

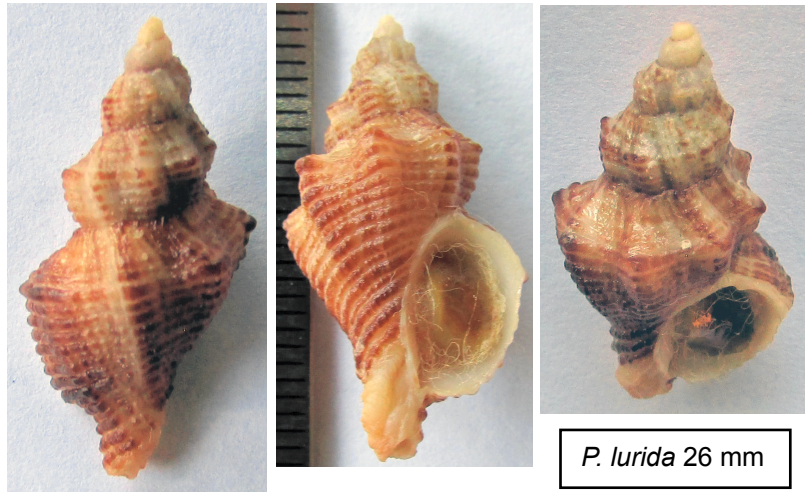
**Subtidal morph of *Paciocinebrina lurida* (Middendorff, 1849) found on Ogden Point Breakwater in Victoria, B.C.
Article and all photos by Susanne Jeffrey**

Once upon a time, on July 19th, 1982 to be exact, Graham and I were shelling at the Victoria breakwater on Vancouver Island BC. I was near the light house, a few feet from where the large stone slabs start, on the sheltered harbor side, looking through the small, dry rubble, among larger rocks right at the bottom of the high wall.

It was an extreme low tide of 0.3 ft at 08:50 that day and the tide was slowly coming in. I found a *Paciocinebrina*, but what kind? It did not look like the common *Paciocinebrina lurida* (Middendorff, 1849) that is found there to me, with its angled, almost coronated shoulders. It seemed slimmer and more elongated but was otherwise colored the same.

Going through some books researching it, I only found one species that looked somewhat like it, *Paciocinebrina barbarensis*. I decided that must be it! For years it played on my mind however. Would it not be too far north? Nobody else ever found one up here. Did it travel up on the bottom of a boat, among barnacles?

Recently again, as I was looking through some literature, I spotted more lookalikes, one called *P. fraseri* (Oldroyd, 1920). That must be it! It made more sense and there was at least one mention on a website under this name that had a location data close to South Vancouver Island.



George Holm provided more references, but nobody was quite sure about my identification. He then mentioned Roland Houart who has published the "New taxa and new synonymy in Muricidae from the Northeast Pacific", with Geerat Vermeij and Shawn Wiedrick. I sent my questions and some pictures and within minutes I got an answer that my mail was received. Mr. Houart promised to look into it and to confer with his co-author Shawn Wiedrick. In no time I received the verdict: It was just a 'lowly' *P. lurida*, part of the morphotype complex. Now after almost 50 years my mystery is solved!

Shawn Wiedrick said that in central California the subtidal morph has the same shoulder nodules and that the intertidal specimens tend to be orange in coloration without nodules and upper intertidal ones were typically black in color. It seems that they all have the same DNA, but that these are ectomorphs.

A heartfelt thank you to Roland Houart for his help and patience. He said that he is always interested in local Muricids for study, should anyone be interested in exchanging, he would welcome that.

Dark and light color forms of *P. lurida*