

**Three new records of *Microgloma pusilla* (Jeffreys, 1879)
from northwestern European beaches (Bivalvia, Protobranchia, Nuculanidae)**

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Microgloma pusilla is known from deep European waters. In 2002 a valve has been recorded from beach drift, SW Netherlands. In this paper three more records are reported, from beaches in W Ireland, W and NW Scotland. The records indicate that in NW Europe *M. pusilla* also lives in shallow waters.

Key words: Bivalvia, Protobranchia, Nuculanidae, *Microgloma*, distribution, Atlantic, Ireland, Scotland, United Kingdom.

INTRODUCTION

The small protobranch bivalve *Microgloma pusilla* (Jeffreys, 1879) occurs from Iceland and Norway to the Mediterranean Sea at depths between 200 and 1200 m (Ockelmann & Warén, 1998: 1). Very surprisingly, in December 1999, Mr. A.C. Janse collected a valve of *M. pusilla* from shell grit taken at the beach of the island of Neeltje Jans, situated in the mouth of the Oosterschelde, province of Zeeland, SW Netherlands (Hoeksema & Janse, 2002). In this paper three new European records from beach drift are reported.

NEW RECORDS OF MICROGLOMA

In 1988 a Dutch malacologist, Mr. A. van Manen, made a trip along the coasts of W Ireland. From a sample taken by him at the beach of Aillebrack (Ballyconneely, Connemara, County Galway; 53°26'N 10°07'W; vii-viii.1988) the first author isolated a valve of *M. pusilla* (height 0.63 mm, length 0.80 mm) (fig. 1). The second author collected two valves of this minute protobranch out of shell sand: one at Cleats Shore, Isle of Arran, W Scotland (55°26'N 05°14.5'W; 10.ix.1993) (height 0.65 mm, length 0.85 mm) and a second one from Sanna Bay, Ardnamurchan, NW Scotland (56°44.5'N 06°11'W; 04.v.1995) (height 0.60 mm, length 0.825 mm). The three valves are whitish transparent and are considered Recent. The concentric ridges on the outer surface are most clearly visible on the specimen from Sanna Bay, which shows at least seven such ridges.

In our opinion the four beach records of *M. pusilla* indicate that in NW Europe this species also occurs in shallow waters, living at several localities.

The beach findings also throw a new light on the old record of Jeffreys (1879: 581) from Vigo Bay, at 20 fms (= 37 m), which according to Ockelmann & Warén (1998: 15) could not be checked, and the data published by Chaster (1897: 124; 1898: 28) on the occur-

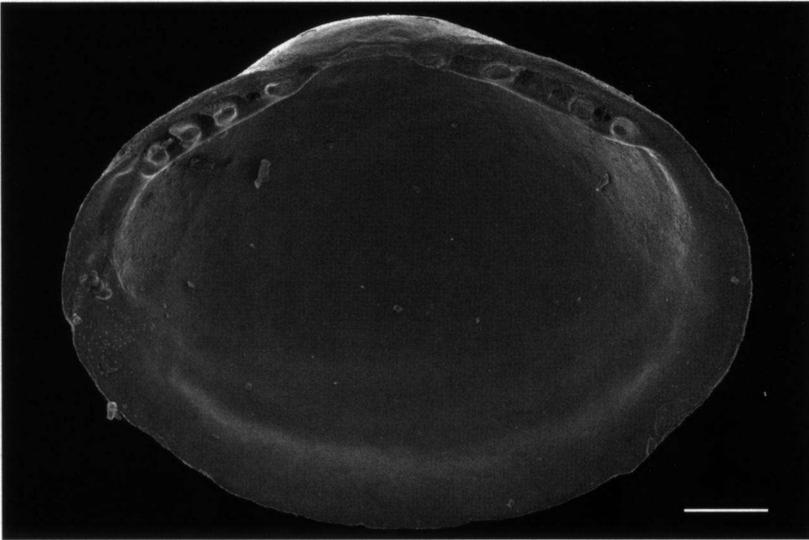


Fig. 1. *Microgloma pusilla* (Jeffreys, 1879), height 0.63 mm, length 0.80 mm; from beach drift, Aillebrack, Ballyconneely, Connemara, County Galway, W Ireland; 53°26'N 10°07'W; July/August 1988; National Museum of Natural History 'Naturalis', ex-coll. Ms. T.P. Keukelaar-van den Berge, leg. Mr. A. van Manen. Scale bar = 0.1 mm, SEM-photo J. Goud, Leiden.

rence off W Ireland (sic!). Chaster reported shells of *M. pusilla* from depths between 3.5 and 44 fms (= 6 and 80 m). We agree with Ockelmann & Warén (1998: 15) that the identifications of Chaster need to be confirmed since they might be (partially) based on *Microgloma guilonardi* (Hoeksema, 1993), a species which has also been recorded from this region by the second author (Phorson, in Hoeksema, 2000: 3). But some, if not all, of Chaster's records may very well be correct and support our opinion.

After 1898 our records seem to be the first from shallow waters (see Seaward, 1990: 66).

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