

Limpet range extension into B.C. by George Holm

Rick Harbo sent me a couple of photos in September of some limpets that he had collected this past summer on North Pender Island in British Columbia, which he had keyed out to be the File Limpet, *Lottia limatula* (Carpenter, 1864).

He wrote: "I first became aware of the File limpet, *Lottia limulata*, when I was sent an image of a specimen collected from the Sechelt area, B.C. several years ago. The keys identify this limpet as the only one in our region with file-like scales on the shell."

"This summer, in July 2008, I found several live specimens and several shells of *Lottia limulata* under rocks in the intertidal zone, North Pender Island, B.C."

Rick asked if I had them in my collection and I found that I have one specimen that I had collected in 1967 at Point Joe on the Monterey Peninsula in California.

My specimen did not look at all like what Rick had collected, but in *Marine Shells of Southern California*, Revised edition, March 20, 1978 by James H. McLean, two color forms are mentioned to occur, "a buff yellow and a greenish brown. Interior bluish white, margin dark, apical area with an irregular brown stain". Rick and I did have the same species, just different color forms. The range for the species was also listed there as from Newport, Oregon to southern Baja California and Rick's specimens would represent a considerable range extension.

This species, however, has been collected before in the Pacific Northwest in a few locations. In *A Checklist of the Marine Gastropods from the Puget Sound Region* (1968) by Thomas C. Rice, it records the species as having been collected at Victoria on Vancouver Island by E. Marshall, in the San Juan Islands at Lonesome Cove on San Juan Island by E. Marshall and C. Wingard and in Puget Sound by Dr. F. Baker and Mr. E. Stiles.

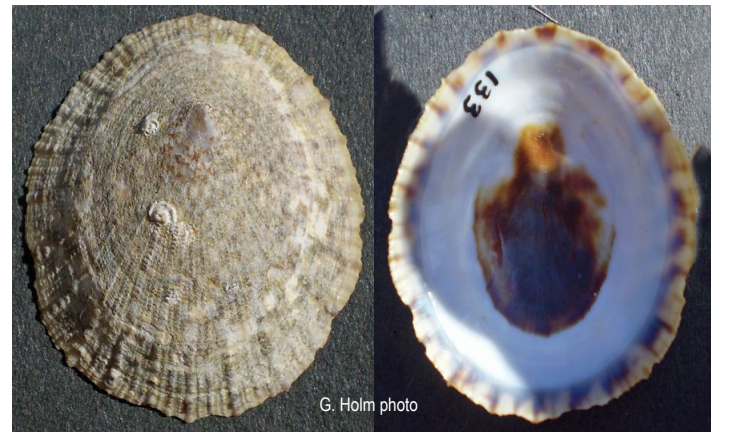
Rick's find of *Lottia limatula* on North Pender Island and his confirmation of a specimen being of that species from the Sechelt area further extends its range northward into British Columbia.



Rick Harbo photo

Above - *Lottia limatula* collected on North Pender Island, B.C..

Below - *Lottia limatula* collected at Point Joe, Monterey Peninsula, California.
[Note the file-like scales on the ribs of both shells.]



G. Holm photo