

My opinion:

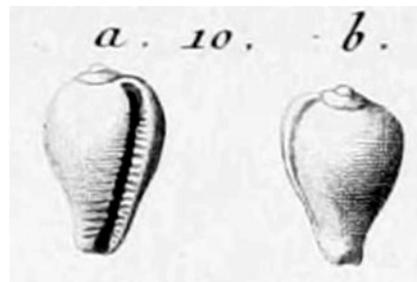
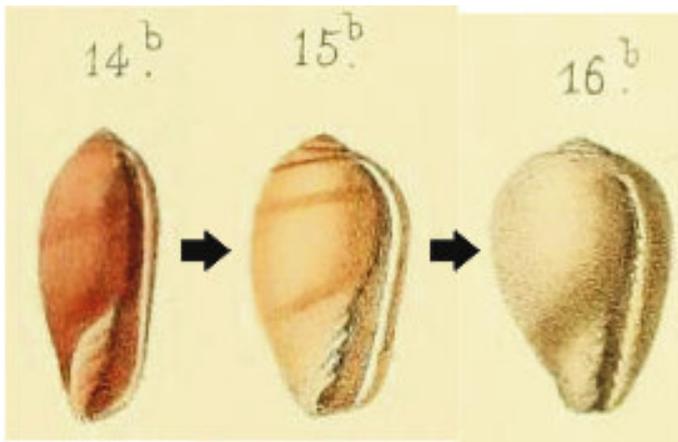
Erato prayensis ROCHEBRUNE 1881 should remain *Erato prayensis*.

DIRK FEHSE is an attentive and accurate conchologist, who described in an article in the Conchylia 46 (1-4) the species *Erato africana* from Cape Verde as new, replacing *E. prayensis* ROCHEBRUNE, 1881, which species is shifted onto the genus *Gibberula* due to an incorrect figure.

Me myself collected this species in Cape Verde, and I admit, that the figure of ROCHEBRUNE shows only very few accordance to reality, but so does the description of ROCHEBRUNE! And I do not know any Cystiscidae in this region, which matches just nearly this description. The figure colouring in the publication of ROCHEBRUNE is rather realistic, if one looks at the original scan of the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Today we can depict almost every wanted colour by means of computer technology. To me the mystic green and orange figures in the Conchylia seem as unrealistic as the widely wrong reproduced original images of ROCHEBRUNE. It is a pity that the type material has been lost! I entertain heavy suspicion that the figures were not designed by means of the original specimens, but by eye memory (by which student's ever). Here I recognize an "artistic evolution" from *Volvarina cessaci* via *Gibberula jousseaumi* to *Erato prayensis*. Further I see parallels to the figure of the primary *Erato* by BROCCHI from the year 1814, which is referred to by RISSO 1826 in his first description of the genus *Erato*.

In his publication ROCHEBRUNE described 4 species of *Volvarina* (2 as new), 2 species of *Gibberula* (1 as new) and just *Erato prayensis*. So I suppose that he knew well the marginelliform genera and could differ them from each other. He referred to the specifications of the famous book in that time "The genera of Recent Mollusca..." by ADAMS & ADAMS 1858. Here the genus *Erato* is still assorted to the family Marginellidae. The small greenish bullets, which one can find not commonly but regularly in the shell grit of Cape Verde, I am sure, that they are the species, which ROCHEBRUNE has described as *Erato prayensis* 135 years ago. Up to now no similar *Gibberula* has been found.

It remains the question, how we should estimate the importance of figures of the 18th and 19th century concerning an exact description of species. How do we handle descriptions without any figure? Do we have perhaps to redescribe every species, of which the type material has been lost?



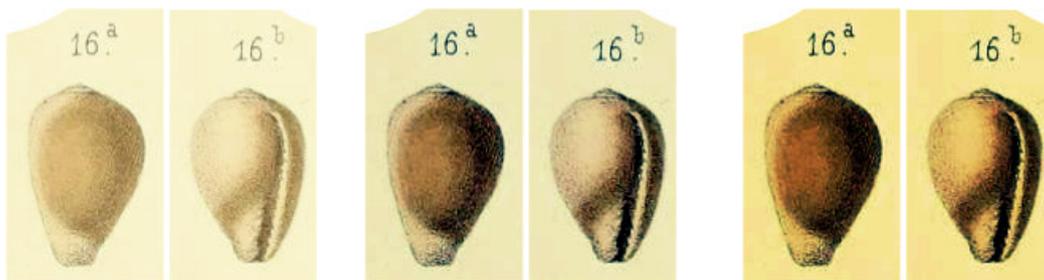
Volvarina cessaci (11 mm) *Gibberula jousseaumi* (6 mm) Artefact eines Buchkünstlers?

