

**Arculus sykesi (Chaster, 1895) (Bivalvia, Neoleptonidae)
from North Brittany and West Normandy, France**

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Arculus sykesi (Chaster, 1895), a rarely recorded marine bivalve, is reported from St-Jacut-de-la-Mer (N. Brittany) and Portbail (W. Normandy) in France.

Key words: Bivalvia, Neoleptonidae, *Arculus sykesi*, distribution, France.

During the examination of material dredged off Guernsey, Channel Islands, Mr. G.W. Chaster met with an unknown species that he considered a *Lepton* spec. In 1895 (a) he introduced this species as "*Lepton Sykesii*". In the present paper, Monterosato (1909: 254), Bowden & Heppell (1968: 247) and Nordsieck (1969: 88) are followed in assigning this bivalve to the genus *Arculus* Monterosato, 1909.

Until recently *Arculus sykesi* (Chaster, 1895) was thought to be known only from off Guernsey (Turk, 1973: 57; Tebble, 1976: 87). Seaward (1982: map 581; 1990: 75) and Phorson (1988a, 1988b) showed otherwise. *A. sykesi* had also been reported from Killala Bay, NW. Ireland (Marshall, 1897: 346), Dogs' Bay, Connemara, W. Ireland (Chaster, 1895b: 58), off Scariff, SW. Ireland (Chaster, 1898: 4, 29; Marshall, 1914: 183), Ballinskelligs Bay, SW. Ireland (Chaster, 1898: 4, 29) and Mounts Bay, Cornwall, SW. England (Chaster, 1895b: 58). The occurrence off Guernsey was confirmed by Marshall (1895, 1897: 346), who wrote to have secured a live specimen and half-a-dozen valves off St. Martin's Point.

Lately the species was located alive in the region of Roscoff, N. Brittany, NW. France (Rodriguez Babio, 1973) and three valves were found in fine shell sand from Vazon Bay, Guernsey (Phorson, 1988a, 1988b). Thereupon the bivalve was reported from Hendaye, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France, and from Sidi Ferruch, Algeria (Van Aartsen in Phorson, 1988b). Very recently 24 valves were found in about half a litre of shell sand collected at Compton Bay, Isle of Wight (Light & Killeen, 1990).

As *A. sykesi* is still a rarely recorded species, we report two further sites: the first author met with two valves in shell sand, which had been collected near Portbail, Manche, W. Normandy, in October 1989 and she found another valve in shell sand from St-Jacut-de-la-Mer, Côtes-du-Nord, N. Brittany, October 1990.

Apparently *A. sykesi* is distributed from NW. Ireland and the southern coasts of Ireland and England, south to the western Mediterranean. The species is figured best by Tebble (1976: 87) and Phorson (1988a: 119), the latter clearly showing the prodissoconch.

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SAMENVATTING

Tot voor kort werd aangenomen dat de mariene tweekleppige *Arculus sykesi* (Chaster, 1895) alleen bekend was van materiaal gedregd bij het Kanaaleiland Guernsey. Seaward (1982, 1990) and Phorson (1988a, 1988b) lieten zien dat *A. sykesi* in publikaties van rond de laatste eeuwwisseling ook al gerapporteerd werd van lokaties bij NW., W. en ZW. Ierland en ZW. Engeland. Recentelijk werd de soort aangetroffen bij Roscoff, NW. Frankrijk, en in gruis van Vazon Bay, Guernsey, en Compton Bay, Isle of Wight. Tevens werd deze tweekleppige gerapporteerd van Hendaye, ZW. Frankrijk, en Sidi Ferruch, Algerije.

In dit artikel wordt melding gemaakt van twee nieuwe vondsten uit gruis, van St-Jacut-de-la-Mer, N. Bretagne, en Portbail, W. Normandië.