carolina and the 'Pinecrest Beds' of southern Florida." This is the only report of this spe-

cies from the Duplin Formation and in the absence of specific locality data is meaningless. It is not possible to determine whether or not the specimen figured by Petuch is *C. presozoni*. Specimens from Florida need to be compared with specimens from the Waccamaw Formation.

"*Conus (Lithoconus) cherokeus* Olsson and Petit, 1964. Length 71 mm. PB – specimen from Petuch Unit 7, APAC pit, Sarasota, Sarasota Co. Originally described as coming from the Waccamaw Formation of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (a mistake) but now known to be confined to the Pinecrest Beds of southern Florida (*fide* R. E. Petit, pers. comm.)." – Petuch, 1994, p. 228, pl. 93, fig. A (not in text).

In this instance Petuch is correct, as this is a Pinecrest species. Somehow the wrong locality was put on the type specimen. For our 1964 paper, Dr. Olsson photographed all of the specimens, prepared the plates, and also did the great majority of the writing. When I saw the portion of the manuscript describing this species, the type (only specimen known at the time) had already been sent to the National Museum. When I finally was able to get to Washington and examine the type it was found that it was not from the Waccamaw Formation but from the Pinecrest Formation, but the paper was already in press. Matrix was removed from the type and placed in a glass vial, which remains with the specimen. Macroscopic examination indicates that the matrix is not of Waccamaw origin, but matches that of Pinecrest material from Forty Mile Bend west of Coral Gables, Florida.

The fact that the type locality was incorrect was passed on verbally to many interested persons but this writer unfortunately never had occasion to write a paper in which a correction would be appropriate. When Dr. Petuch began working with the Florida Tertiary this information was passed on to him in a conversation. At some point he indicated that he would like

to include a correction of the type locality in one of his papers if I had no objection. He was told, of course, that a correction was needed and that he should publish it when appropriate. This appears to be the first correction although Petuch recognized the species as being Pinecrest in 1982 (p. 17) when he mentioned it as occurring in his Unit 6 of the Pinecrest.

It is embarrassing to have to admit to such a basic error as describing a new species from the wrong locality but the unfortunate fact is that this was done. However, to be accused of having done so on a wholesale basis is not acceptable. Being credited with interlocutory error is equally unacceptable. In telephone conversations after Petuch's book appeared he assured me that an errata sheet would be published in which he would retract his statements regarding *Conus presozoni* and *Scaphella brennmortoni*, and that the errata sheet would not only be placed in all copies of the work still unsold, but an effort would be made to make the availability of the errata sheet known to the paleontological community so that those already having a copy of the book could receive the errata sheet. To date this errata sheet has not appeared.

The temptation to go into a review of this latest of Petuch's books (1994) has been resisted as it would be hard to find a stopping place once started. It does seem appropriate here to issue a caveat to paleomalacologists that all references in this work to occurrences in the Waccamaw Formation

need to be examined (e.g., *Cantharus olssoni* Petuch, n.sp., which on the plate caption is stated to be from "C[aloosahatchee]; Waccamaw Formation - holotype from Miami Canal dig, south of Lake Harbor, Palm Beach Co." but in the description the only locality given is for the Caloosahatchee. It is possible that this species does occur in the Waccamaw, but despite several decades of collecting Waccamaw material it has never been seen by this writer. This is true of some other species stated to be "Waccamaw" by Petuch.

LITERATURE CITED

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