"*Buccinum*" *cypreola*
after BROCCHI 1814

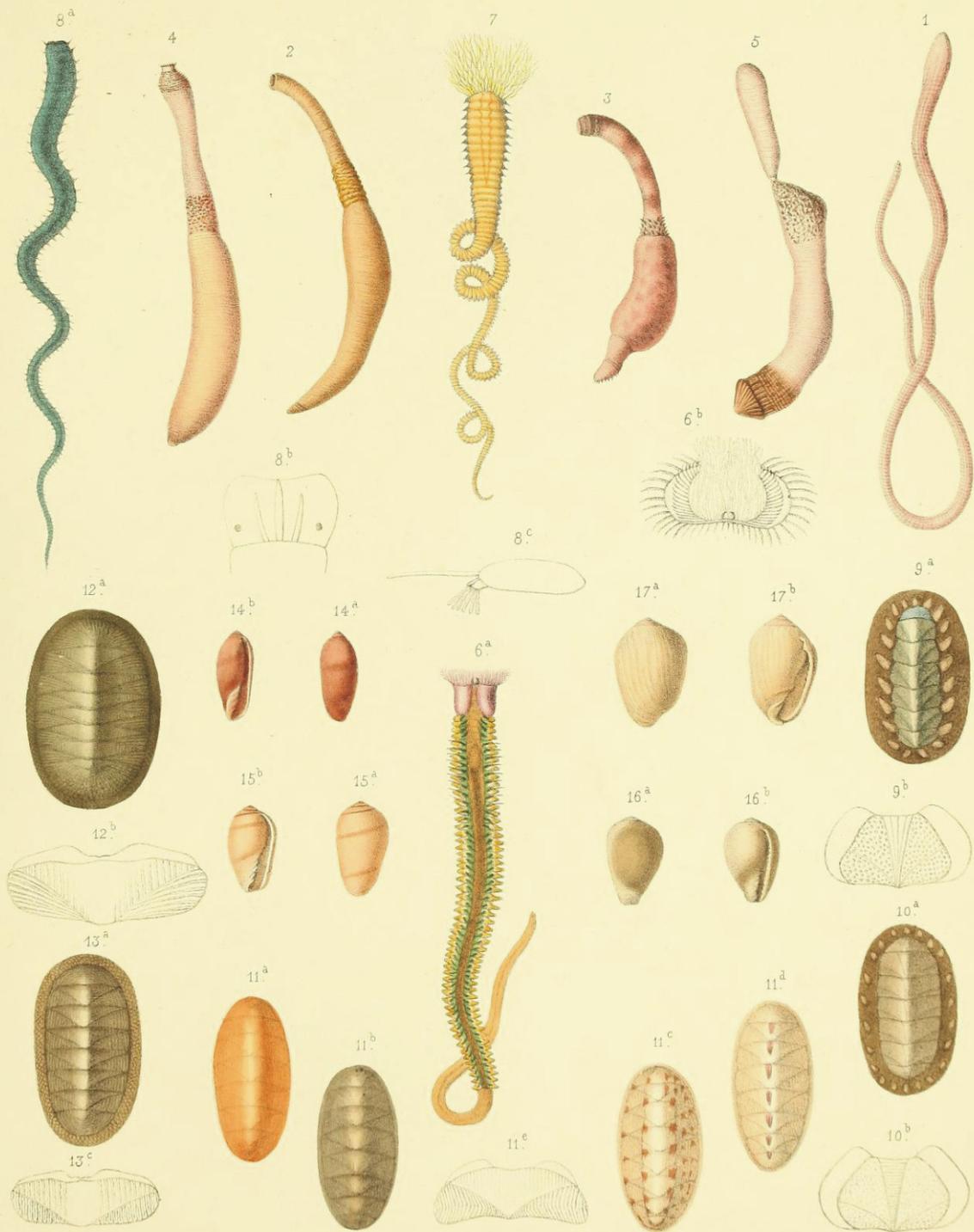
Erato cypreola
after RISSO 1826

= *cessaci* JOUSSEAUME (10. Okt. 1881)
= *taeniata* SOWERBY 1846
= *sauliae* SOWERBY 1846

künstlerische Evolution je nach PC-Einstellung



Farbevolution je nach PC-Einstellung



Formant del.

Imp Becquet r. des Noyers 37.

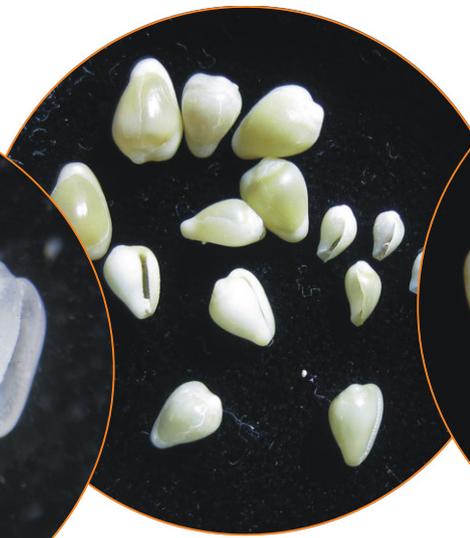
Annelides et Mollusques de l'Archipel du Cap Vert.

Erato prayensis ROCHEBRUNE 1881





Gibberula rauli
(2 mm)



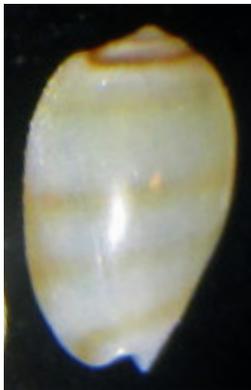
Erato "prayensis"
(5 mm)



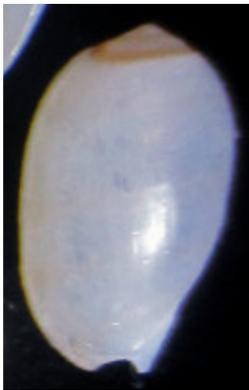
Gibberula rolani
(5 mm)



Gibberula rauli
(2 mm)



Gibberula rolani
(5 mm)



Erato prayensis
(non *Gibberula* o.ä.)
(5 mm)



Collecting data:
Cabo Verde, Santiago Island
Tarrafal, 18m
shell grit on sand
Feb 2008