Systematic Position
**SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF CHICOREUS RAMOSUS AND HEMIFUSUS PUGILINUS**

*Chicoreus ramosus*

Phylum : Mollusca  
Class : Gastropoda  
Subclass : Prosobranchia  
Order : Neogastropoda  
Family : Muricidae  
Genus : *Chicoreus* (Montfort, 1810)  
Species : *ramosus* (Linne, 1758)

*Chicoreus ramosus* (Fig.1) is locally known as the “elephant snail”. It is commonly termed as the “branched murex”. The shells are quite large, thick and brownish – white in colour and circled with fine brown lines, but their colour may vary from habitat to habitat. The peculiar feature of this gastropod is that the three varices bear rows of recurviny spiny fronds and elaborate ornamentation; the aperture is large and oval, rimmed with rose pink and white in the interior, columella smooth and the siphonal canal broad. The operculum is horny in nature with a basal nucleus (Ayyakkannu, 1992).
Fig 1: Chicoreus ramosus

Hemifusus pugilinus

Phylum : Mollusca
Class : Gastropoda
Subclass : Prosobranchia
Order : Neogastropoda
Family : Melongenidae
Genus : Hemifusus (Swainson, 1840)
Species : pugilinus (Born, 1778)
Hemifusus pugilinus shell is thick, fairly large and more or less pear shaped (Fig 2). The surface of the lower half of the body whorl bears distinct, close-set spiral ridges, while the remaining portion of the surface of the body whorl is relatively smooth. The whorls of the spire are spirally ridged. In each whorl there is a strong angular shoulder bearing a row of stout, compressed tubercles. The aperture is elongated, the anterior canal broadly open and the columella devoid of folds. The shell is externally uniformly dark reddish brown but may be dark horny brown when fresh owing to the presence of a fairly thick periostracum. The interior of the aperture is brownish yellow. The operculum is thick, horny, ovate and with a terminal nucleus (Satyamurthi, 1952).