

# *Lesquereusia*

An interesting genus. Type species is *Lesquereusia spiralis*. Whereby the species name 'spiralis' is misleading. The shell is retort- rather than spiral-shaped.

*L. spiralis* is distinguished from other species of the genus as its test is covered with self secreted worm-like siliceous rods, so called idiosomes.

The literature gives the size of *L. spiralis* between 89 and 120  $\mu\text{m}$ . I found one 160  $\mu\text{m}$  high specimen.



Often you find *L. spiralis* together with *Lesquereusia modesta*. Both have the same shape of a retort.

On average *L. modesta* is slightly bigger and, in contrast, cover their tests with foreign objects such as sand particles, diatom shells etc., so called xenosomes.

Most probably *L. spiralis* and *L. modesta* are variants of one species.

In the image below of a cell division the mother shell on the left is a typical *spiralis*, while the daughter is clearly *modesta*.



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Only once I made the following interesting observation: In a water sample I found several of these clusters, for which I found no explanation.

Group feeding? Exchange of genetic material?



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Further reading:

- [Ferry Siemensmas pages on \*Lesquereusia\*.](#)
- [My relevant page.](#)

All comments to the author Hans Rothauscher are welcome.

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