

Record of double operculum in silver conch

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Lentigo lentiginosus Linnaeus, 1758 is a caenogastropod belonging to the family Strombidae. The species is found in coral reefs and shallow parts of lagoon and widely distributed across Indo-Pacific region. The shells are moderately large, solid with a characteristic deep stromboid notch, and a flared,



Silver conch (Shell on)

very thick and posteriorly expanded outer lip with a pinkish cream aperture and glossy parietal wall. Size of the shell varies from 55 to 104 mm in length and used in shell crafts industry. A medium sized silver conch, *L. lentiginosus* with an anomaly (double operculum) was observed during sampling at Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep in January 2018. The silver conch had two operculums attached to the muscular foot. It and collected at a depth of 1.5 meter by skin diving. Morphometric



Silver conch showing two operculums attached to the foot

measurements were recorded. The total length (TL) of the specimen was 72.21 mm with width of 44.66 mm and length of the aperture canal was recorded as 49.03 mm. The natural operculum was 18.57mm in total length with width of 5.10 mm and the

additional operculum was 10.94 mm in total length with the width of 3.75 mm. The probable explanations for the anomaly could be genetic, pollution or repair due to injury. Reports of such anomaly in strombs is very rare.