

SCAMIT CODE: None

Date Examined: January 1993

Voucher By: Don Cadien

SYNONYMY: Cephalaspidea sp A of Cadien 1981  
Cephalaspidea sp A of SCAMIT 1993

LITERATURE: **Keen, A. Myra and Eugene V. Coan. 1974.** Marine molluscan genera of Western North America - an illustrated key. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 208pp.  
**Marcus, Eveline duBois-Reymond and Ernst Marcus. 1969.** Opisthobranchian and lamellarian gastropods collected by the "Vema". American Museum Novitates 2368:1-33.

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:

1. animal completely retractile within shell
2. shell small (<2mm); thin; transparent to translucent white; pyriform, body whorl varying from relatively slender to very rotund
3. spire involute, posterior margin of outer lip retained as a sharp carina circling the spire to form a "spout"
4. aperture very open, with an almost straight oblique columella
5. shell nearly always unsculptured, rarely with very fine spiral lines of punctae

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES: bulloid forms in the families Bullidae, Haminoeidae, Scaphandridae and Diaphanidae could be confused with the present species

1. Differs from small *Bulla gouldiana* in having a colorless shell, in being pyriform rather than fusiform, and in having a sharp posterior carina formed by the outer lip
2. Differs from juvenile *Haminea vesicula* in being pyriform not barrel-shaped, in its sharp posterior carina, and in lacking dark mantle pigmentation (dark pigment is present in the liver mass of C sp A, but not in the mantle)
3. Differs from juvenile *Haminea virescens* in lacking shell pigmentation, in lacking mantle pigmentation, and in having the posterior portion of the outer lip form a carina around the involute spire. The posterior portion of the outer lip of *H. virescens* may be flared out behind the aperture, but will never form a carina
4. Differs from *Woodbridgia polystrigma* in usually lacking the spiral lines of punctae prominent in that species; in having the posterior margin of the outer lip continued into a carina around

the involute spire; and in being pyriform not evenly ovate

5. Differs from both *Meloscaplander sp A* and *Bullomorpha sp A* in being pyriform not globose; and in having the posterior carina circling the spire
6. Differs from *Diaphana californica* in having an involute spire, in lacking a large globose nuclear whorl, and in possession of a posterior carina framing a spout-like posterior aperture

DEPTH RANGE: 8 - 200m

DISTRIBUTION: at least San Diego to Puget Sound based on examined material

COMMENTS: Despite their small size, specimens above 1mm in length are reproductively mature. Sectioning has shown both sperm and mature ova in specimens of 1.1 and 1.2mm length. Most specimens are less than 1 mm long, and are lost through a 1mm screen. The shells are very fragile, and often will be completely crushed and lost during collection and processing. The shape of the animal is so distinctively pear-like that even after shell loss identification is easy. The animals are most frequent in areas of fine silt to coarse clay sediments in bays and offshore. The species was allocated to *Parvaplustrum* by Dr Terry Gosliner (Cal. Acad. Sciences). The genus was previously known only from deep water in the south Atlantic (Marcus & Marcus 1969). While provisionally placed in the Hydatinidae, a new family for this genus will almost certainly be required (Gosliner, pers. comm. 1994). Radulae have been recovered, but were lost before they could be mounted. Superficial observations before loss indicated a radular formula of 1-1-1, but this requires verification.

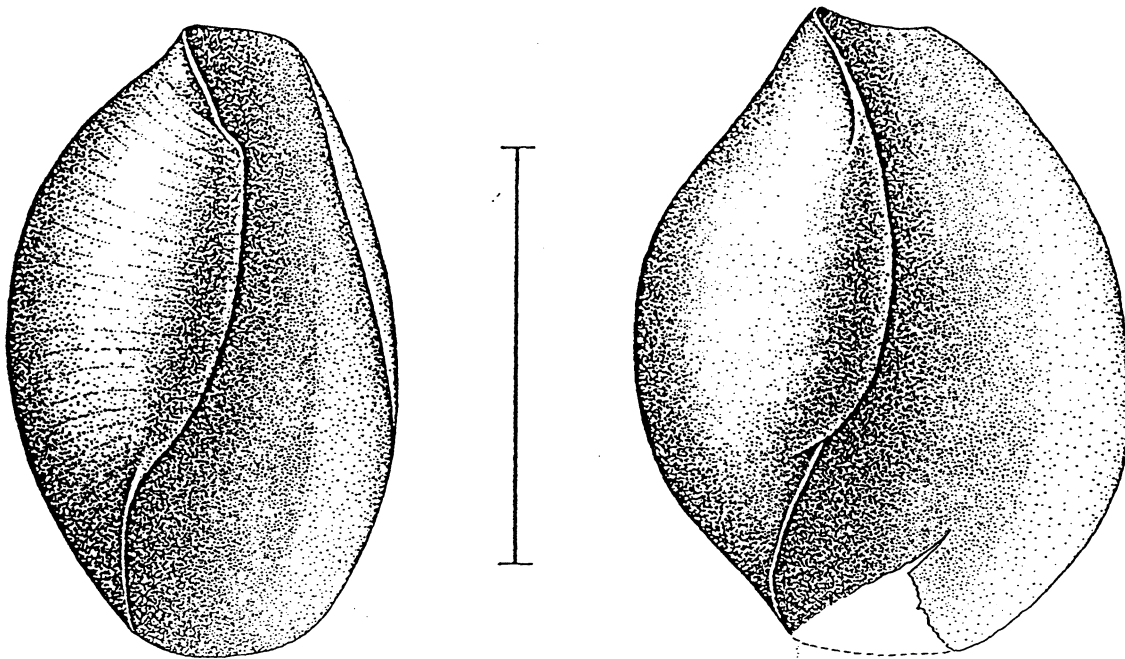


Figure 1. Apertural views of "normal" (showing the rare punctate lines) and "obese" individuals of *Parvaplustrum sp A* (scale bar = 1mm)