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A NEW *KELLETTIA* FROM THE PLIOCENE  
OF CALIFORNIA

By GEORGE P. KANAKOFF

On January 9, 1954, Mr. Stanford Lane brought to the Los Angeles County Museum several shells which he collected on the southern slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains in the vicinity of Sand Canyon Road, Los Angeles County, Calif.

On January 30, 1954, the author visited the localities indicated by Mr. Lane and collected a small lot of fossil shells with one undescribed species which is the subject of this paper.

*Kellettia vladimiri* sp. nov.

(Plate 29, figures A and B)

**Types:** The holotype No. 1097 and the figured paratypes No. 1098 (Plate 30, figures C and D) and 1099 (Plate 31, E) are in the Los Angeles County Museum.

**Diagnosis:** Shell of medium size, fusiform, slender, with seven whorls; ornamented by ten axially elongated nodules on the upper part of the body whorl, and on the whole width of the following whorls, and numerous and equally spaced, sharply incised spiral lines, which cover the whole shell; spire acuminate at 22.5 degrees to the axis of the shell; sutures slightly undulated, sharp, and descending at an angle of 19 degrees to the axis of the shell; aperture elongate-ovate; inner lip reflexed, smooth; outer lip slightly thickened, with 11 ridges on the inner callus; canal long, twisted, with strongly recurved siphonal fasciole.

The holotype (medium size adult) measures: altitude 61.6, maximum latitude of the body whorl 25.9, length of the aperture including the canal 31.6, and width of the aperture 8.9 mm.

The figured paratype (largest adult) measures: altitude 64.0 (the canal incomplete), latitude 31.1, spire 37.6, length of aperture 30.0, width of aperture 11.0 mm.

**Type Locality:** LACMIP 291 (Los Angeles County Museum, Science Division, Section of Invertebrate Paleontology, Locality 291). An exposed stratum of black silt in a gully in the center of the south half of Sec. 27, T. 4N, R. 14 W, Humphrey quad. It

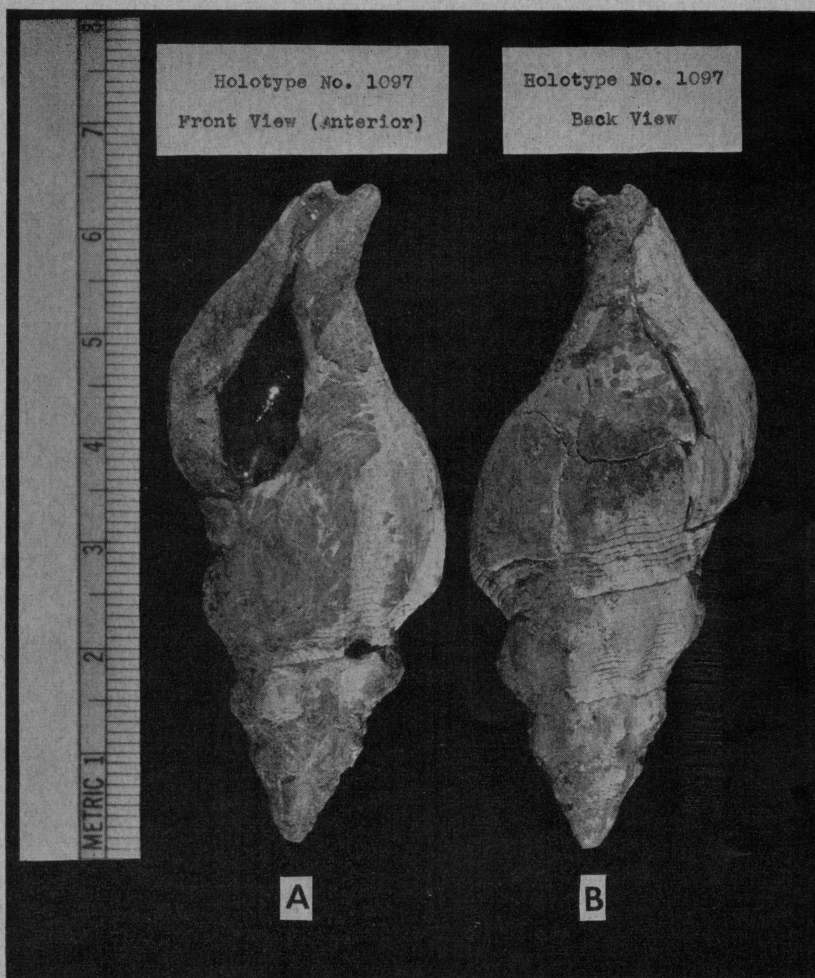


PLATE 29

is exactly one-half mile south of the Humphrey RR Station, Los Angeles County, California.

AGE AND FORMATION: Pliocene; Pico formation.

DISTRIBUTION: Only from the type locality.

PARATYPES: 11 specimens of varying age.



PLATE 30

DISCUSSION: The small lot of 11 specimens of different age illustrates a tendency to variation in two directions. Some have the body whorl smooth with nodules hardly indicated, and in four specimens the nodules are prominent on the body whorl, forming a shoulder, and with a tendency to tabulation. The spiral sculpture, however, is a more constant feature, disappearing only on the top of nodules in a few specimens.

*Kelletia vladimiri* is easily distinct from any other species of

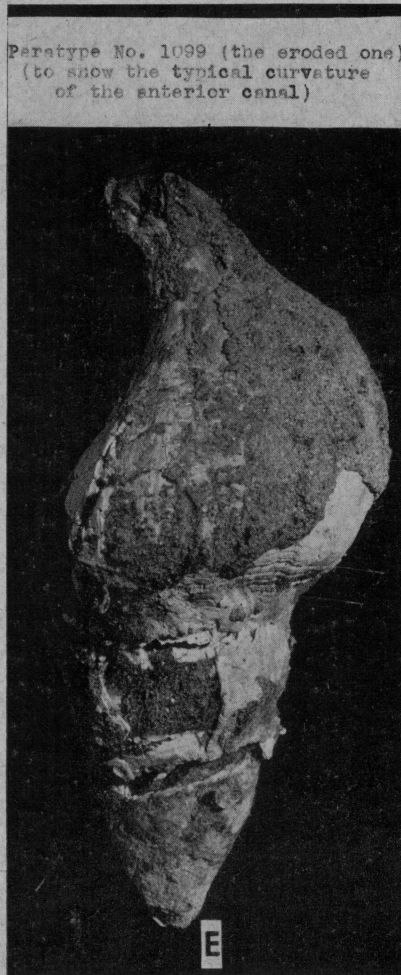


PLATE 31

the genus by its sharply recurved siphonal fasciole, and its slender form.

The author takes great pleasure, as an indication of his great respect and admiration, in naming this shell for His Imperial Highness, Grand Duke Vladimir of Russia, the head of the house of Romanoff, who embodies the spiritual authority and rulership, as opposed to dictatorship, as well as the historical and traditional greatness of the Russia which has for the past 36 years been in eclipse.