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*Monoplex parthenopeus* Rsalis Marschlins, 1793 - Italy, Liguria: Capo Noli

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***Monoplex parthenopeus* (Salis Marschlin, 1793)**  
**(Gastropoda Cymatiidae).** *Monoplex parthenopeus* is a marine gastropod living in almost all seas of the world: Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea and Indian Ocean to Hawaii, Japan to Tasmania, North Carolina to Texas, Bermuda to Brasil, Caribbean, Algarve to Gabon and Azores Islands. Such wide distribution is due to the long planktonic larval stage, which can reach 300 days. The shell of this species is up to 18 cm long and is characterized by a robust operculum and by a hairy periostracum that is very variable: on sandy bottoms, the species is often devoid of epidermis, while it can be strongly hairy in hard substrate environments. The *Monoplex parthenopeus* animal has a very characteristic coloration: white bearing dark grey spots bordered with black. *Monoplex parthenopeus* is a carnivorous marine gastropod, predator on seashells and echinoderms, from the upper intertidal to the lower infralittoral. It is considered as a pest in oyster farms of Asia and Australasia. This species has been recorded as fossil from the Miocene (about 15.50 million years ago) up to today.

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Photos by A. Boglia, Italy (Liguria): Capo Noli, 5.XII.2023, at a depth of 8 meters.

