

SCAMIT Voucher Sheet

Species: *Nuculana* sp A

Group: Nuculanidae

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Material Examined: 3 spm: CSD Sta. B11(2), 14JUL92, 288 FT, SBMNH#80296
1 spm: CSD Sta. B11(1), 14JUL92, 288 FT, SBMNH#80298
1 spm: CSD Sta. B5(2). 14JUL92, 200FT, SBMNH #80297
14 spm: CLAEMD Sta. FB17, SMB, 25JUL05, 115m
1 spm: LACSD Sta. 9B JUL96

Synonyms: *Nuculana elenensis* of authors SCB not (G. B. Sowerby I in Broderip and G. B. Sowerby I, 1833)
Nuculana sp SD1 Barwick, 1992

Description: Shell periostracum silky, with lighter colored streaks radiating from the umbone to the outer margin of the shell (seen in dry specimens); color is light tan to dirty white (Fig. 1-3) Sculpture of slightly rounded commarginal ridges evenly spaced ending abruptly at the posterior-dorsal slope. Posterior produced in sharp point, acute. Shell moderately inflated with narrow escutcheon. Lunule shallow, narrow (Fig. 3). Length to 6 mm.

Related Species: *Nuculana elenensis*, unlike *N. sp A*, has a pointed strongly recurved posterior. *N. taphria* (Dall, 1896), when compared to *N. sp A*, has a more rounded, produced posterior. The commarginal sculpture of heavy ribs becomes obsolete along the posterior-dorsal slope. *N. penderi* (Dall & Bartsch, 1910) has a shorter, less acute posterior, slightly recurved in larger specimens. The shell of *N. penderi* is typically plumper and can reach a much larger size than *N. sp A*. *N. eburnean* (G. B. Sowerby, 1833), a panamic species, possesses an acute pointed posterior but has fine dense commarginal sculpturing.

Distribution: Point Loma to Santa Monica Bay, California. Depth for CSD records: 60 – 200 m.

Comments: Historically this species has been identified as *N. elenensis* by workers in the SCB. Based, in part, on these records Coan, et al (2000) reported the distribution for *N. elenensis* to occur as far north as Santa Monica Bay. Subsequently Coan and Valentich-Scott (in preparation) now believe it to be restricted to the Panamic Province. A comparison of the SCB material with the images of the syntypes from the BMNH bears this out. All southern California records for *N. elenensis* are in doubt.

Literature: Coan, Eugene V., Paul Valentich-Scott and Frank R. Bernard. 2000. Bivalve Seashells of Western North America: Marine Bivalve Mollusks from Arctic Alaska to Baja California. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California. 764 pp.



Fig. 1 – CLAMED: FB17/SMB,
115m, 25JUL05 (Length ranges from
5.5 mm to 2.5 mm.) Dry mount



Fig. 2 – LACSD: 9B 7/1996
(length = 4.9 mm) Dry mount



Fig. 3 – CSD:
B11(2), 14JUL92,
288 FT,
SBMNH#80296
(Length ranges from
5.2 mm to 2.6 mm.)
Dry mount