

**The geographic distribution of
Schilderina achatidea (Gray, 1837)
(Mollusca: Gastropoda:
Cypraeidae)**



speaker: Frank Nolf

Abbreviations:

CFN: Private collection of Franks Nolf
(Oostende, Belgium)

CJV: Private collection of Johans
Verstraeten (Oostende, Belgium)

PEMARCO: Pêche Maritime du Congo

The **geographic distribution** of *Schilderina achatidea* (Gray, 1837) extends from Galicia (N Spain) in the north to Cape Fria (Namibia, SW Africa) in the south.

Specimens from the Mediterranean Sea cannot be differentiated from E Atlantic shells morphologically and there is no reason to distinguish subspecies populations in the range between Spain and Namibia.

One exception: ***S. achatidea verdensis* (Lorenz, 2017)**

The so-called 'subspecies' such as ***oranica*** Crosse, 1896, ***inopinata*** Schilder, 1930 and ***longinqua*** Schilder & Schilder, 1938 do not belong to isolated waters and are not separated by geographic barriers.

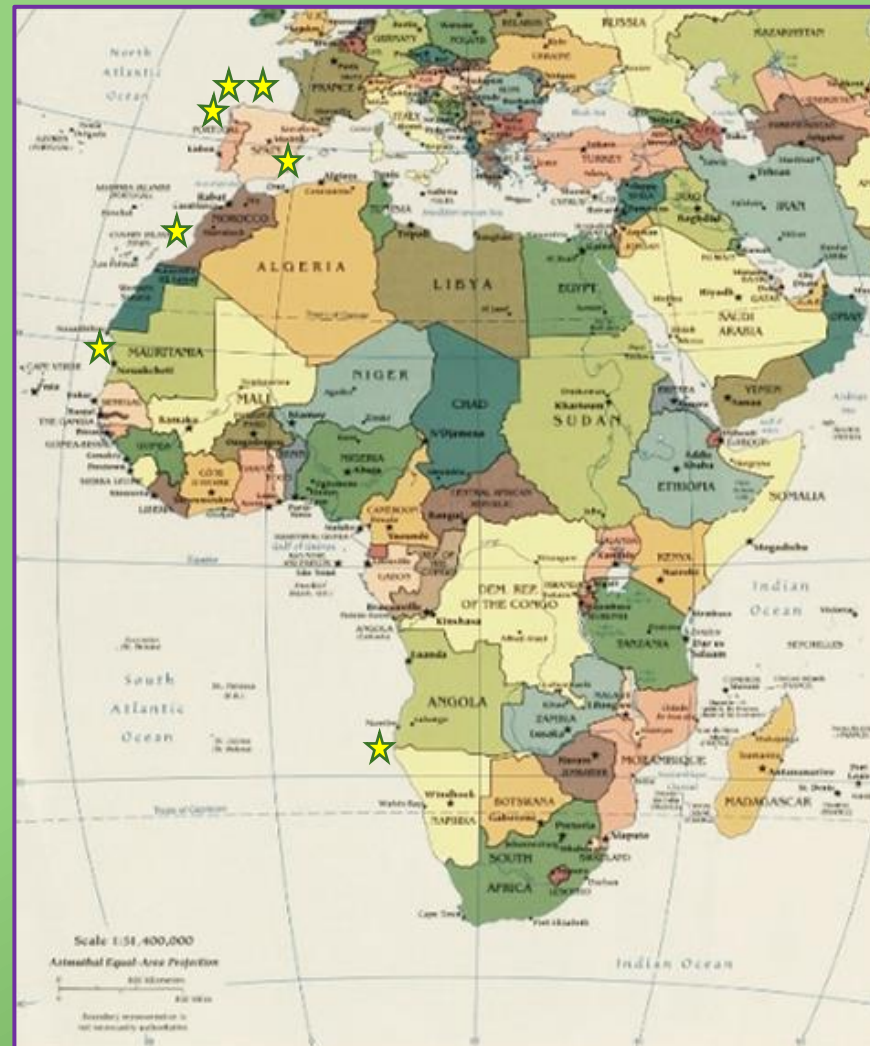
F.A. Schilder (1930) described the subspecies ***Schilderina achatidea inopinata*** on a unique specimen '*from West Africa (without exact locality)*' and F.A. Schilder & M. Schilder (1938) created the subspecies ***S. achatidea longinqua***, also based on a unique specimen from '*Port Alexandre, S Angola*'.

