



Caenozoic Gastropods from France; part of the P.G. Moazzo Collection of the Goulondris Natural History Museum

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Invertebrate palaeontological collection constitute a large part of the Goulondris Natural History Museum (GNHM). In order to shed light to some of the hidden palaeontological treasures of the GNHM collections, the Caenozoic Gastropod Moazzo Collection is here studied. Polychronis G. Moazzo (1893-1975) born in Egypt, to Greek parents. Initially he studied agronomic engineering, though soon he followed zoological studies at the Natural History Museum of Paris, and worked alongside molluscan experts of his time (Goulondris, 1977). Moazzo was devoted to marine biology and travels, and became an exceptional collector of recent and fossils marine invertebrates (mainly molluscs), though he also collected entomological material (Dimaki and Tylianakis, 2006). After Moazzo's death, his family donated his collections to the GNHM.

The palaeontological P.G. Moazzo collection consists of about 1021 lots of molluscs (Bivalvia, Gastropoda, Cephalopoda, and Scaphopoda), brachiopods, corals, and echinoids, from Mesozoic and Caenozoic deposits of Europe (France, Spain, Italy, and Portugal), Africa (Egypt, Somalia, and Algeria), Central and South America (Mexico and Peru). Most of the specimens were collected by Moazzo between the World War I and World War II, however, some specimens are part of the Berlier Collection.

In this study, Caenozoic gastropods from France are revealed. This part of the collection comprises 247 lots (473 specimens) placed in cartons and boxes, made appropriate by P. G. Moazzo, with details concerning the nomenclature, origin, age and/or formation. In case of gifted specimens this is stated at the back of the cartons. The collection represents 224 species (plus 13 indeterminate), belonging to 50 families, from 43 fossiliferous sites of Eocene, Oligocene and Miocene Epoch. Particularly, the majority of the samples derives from the Paris Basin (Grignon, Damery, Montmirail, Cuise-la-Motte, Chaussy, Chamery, Chambors, Parnes, Le Fayel, Mouchy, St. Ouen, Vaudacourt, Mary, Saulxmarchais, Beynes, Liancourt, Le Guépelle, Auvers, Chaumont, Houdan, Châtillon, Requiécourt, Montjavoult, Ver, Brasles près Château Thierry, Porte de Gentilly, Le Ruel, Chécy, Chéry-Chartreuve, Mortefontaine), whereas representatives of Aquitaine Basin (Gaas, Dax, Bordeaux, Saucats, Mérignac), Côte d'Or (Dijon, Magny-Saint-Médard, Varois, Vesytottes), Loire-Atlantique, Cotentin, and Loire-et-Cher are also included. Families with the most numerous representatives are Cerithiidae (26 species), Volutidae (24 species), Turritellidae (18 species) and Fasciolaridae (16 species). The majority of the species are of marine environment, though terrestrial and fresh water species are also included (11 species).

In the frame of this work, is underlined that the collection is of historical importance and constitute a comparative tool for molluscan studies. The disclosure of Moazzo's collection highlights the need of curation, scientific revision and integration into the data base of the GNHM. These actions will enhance the accessibility and the recognition of a collection, which was up to know well hidden in the drawers of the GNHM.

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References

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