Half of the parameters mentioned by Lorenz to differentiate ***S. achatidea*** from ***S. achatidea inopinata*** refer to identical characteristics, the other half to minor differences which are not constant in the same area.

Slight differences regarding '*callus on base*', '*aperture*', '*orange band*' and '*transverse band*' are restricted to certain specimens in a population mainly depending on habitat, the kind of food and growth stage. Even the use of taxonomically invalid 'forms' or 'variations' shouldn't be an option.

Lorenz & Hubert (2000) justified the West African “***longinqua***”, not as different subspecies, but merely as a varietal name. In addition, they rejected the name “***inopinata***”, earlier used for elongate specimens with pale tan margins and a rather coarse dorsal freckling, because such characteristics are found in all populations of *S. achatidea*.

Lorenz (2017) reintroduced the subspecies name ‘***inopinata***’ for all shells from West African coasts, in contradiction to his earlier opinion, but he considered the subspecies name ‘***longinqua***’ as synonym.



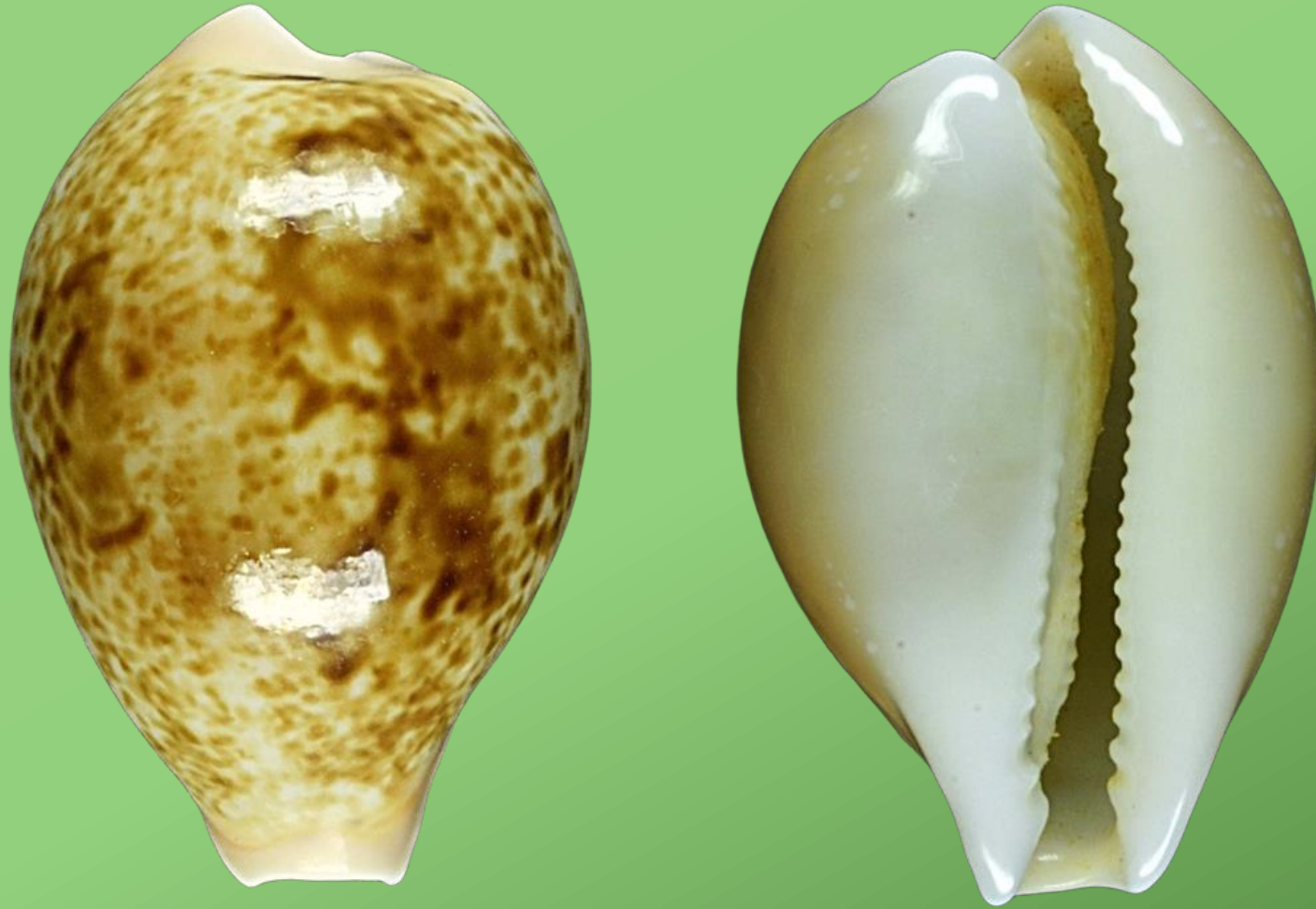
Localisation of samples of *Schilderina achatidea* (Gray, 1837)
treated in the present study



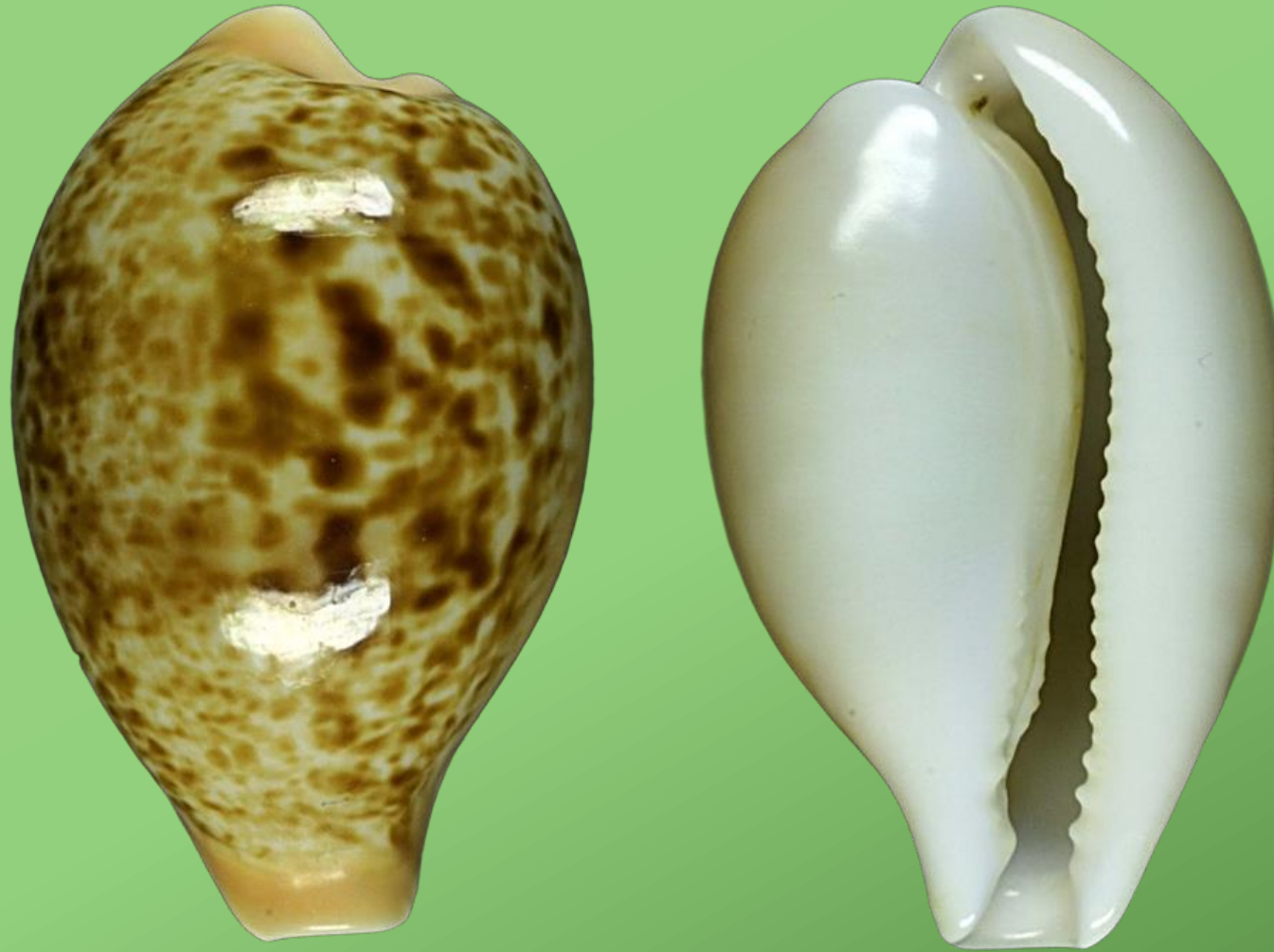
***Schilderina achatidea* 'longinqua' (Schilder & Schilder, 1938).
Cape Fria, Namibia, SW Africa. Trawled by Belgian fishermen (PEMARCO).
Living among seaweed at a depth of 25 m. 1970. CFN. 29.25 mm.**



***Schilderina achatidea* 'longinqua' (Schilder & Schilder, 1938).
Cape Fria, Namibia, SW Africa. Trawled by Belgian fishermen (PEMARCO).
Living among seaweed at a depth of 25 m. 1970. CFN. 32.55 mm.**



***Schilderina achatidea* 'longinqua' (Schilder & Schilder, 1938).
Cape Fria, Namibia, SW Africa. Trawled by Belgian fishermen (PEMARCO).
Living among seaweed at a depth of 25 m. 1970. CFN. 33.63 mm.**



***Schilderina achatidea* 'longinqua' (Schilder & Schilder, 1938).
Cape Fria, Namibia, SW Africa. Trawled by Belgian fishermen
(PEMARCO). Living among seaweed at a depth of 25 m. 1970.
CFN. 36.58 mm.**



***Schilderina achatidea* 'longinqua' (Schilder & Schilder, 1938).**
Dredged by Spanish fishermen off Mauritania, NW Africa - 18° N/ 17° W. 1962.
CFN. 36.14 mm



***Schilderina achatidea* 'longinqua' (Schilder & Schilder, 1938).**
Dredged by Spanish fishermen off Mauritania, NW Africa - 18° N/ 17° W. 1962.
CFN. 38.29 mm



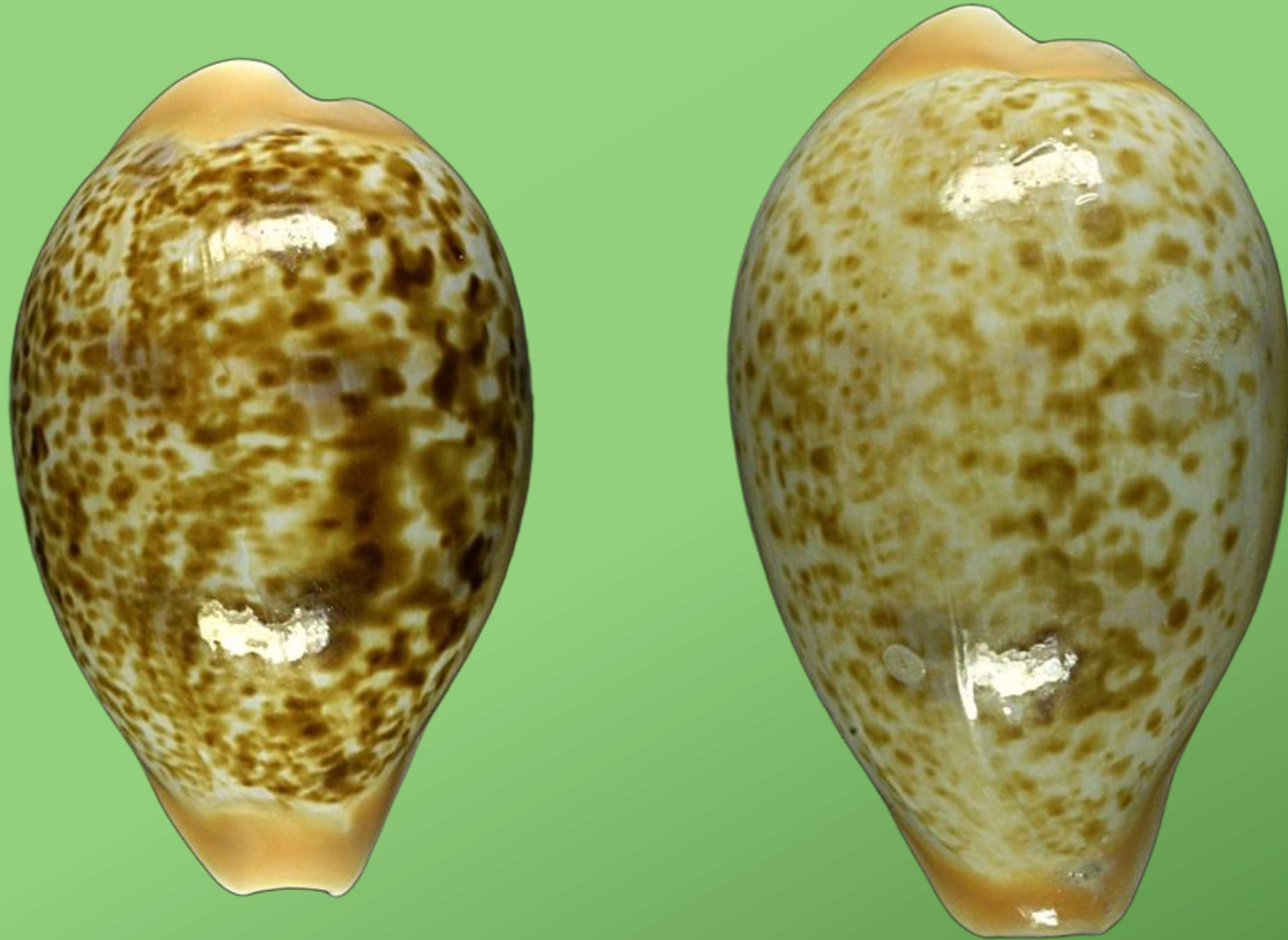
***Schilderina achatidea* 'inopinata' (Schilder, 1930).**
Trawled by fishermen off Agadir, Morocco, NW Africa. 1976.
CFN. 34.59 mm.



***Schilderina achatidea* 'inopinata' (Schilder, 1930).**
Trawled by fishermen off Agadir, Morocco, NW Africa. 1976.
CFN. 37.07 mm.



***Schilderina achatidea* 'inopinata' (Schilder, 1930).**
Trawled by fishermen off Agadir, Morocco, NW Africa. 1976.
CFN. 39.37 mm.



***Schilderina achatidea* (Gray, 1837).**

**Fuengirola, Málaga, southern Spain. Dredged by fishermen at a depth of 70 m.
On rocks. June 1991. CFN. Left: 36.56 mm. Right: 39.60 mm**



***Schilderina achatidea* (Gray, 1937).**
Off A Guarda, Ria de Pontevedra, Spain. Trawled at a depth of 200 m.
In mud. March 2015. CJV. 41.12 mm.



***Schilderina achatidea* (Gray, 1837).**
3 km off A Guarda, Galicia, Spain. Trawled by fishermen at a depth of 70
m. December 2002. CJV. 38.46 mm.

Conclusion: there are no visible morphological differences between specimens from the Mediterranean Sea and East Atlantic waters and there is certainly no reason to believe in the existence of different subspecies.